MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH COLORED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT WILMINGTON,

August 6, 1863.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
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Thursday Afternoon, August 6th, 1863.

The Seventh Annual Conference of the Local Preachers within the bounds of the Philadelphia and New Jersey Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened in Wilmington, Delaware, at E. Zion M. E. Church.

The Rev. Bishop Scott being absent, the Rev. J. Mason, Presiding Elder, opened the Conference by reading the 33d chapter of Ezekiel; after which the hymn—

"Let Zion's watchmen all awake,
And take the alarm they give,"

was sung; after which the Rev. Dr. Quigley addressed the Throne of Grace.

John G. Manluff was appointed Secretary, and Wilmore S. Elsey Assistant.

Rev. J. Mason, Presiding Elder, stated that he had just received a letter from Rev. Bishop Scott, stating that he could not be present with us before Saturday, to attend to the ordination, and requesting Rev. J. Mason, Presiding Elder, to preside in his place.

The roll was called, and the following brethren answered to their names: Philip Scott, Nathan Young, Jehu H. Pierce, Wilmore S. Elsey, Joshua Brinkley, Silas W. Murray, Samuel Laws, John G. Manluff, James Davis, Richard Crawford, William Polk, Isaac Henson, Isaiah Broughton, Ebenezer Songs, John Sanders, Solomon P. Young, Daniel R. Oney, Samuel Dale, Samuel Spencer, Abraham Brown, Emery Minos, Henry Liley.

The following brethren were introduced as visitors: Washington City, District of Columbia, Joseph Ross, Jacob Ross, Washington Lankford; Baltimore Conference, Martin Spriddle.

The following Committees were appointed:—

On Public Worship, W. S. Elsey, Harrison Smith, Isaac Henson.
On Statistics, Wilmore S. Elsey, Jehu H. Pierce, Nathan Young.
On Finance, John G. Manluff, Wilmore S. Elsey, James Davis.
On Minutes, David Tilghman, John G. Manluff, Wilmore S. Elsey.
A line running from the pulpit to the second window was made the
bar of the Conference.

The next in order was the examination of the characters of the Min-
isters—Rev. J. Mason, Presiding Elder.
1st. Isaiah Broughton's character was examined and passed.
2d. James Davis' character was examined and passed.
3d. Wilmore S. Elsey's character was examined and passed.
4th. The character of Silas W. Murray was brought before the house
for examination, and Rev. J. Mason, his Presiding Elder, rose and
stated to the Conference, that Silas W. Murray had been tried before
a committee, and suspended until the next Quarterly Conference, that
the Quarterly Conference expelled him, and that his credentials were
filed with the Minutes of the Annual Conference at Westchester, Pa.,
last March.

5th. The character of John H. Pierce was examined and passed.
6th. The character of Joshua Brinkley was examined and passed.
7th. The character of John G. Manluff was brought before the Con-
ference, and his Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Quigley, stated that he and
Brother Manluff differed a little about preaching in the gallery in one
of the white churches; he did not present it as a charge, but merely as
a matter of conscience; that Brother Manluff was a good preacher, was
much beloved by all the people on his Circuit, and also by the white
people; and that he loved Brother Manluff very much. His character
was passed.

Having concluded business for the day, Rev. J. Mason called for an
adjournment of Conference, to meet at 9 o'clock in the morning. Be-
nediction by Rev. Isaac Henson.

Friday Morning, 7th, 9 o'clock.

The Conference was opened by the Presiding Elder, T. J. Quigley,
by reading the 4th chapter of 2d Corinthians, and singing from page
343—

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify."

The Rev. Ebenezer Songs led in prayer; after which the minutes of
the last meeting were read and approved, with the instruction that they
be corrected.

The character of Rev. P. Scott was brought before the Conference.
The Presiding Elder, T. J. Quigley, stated that Brother Scott had to
leave his appointment because he would not take off his hat to the sol-
diers, and after investigating the matter, his character passed.

The character of Rev. Nathan Young was brought before the Con-
ference. A letter from his Presiding Elder was read, speaking in the highest terms of him. His character passed.

The character of Rev. Samuel Spencer was brought before the Conference. A letter from his Presiding Elder was also read, speaking very highly of him. His character was also passed.

