

Commission On Archives And History
The United Methodist Church

MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

Delaware Annual Conference

ON THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT JOHN WESTLEY,

PHILADELPHIA,

JULY 28TH, 1864.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

PHILADELPHIA:

PERKININS & HIGGINS,

METHODIST BOOKSTORE, No. 56 NORTH FOURTH STREET.

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EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1864.—Page 263.

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE shall embrace Western Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and the territory South.

THE DELAWARE CONFERENCE shall embrace the Territory North and West of the Washington Conference.

Resolved, That in order to constitute the first Conferences of Colored Members, the rule of Discipline requiring a probation of two years, be so far suspended as to allow the Bishops to organize into one or more Annual Conferences such Colored Local Elders as have travelled two or more years under a Presiding Elder, and shall be recommended by a Quarterly Conference, and by at least ten Elders who are members of an Annual Conference.

MINUTES

OF THE

DELAWARE CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT,

BISHOP E. S. JANES.

SECRETARY,

WILMORE S. ELSEY.

CONFERENCE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

President.....	FROST POLLETT.
Vice-President.....	JEHU H. PIERCE.
Secretary.....	W. S. ELSEY.
Treasurer.....	ISAAC HINSON.
Managers.....	JAMES DAVIS.
	JOSHUA BRINKLEY.
	HARRISON SMITH.

CONFERENCE COLLECTIONS.

Treasurer.....	DAVID TILGHMAN.
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DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

Question 1st.—What Preachers are admitted on trial?

John W. Saunders, Simon Taylor, Abraham Brown, Stephen Johns, Wesley Parker, Charles Pollett, Stephen Whittington, Samuel G. Waters, Anthony Driver, Robert Robinson—10.

Question 2d.—Who remain on trial?

None.

Question 3d.—Who are admitted into full connection?

None.

Question 4th.—Who are the Deacons?

Answer 1st.—No travelling Preachers.

Answer 2d.—Local Preachers—Simon Taylor, Daniel R. Oney, Charles Pollett, Henry Morris, Robert Robinson, Peter W. Hill, Richard Moore—7.

Question 5th.—Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year?

Answer 1st.—No travelling Preachers.

Answer 2d.—Local Preachers—Frost Pollett, Solomon Jackson, Joshua Brinkley—3.

Question 6th.—Who have located this year?

None.

Question 7th.—Who are Supernumerary Preachers?

None.

Question 8th.—Who are the Superannuated Preachers?

None.

Question 9th.—Who have been expelled from the connection this year?

None.

Question 10th.—Who have withdrawn?

None.

Question 11th.—Were the characters of all the Preachers examined? They were.

Question 12th.—Who have died this year?

None.

Question 13th.—What is the number of Church Members?

(See Statistical Report, page 12.)

Question 14th.—What amounts are necessary for the Superannuated Preachers?

No Report.

Question 15th.—What has been collected on the foregoing account? No Report.

Question 16th.—Where are the Preachers stationed this year? (See list of Appointments, page 11.)

Question 17th.—Where and when shall our next Conference be held? E. Zion Church, Wilmington, Delaware.

DAILY PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday Morning, July 28th, 1864

Bishop E. S. Janes, in accordance with the Episcopal plan, met the colored Preachers, who had been travelling within the bounds of the Philadelphia and New Jersey Annual Conferences, in the John Wesley Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

He called the meeting to order at 9 o'clock, and conducted the opening religious exercises, which consisted in the reading of the Scriptures, singing and prayer. He then announced a second hymn, which was sung, after which Rev. Frost Pollett led in prayer.

Joseph Castle, Presiding Elder of the South Philadelphia District; Joseph Mason, of the Wilmington District; Thomas J. Quigley, of the Easton District; Adam Wallace of the Snow Hill District; Charles H. Whitecar, of the Bridgeton District, and others, were present to witness the organization of the Delaware Conference, the first organized among our colored people in the United States.

Bishop Janes called for the recommendations of those who proposed to become members of the Conference; when the Presiding Elders presented the recommendations from the Quarterly Conferences, properly signed by ten Elders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the travelling connection, of those who had been employed by them for two or more years.

The Bishop, after an interview with the Preachers present, dismissed the meeting, assuring them that he would, in the interval, examine the papers placed in his hands, and report the result to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Friday Morning, July 29th, 1864.

The first session of the Delaware Conference for colored people of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was held in John Wesley chapel, Philadelphia, July 29th, 1864.

Rev. Charles H. Whitecar, Presiding Elder of the Bridgeton District, New Jersey Conference, conducted the religious exercises.

After which Bishop Janes announced that he had carefully examined the papers of recommendation, and had found the following preachers entitled to membership in the Conference, viz.:

Isaac Hinson, having been employed by a Presiding Elder 16 years; James Davis, 15; Harrison Smith, 12; Isaiah Broughton, 10; John G. Manluff, 10; Samuel Dale, 8; Wilmore S. Elsey, 6; Jehu H. Pierce, 5; Nathan Young, 4; Joshua Brinkley, 3.

