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Minutes

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1933

Minutes of the 17th Annual National Christian Missionary Convention

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MINUTES OF THE
17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION
HELD AT
CINCINNATI, OHIO
AUGUST 21-27, 1933

Sara Luc Boettch

The National Convention of the Christian Churches assembled with the Fifth Christian Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, in its Seventeenth annual meeting.

On Monday evening a program of welcome was given by the local church in which prominent ministers and business and professional men of the city shared.

Tuesday Morning

The first session of the convention began with Elder C. H. Johnson of Kentucky conducting the devotional service and Mr. O. W. Tanner of Indiana leading the singing. Following the devotional service an address on Religious Education was given by Mr. Virgil A. Sly of the United Christian Missionary Society. At the close of the address, the delegates dissembled into three simultaneous conferences on Religious Education with Mrs. Rosa Bracy directing one for the women, Miss Alpha Penn for the church group and P. H. Moss for the Bible School.

After reassembling the first matter for consideration was selecting a recording secretary to serve in the absence of N. W. McGowan. C. E. Craggett of Ohio was chosen for this place. A partial report of the Joint Executive Committee was made by Mr. Grant K. Lewis. A telegram from N. W. McGowan of Washington, D. C., was read to the convention by the president, H. L. Herod. The message stated why N. W. McGowan, the recording secretary of the convention could not be present. C. E. Craggett of Ohio was presented to the convention and preached a sermon on, "Taking Care of the Church of God Through Christian Training." Following the sermon Elder L. H. Crawford of Kansas conducted a short memorial service. Those taking part on this program were R. Wesley Watson, of New York, G. F. Ragsdale of North Carolina, Wm. Owens of Ohio, F. H. Coleman of Missouri, G. E. Letton of Kentucky and H. L. Herod of Indiana.

C. H. Dickerson of Kentucky was appointed chairman of the recommendations committee and Wm. Alphin of Missouri secretary of the same. Motion carried that the secretary of the convention send letters expressing sympathy to N. W. McGowan, Mrs. W. H. Bowen of Missouri and R. L. Peters of North Carolina. Benediction by J. C. Cowan.

Tuesday evening:

L. H. Crawford of Kansas conducted the devotional service. Elder R. Wesley Watson of New York presided over the session. Music was furnished by the choir of the local church. Prof. R. H. Peoples of Texas and president of the Bible School Department gave a very fine message on "Taking Care of the Church through the Bible School." A motion carried that the address be received and its recommendations turned over to the proper committee. Following this H. L. Herod, president of the convention, gave his presidential message, which in curt terms dealt with the needs of the church. Motion carried that the president's address be given to the recommendations committee. The offering was taken by C. W. Smith of Illinois and T. W. Pratt of Texas. Benediction by Elder E. Kenny of Pennsylvania.

Wednesday Morning:

Mrs. Wm. Owens of Ohio conducted the devotional service. Mrs. Rosa Bracy spoke briefly on the importance of the spirit of missions in the life of the church. Miss Anna Clark of the United Christian Missionary Society gave a fine address on "The Purpose of the Missionary Program in the Church and How to Disseminate Missionary Information." Simultaneous conferences were conducted by Mrs. Rosa Bracy, P. H. Moss and H. L. Herod. Following sessions by the Bible School and Endeavor Departments, Elder Frank H. Coleman was presented to the convention and preached on "Reflects of Missionary Endeavor." Benediction by Wm. Owens of Ohio.

Thursday Morning:

Elder L. H. Crawford of Kansas conducted the devotional service. Mr. O. W. Tanner conducted the singing. "Elder G. Calvin Campbell of Ohio gave an address on the Meaning of Worship." I. J. Cahill of the United Christian Missionary Society spoke on "The Problems of the Church of Today in Developing the Church of Tomorrow." After a session by the Women's Missionary Society, Elder Baxter C. Duke of Illinois preached from Hebrews 12:1. Benediction by Elder J. H. McCreary of Ohio.

Thursday Afternoon:

Elder C. H. Dickerson of Kentucky conducted the devotional service. The session was utilized for business. The treasurer, Dr. J. E. Walker reported. The report was received and turned over to the auditing committee. Elder Wm. Alphin, corresponding secretary, made a verbal statement relative to his office. By motion his report was received. Mrs. Rosa Bracy read the report of receipts from the churches and departments to the United Christian Missionary Society for the past missionary year. Copies of this report were distributed to the delegates. Prof. A. M. Chavous, director of vocation-training, Wilberforce University, was introduced by the president to the convention. Recommendations from the Joint Executive Committee were read by Mr. Grant K. Lewis. Articles 3 and 6 were referred back to the committee for further consideration. The other recommendations were received. Dr. J. E. Walker made an appeal for subscriptions or donations to help publish "The Christian Plea." J. C. Riffe, the registrar, made a report on the enrollment of delegates and states. Benediction by Elder L. H. Crawford.