Rev. Harrison Smith's character was examined and passed.

The character of Rev. Isaac Henson was examined and passed.

The Presiding Elder, T. J. Quigley, read a recommendation for the admission of John W. Sanders into the Conference, and he was received; also one for Samuel Laws, and from the representation given by those brethren who knew him, the Presiding Elder withdrew his case. The case of Brother Solomon P. Young to join the travelling connection, was heard; he was received.

The brethren stated the condition of their work.

Rev. Isaiah Broughton stated that Zear M. E. Church, in Philadelphia, was in a very flourishing condition.

Brother James Davis represented John Wesley, in Philadelphia, as being in a very good condition, but rather embarrassing when he took charge.

W. S. Elsey stated that E. Zion was getting along very well, and that he had no fault to find with the members or citizens.

Brother Samuel Dale stated that his Circuit was in a good condition.

Odessa Circuit was represented, by Rev. John H. Pierce, to be in a very fine condition.

Rev. Joshua Brinkley, from the Smyrna Circuit, stated that it was in a very good condition, and that his people treated him very kindly.

Dover Circuit was represented, by Revs. J. G. Manluff and Ebenezer Songs, as being in a prosperous condition at this time, notwithstanding that they have suffered much during the past, but they are doing very well at present.

Revs. P. Scott and P. Hill stated that the flock of Milford Circuit had been very much scattered, but are coming together, and are getting along much better now.

Milton Circuit was represented, by Rev. Nathan Young, as being in a prosperous condition, and bidding fair to become a good Circuit; the people are willing to support a preacher.

Laurel Circuit was represented, by Samuel Spencer, as being in a bad condition, and that it was falling off in membership very much.

Camden Circuit was represented, by Rev. Harrison Smith, as being in a very good condition, with the exception of two churches—there being some defects in the deeds, which he intended, if possible, to have rectified.
Salem Circuit was represented, by Rev. Isaac Henson, as being in a very good condition, and doing well.

Goshen and Cold Spring were represented, by Abraham Brown, as being in a good condition, and doing well; and that he had added to the Circuit one appointment.

_Friday Afternoon, 3 o'clock._

The Conference resumed its third session, according to adjournment. The Presiding Elder, Joseph Mason, opened by singing the hymn on page 175—

"Of Him who did salvation bring,"

followed with prayer by Rev. Isaac Henson; after which the minutes of the Morning Session were read and approved.

A Report from the Committee on The Preachers' Aid Society was read and adopted.

On motion of H. Smith, the adoption of the Constitution contained in the report was reconsidered, and a substitute was read and adopted as the Constitution of said Society.

It was resolved that the preachers meet on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, in the basement, for the purpose of electing officers for said Society.

The Presiding Elder asked where the meeting of our next Annual Conference should be held. Salem, New Jersey, was named by Rev. I. Henson; Centreville was named by Rev. J. Davis and others. No action was taken on it, but referred until Saturday morning.

A resolution was passed, that a committee of three be appointed to select some brother to preach the opening sermon at the next Conference, and that the Committee on Public Worship be that committee. The Rev. James Davis was chosen to preach the sermon.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

_Saturday Morning, 8th, 9 o'clock._

The Conference met, Rev. Bishop Scott in the chair. The Conference was opened by singing the hymn on page 212. Rev. Martin Spriddle, from the Baltimore M. E. Conference, led in prayer.

Rev. Bishop Scott next called for the reading of the roll, and the following brethren answered to their names:—

_Elders._—John G. Manluff, Nathan Young, Jehu H. Pierce, Harrison Smith, Isaac Henson, Wilmore S. Elsey, Philip Scott, James Davis, David Tilghman, Samuel Dale.

_Deacons._—Benjamin Gibbs, Peter Wise, Joshua Brinkley, William Polk, Samuel Laws, Isaiah Broughton, Silas W. Murray (expelled).

Rev. Harrison Smith moved that Zoar M. E. Church, Philadelphia, be the place to hold our next Annual Conference, and after some discussion Zoar M. E. Church was nominated. The Rev. Bishop Scott put the motion before the house, and Zoar was lost.