These ten preachers were then declared by Bishop Janes, the Presiding Officer, to constitute the Delaware Conference. The Bishop, in a few neat and appropriate remarks, congratulated the Conference upon this interesting event in the history of the Church; namely, the formation of the first Conference for Colored Preachers, under the rule of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He reminded them of the importance of recognizing in this the hand of a Divine Providence, and requested the Conference to rise and sing,—

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost”—

which they did “with the Spirit and with the understanding”—when Rev. Dr. Durbin, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, being called upon by the Bishop, led in prayer. It was an impressive and solemn season—a marked period in the history of the Church.

Wilmore S. Elsey was nominated, and elected Secretary of the Conference.

The Bishop then called for the recommendations of Local Deacons for Elder's orders.

The following were presented and read, after which each applicant was carefully represented, and they were elected, viz.

Solomon Jackson, recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Waugh Circuit, Cambridge, Md.

Frost Pollett, recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Manoken Circuit, Somerset County, Md.

And Samuel Elsey, recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Wycomico Circuit, Somerset County, Md.

The recommendations of Local Preachers for Deacon's orders were called for, when the following were presented and read,—after which each recommendation was fully represented, and they were elected, viz.

Simon Taylor	From Odessa Circuit, Delaware.
Daniel R. Oney	“ Milton “ Maryland.
Charles Pollett	“ Wycomico “ “
Henry Morris	“ Manoken “ “
Benjamin Janifer	“ Waugh “ “
John Slater	“ “ “ “
Peter Hill	“ Milford “ Delaware.

Thomas W. Price, Esq., of this city, having presented to the Conference a valuable Minute Book, the following resolution, presented by James Davis and W. S. Elsey, was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Resolved, By the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Conference assembled, that our hearty thanks are due, and are hereby tendered to, Thomas W. Price, Esq., of the city of Philadelphia, for the elegant and substantial Record Book, suitably lettered, which he has this morning presented to this body, in which our Minutes will be preserved, and transmitted to future generations.

Frost Pollett having been recommended, he was received as a member of the Delaware Conference, and his name to be entered as the third on the roll.

The Conference, on motion, adjourned to meet this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Friday Afternoon, July 29th, 1864.

The Conference met, according to adjournment, at 4 o'clock.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

Religious services conducted by Isaac Hinson.

The Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Question 1st, of the Minutes, viz.—Who are admitted on trial? was taken up.

The following recommendations were presented and read, when they were faithfully represented and admitted, viz.:

John Saunders	from Quarterly Con. of Smyrna Circuit, Del.
Simon Taylor	“ “ “ Odessa “ “

Abraham Brown,	from Quarterly Conf. of Goshen and Cold Spring,	N. J.
Stephen Johns	“ “ “	Waugh Circuit, Md.
Wesley Parker	“ “ “	Washington “ “
Charles Pollett	“ “ “	Wycomico “ “
Stephen Whittington	“ “ “	Manoken “ “
Samuel G. Waters	“ “ “	“ “ “
Anthony Driver	“ “ “	Waugh “ “

Bishop Simpson being present, addressed the Conference with deep feeling, and in an interesting manner, on the bright and glorious prospects before us as a Conference. At the close of the Bishop's address, the doxology was sung, after which Solomon Jackson led in prayer, earnestly invoking the blessings of God upon the Conference this day organized.

The Conference, on motion, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Saturday morning, July 30th, 1864.

The Conference met according to adjournment at 9 o'clock.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

Rev. Mr. Macay, of Boston, conducted the religious exercises.

The minutes of yesterday's afternoon session were read and approved.

The statistics of the past year were called for by the chair and presented.

(See page 12.)

David Tilghman, Jehu H. Pierce and James Davis, were appointed a committee to receive the Conference collection.

James Davis, W. S. Elsey and Harrison Smith, were appointed a committee on Public Worship, to make the appointments for the approaching Sabbath.

The following resolution was adopted, viz.: Resolved, That Rev. David Tilghman be instructed to publish five hundred copies of the Minutes and distribute them, and pay for them in the same manner as he did last year.

Rev. D. Tilghman reported the expense of publishing the Minutes of last year to be \$22.50; leaving a balance in his hands of \$27.85.

The committee reported the Conference collection to be \$76.25.

Collection received in payment of Minutes of last year \$15.85.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz. :—

Resolved, That the Delaware Conference resolve itself into a Conference Missionary Society auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church.

Resolved, That we adopt the Constitution of the New Jersey Conference Missionary Society as the constitution of this society, and that it be published in our Minutes.

Resolved, That John G. Manluff and Isaac Hinson be a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

The committee, after a short interview, nominated the following officers, and they were elected, viz. :—

President—Frost Pollett.

Vice-President—Jehu H. Pierce.

Secretary—W. S. Elsey.

Treasurer—Isaac Hinson.

Managers—James Davis, Joshua Brinkley, and Harrison Smith.

The recommendation of Robert Robinson, a local preacher from the Zoar Quarterly Conference, for Deacon's Orders, was presented and read; he was then represented and elected to Deacon's Orders.

Question 1st, of the Minutes, viz., Who are admitted on trial? was resumed.