Thursday evening:

Elder L. H. Crawford conducted the devotional service and presided over the session. Music was furnished by the choir of the local church and the Southern Christian Institute Quartette. Mrs. Emma Brooks of Illinois, serving as proxy for Mr. James Brooks, gave an address on "The Laymen's Responsibility in Taking Care of the Church of God". Elder E. Kenny of Pennsylvania preached on "The Lord is my Strength", Isaiah 12:2. Following the sermon Elder W. H. Taylor of Maryland preached on "Our World wide Missionary Task". The Offering was taken by Dr. R. S. Fields of Tennessee. Benediction by Prof. B. L. Jacobs of Mississippi.

Friday Morning:

Mrs. Mary Van Buren of Missouri conducted the devotional service. After a short session of the Women's Missionary Society, the church department went into session. A motion carried that a committee be sent to convey greetings from the convention to Elder W. W. Cordell and Elder R. E. Euell, both of whom are aged indisposed ministers residing in Cincinnati. Those named on the committee were Attorney J. D. Locker, L. L. Dickerson, Wm. Alphin, P. H. Moss and C. H. Dickerson. R. Wesley Watson of New York gave an address on Pensions for Ministers. C. W. Smith of Illinois and J. E. Walker of Tennessee spoke on the subject from the standpoint of laymen and Mrs. Frazier of Ohio and Mrs. Herod of Indiana spoke on the subject from the standpoint of minister's wives. Mr. J. B. Lehman spoke on the technique of the subject. A further report was made by the joint executive committee. The recommendations as reported were received. Mr. J. B. Lehman was presented to the convention and made a final statement and address as retiring principal of the Southern Christian Institute and Superintendent of Negro work. A standing vote of thanks was given him. Elder Wm. Campbell preached on "The Pre-eminent Christ", Col. 1:18. Benediction by Elder G. Calvin Campbell.

Friday Afternoon:

Elder L. L. Dickerson of Ohio conducted the devotional service. Music was furnished by the Junior choir of the Lockland Church. Mr. Grant K. Lewis introduced Dr. Alexander Paul, secretary of Foreign Missions of the United Christian Missionary Society, and he spoke briefly on Jamaica, especially about the recent disaster that has befallen the Island through a hurricane. He suggested that the convention send a letter of sympathy to our churches there. Motion carried that the corresponding secretary send the letter. The recommendations committee made its report. By consent the report was considered by sections. Section one was voted down and the committee was asked to consider shortening the convention by one day. The recommendation on the place for the 1934 convention was submitted back to the committee for further consideration, but was later adopted, naming Hannibal Mo., as the 1934 Convention city, and August 21-26 as the dates. Dr. J. E. Walker made an appeal for cash subscriptions for "The Christian Plea". Benediction by Dr. T. D. Scott of Cincinnati.

Friday evening:

Mr. O. W. Tanner conducted the song service. Selections were given by the Southern Christian Institute quartette. The main part of the session centered on our educational institutions. Mr. J. B. Lehman spoke for the Southern Christian Institute, Prof. R. H. Peoples spoke for Jarvis Christian College and Mr. Grant K. Lewis spoke on "The Relationship of the Home Department of the United Christian Missionary to our Educational Work." Prof. J. C. Cowan, Dean of Southern Christian Institute, gave an address on "Our Educational Task." A vocal solo was given by Mrs. Rosa Welch of Chicago. Dr. Alexander Paul gave an address on "World Conditions," emphasizing the threats of imperialism, and communism to the peace of the world. Elder C. H. Dickerson of Kentucky gave appreciation of forty years of service

rendered by Prof. J. B. Lehman as head of Southern Christian Institute. After the address, R. Wesley Watson, on behalf of the convention presented to Mr. Lehman a watch as a token of appreciation. Mr. Lehman responded with a feeling of deep emotion. Prof. Peoples called for the offering which amounted to \$7.23. A special offering was taken for Mr. O. W. Tanner in appreciation for his service as song leader. This amounted to \$3.95. Rev. Chapman of Cincinnati was introduced to the convention and spoke briefly. Benediction by Mr. Grant K. Lewis.