Rev. Isaac Henson nominated Salem, New Jersey, as the place for holding our next Annual Conference, and, after some discussion, it was put before the house by Rev. Bishop Scott, and Salem, New Jersey, was selected.

The Report on Statistics was next called for, and the following brothers reported: Jehu H. Pierce, James Davis, Nathan Young.

On motion of Rev. Isaac Henson that the Report on Statistics be adopted, the Report not being satisfactory, Rev. James Davis moved that the Report be received with instructions to correct it, and the Report was adopted.

The hour having arrived for the ordination of brethren, the Rev. Bishop Scott announced that there were five brethren to be ordained:

Elder.—Jehu H. Pierce.

Deacons.—Henry Nelson, Samuel Laws, Stephen Whittington, and Martin Spriddle, from the Baltimore M. E. Conference. The Elders present assisted in the ordination.

On motion adjourned, to meet this afternoon at two o'clock.

Benediction by Rev. Bishop Scott.

Saturday, 2 P. M

The Conference resumed its session, Rev. Bishop Scott in the chair. The hymn found on page 216 was sung: Rev. Samuel Dale led in prayer.

The roll being called, the motion to accept them was put before the house by Rev. Bishop Scott, and they were accepted.

The Report from the Committee on Finance was called for, and the following brethren reported: Wilmore S. Elsey, John G. Manluff, and James Davis. The motion being accepted was adopted.

On motion of Rev. Joshua Brinkley, resolved, that five hundred copies of the Minutes of the Conference be printed.

Rev. Harris Smith moved that the same Committee appointed at the last Conference be continued. They were continued.

Moved, that the Constitution of the Preachers' Aid Society be published in the Minutes of the Conference. Carried.

Conference having completed its session, the Rev. Bishop Scott made some interesting remarks, closing the Conference by singing the hymn found on page 218:

"Except the Lord conduct the plan,
The best concerted schemes are vain."

The Rev. Bishop Scott then proceeded to read out the appointments. Benediction by Rev. John G. Manluff.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Daughters of Conference for the kind and hospitable entertainment given to the preachers. Also, a vote of thanks to the members and citizens for their kindness in entertaining the Conference and strangers. Also, a vote of thanks to the trustees of the church, and to the choir for their services during the Conference. $4 20 was collected for the sexton.

STATISTICAL REPORT, 1863.

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<th>L. Elders</th>
<th>L. Deacons</th>
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<th>Probationers</th>
<th>Churches</th>
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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Conference Collections.

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Total amount collected this year 78 70
Balance from last year, in Treasurer's hands 11 56
Total 90 26
Preachers' Travelling Expenses paid out 26 36
Leaving the balance of 63 00

Which Report we submit to your honors.

W. S. ELSEY, J. G. MANLUFF, J. DAVIS, Committee.
Preachers' Travelling expenses paid.

Samuel Dale, 75  John G. Manluff, 1 60
John W. Saunders, 1 40  Isaac Henson, 1 64
Nathan Young, 2 30  Richard Crawford, 52
Peter Hill, 2 30  Daniel R. Oney, 2 30
Abraham Brown, 1 50  Jehu H. Pierce, 50
James Davis, 30  William Polk, 2 30
Joshua Brinkley, 75  Solomon P. Young, 50
Wilson Grace, 50  Ebenezer Songs, 1 60
Harrison Smith, 70  Stephen Whittington, 2 50
Samuel Spencer, 3 00  Isaiah Broughton, 60
Samuel Laws, 50  Richard Moore, 30

APPOINTMENTS.

NORTH PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.
Zoar—Philip Scott.

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.
John Wesley—James Davis.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT.
E. Zion—Jehu H. Pierce.
New Castle—Solomon P. Young.

EASTON DISTRICT.
Odessa—John G. Manluff.
Smyrna—J. Brinkley, J. W. Sanders.
Dover—To be supplied by Ebenezer Songs.
Milford—To be supplied by Peter Hill.

SNOW HILL DISTRICT.
Milton—Nathan Young.
Laurel—Samuel Spencer.

CAMDEN DISTRICT.
Camden—Wilmore S. Elsey.

BRIDGETON DISTRICT.
Salem—Harrison Smith.
Springtown—Isaac Henson.
Goshen and Cold Spring—Isaiah Broughton.