Robert Robinson, recommended from Zoar Quarterly Conference was represented and admitted.

E. Zion, Wilmington, Delaware, was fixed as the seat of the next session of the Conference.

Harrison Smith was appointed by the Bishop to preach the Missionary Sermon at the next session of the Conference.

On motion of John G. Manluff, David Tilghman, treasurer of the Conference collection was authorized to pay Isaac Hinson, James Davis and Harrison Smith, each \$10.00, from the funds in his hands.

Six dollars additional were given to Harrison Smith by some few of his friends.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of the sexton; which amounted to \$2.45.

Bishop Janes presented to each of the members of the Conference, a copy of Dr. Kidder's "Treatise on Homiletics;" when the following resolution, presented by W. S. Elsey and Jehu H. Pierce, was unanimously adopted by a rising vote :—

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of this Conference are due, and

are hereby tendered, to Bishop Janes for the gift of Dr. Kidder's Treatise on Homiletics to each of the members of this Conference.

The Journal was read up and approved.

Bishop Janes addressed the members of the Conference with reference to their work, and gave the preachers most excellent advice. After which he read the appointments for the coming year.

(See page 11.)

The Doxology was sung; after which Rev. Dr. Castle led in prayer. Bishop Janes pronounced the Benediction.

Thus closed the first session of the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church—the first Conference ever organized by the Church among the colored people of the United States. Through the instrumentality of this Conference, may many, many thousands be converted to God and gathered into the Church. Amen. Amen.

The following certificates are presented by Bishop Janes to be placed upon the Record.

The following persons were by me ordained Deacons in the Methodist Episcopal Church, viz. :—

Simon Taylor,	Henry Morris,
Daniel R. Oney,	Robert Robinson,
Charles Pollett,	Richard Moore,
and Peter W. Hill.	

July 31st, 1864, in John Wesley, Philadelphia, Pa.

E. S. JANES.

Joshua Brinkley was ordained Elder by me on 28th of July, 1864; and Frost Pollett and Solomon Jackson on July 31st, 1864, in Philadelphia, Pa.

E. S. JANES.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 1864.

DELAWARE RIVER DISTRICT. *Isaac Hinson, P. Elder.*

John Wesley.....Abraham Brown.
 Zoar.....Isaac Hinson.
 CamdenRobert Robinson.
 SalemHarrison Smith.
 Bridgeton and Goshen.....Simon Taylor.

ODESSA DISTRICT. *James Davis, P. Elder.*

E. Zion.....Jehu H. Pierce.
 New Castle.....Samuel Dale.
 Port Deposit.....Joshua Brinkley.
 Odessa.....John G. Manluff.
 Smyrna.....James Davis.
 Dover.....J. W. Saunders.
 MilfordNathan Young.

CHOPTANK DISTRICT. *W. S. Elsey, P. Elder.*

Waugh Circuit.....W. S. Elsey, Wesley Parker.
 Washington.....Stephen Johns.
 Wycomico.....Charles Pollett.
 ManokenFrost Pollett, S. G. Walters.
 Union.....Stephen Whittington.
 Pocomoke.....Isaiah Broughton.
 Bethel.....Anthony Driver.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

APPOINTMENTS.	Members.	Deaths.	Probationers.	Local Preachers.	Baptisms.		No. of Churches.	Probable Valre.	No. of S. Schools.	Offi. & Teachers.	Scholars.	Vols. in Library.	Conf. Collection.
					A.	C.							
<i>North Phila. District.</i>													
Zoar	140	5	6	3	3	15	1	\$12,000	1	16	80	250	\$ 5.60
John Wesley	58	2	2	3	3	9	1	2,000					
<i>Wilmington District.</i>													
E. Zion	307	5	12	1		12	1	7,000	1	12	124	227	17.65
New Castle	65	2	2	1	29	3		500	3	15	90	170	3.75
<i>Easton District.</i>													
Odessa	180	5	9	6	3	15	2	1,500	2	16	70	500	17.75
Smyrna	95	3	19	5	19	69	4	4,400					3.90
Dover	200			2		4	4	1,000	3	15	125	130	
Milford	212	2	10	3	12	18	2	2,000	2	14	110	450	6.10
<i>Choptank District</i>													
Milton	120	4	14	1	7	28	3	800					5.00
Laurel	51	6	1			3		700	1	9	30	130	1.15
Waugh Circuit . . .	600												
Washington " . . .	600												
Bethel "	100												
Wycomico "	500												
Manoken "	400												
Union "	250												
Pocomoke "	600												
<i>Camden District.</i>													
Camden	220	2	7	7		23	4	3,000	4	29	137	1,082	8.50
<i>Bridgeton District.</i>													
Salem	95	4	7	2	1	26	2	1,600	1	4	30	310	4.65
Springtown	46	3	3	2		9	2	1,000	2	12	25	225	1.20
Goshen & Cold Spring	32	2	2			3	2	500	1	9	20	300	1.00
Total	4,871	39	93	39	49	256	34	\$38,000	21	151	841	3,774	\$76.25

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