Saturday morning:

Elder J. H. McCreary of Ohio conducted the devotional service with O. W. Tanner as song leader. Dr. H. O. Pritchard, General Secretary of the National Board of Education was introduced to the convention by the president and gave an address on "Pensions for Ministers." Mr. Grant K. Lewis introduced to the convention Mr. Edwin Errett, editor of the Christian Standard and Mr. Porter, field worker for the same paper. Both made brief remarks. Elder Wm. Owens of Ohio preached on "Taking Care of the Church of God Through Evangelism." The convention took a recess in order that the committees might complete their work. On reassembling the first order of business was the reading of the recommendations of the different departments for general information on the work planned. Elder G. Calvin Campbell, P. H. Moss and Mrs. Bracy were named as program committee. The committee on recommendations made further recommendations which were adopted as a whole. By consent the money for the Taylor Memorial Fund is to be sent through Wm. Alphin, corresponding secretary to Dr. J. E. Walker, treasurer. Wm. Alphin, P. H. Moss, L. H. Crawford and H. L. Herod constitute a committee to revise the constitution. P. H. Moss, G. E. Letton, Wm. Alphin and Mrs. Rosa Bracy were appointed to form a report blank for the states to report in the National Convention. Motion carried that the treasurers of the departments have published in the sheet bulletin statements of the receipts and disbursements of the convention. A motion carried that a vote of appreciation be extended the program committee on the fine set up of the program and to the president for the fine way he has presided over the meetings. Mr. Grant K. Lewis reported from the Joint Executive Committee the recommendation on the quotas of the church and departments for national apportionments. Benediction by R. Wesley Watson.

RECOMMENDATIONS
of the
JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- I. Whereas the present convention marks the retirement of J. B. Lehman as superintendent of the Negro work and as President of Southern Christian Institute after 40 years of distinguished service to the Kingdom of God and especially to the Negro race, Be it resolved that this Convention go on record as expressing grateful appreciation to Mr. Lehman and also to his faithful wife as his co-worker and as wishing them both many more serviceable and happy years.

- II. In view of the fact that the present economic situation makes compulsory adjustment of our field workers as to regularity of employment and nature of work to be done, we therefore urge the several departments having charge of the work contemplated to take into account in the making of terms, the relative needs conditions and services of these workers in the interest of Christian equity.
- III. As an emergency measure, we recommend that a joint arrangement be arranged by the Home Department and the Department of Religious Education for combining of the work of the General Church Secretary and Bible School Secretary in one person.
- IV. Upon the request of the Home Department, we recommend that H. L. Herod of Indiana and C. H. Dickerson of Kentucky be appointed to assist Mr. Lewis in the administration of the Evangelistic Fund of the Home Department.
- V. Whereas the Woman's Christian Missionary Society is celebrating its 60th Anniversary, marking 60 years since the organization of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions and whereas the special feature is the making of gifts in memory of missionaries who have paid the price of their life in service of the board that the present work may be maintained, we recommend that the special gifts made under the auspices of the National Woman's Convention will commemorate the memory of the late Jacob Kenoly and that they be used to carry forward our educational work in Lotumbe, Africa.
- VI. We recommend that every effort be made to continue "The Christian Plea" as the voice of the churches and their cooperative work represented in this convention. To realize this and we further recommend:

(1) That the Joint Executive Committee continue to appoint a standing Publication Committee of three of its members to carry the financial responsibility, direct its policies, and give oversight to the enterprise.

(2) That this convention subscribe a maintenance budget totaling \$1,170 by group and individual commitments, at this convention, of definite sums as follows:

1.	From Executive Committee of Convention..	\$150.00
2.	" Bible School	40.00
3.	" Missionary Society	40.00
4.	" Church Donations	100.00
5.	" Subscriptions	100.00
6.	" Home Department	500.00
7.	" " " Preachers	240.00
	Total	\$ 1,170.00

(3) That Warren Brown be elected editor for ensuing year.

(4) That the field workers be made corresponding editors and be held responsible for church news and departmental items as well as subscriptions.

VII. That Rosa Brown Bracy be continued as Secretary of Woman's Department.

VIII. That P. H. Moss be elected to serve as joint secretary for Religious Education and Home Missions and his work to include the visitation of both churches and Bible schools in order to raise each to a greater degree of efficiency.

IX. That we recommend to the Promotional Division of the United Society the placing of first responsibility for promoting church offerings upon Mrs. Rosa Brown Bracy and request the application of sufficient funds for this purpose.

X. That the financial aims for 1933-34 be as follows:

Bible School and C. E.....	\$ 2,000.00
Missionary Organizations.....	2,000.00
The Church as Such.....	1,500.00
Anniversary Celebration.....	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total -	6,500.00

JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Total Receipts.....\$ 283.64

Disbursements:

H. L. Herod, travel and incidentals.....	\$ 17.00
Wm. Alphin, travel and incidentals.....	18.64
C. E. Craggett, Recording Secretary, travel.	4.00
Dr. J. E. Walker, travel.....	14.50
Convention programs, stationery.....	13.00
Programs, sunrise and communion service.....	12.25
To Christian Plea.....	150.00
Bible School delegate enrollment.....	14.50
Christian Endeavor delegate enrollment.....	14.50
Missionary Society delegate enrollment.....	<u>29.50</u>
Total -	\$ 287.89

Whereas we have come to the close of the greatest convention in our history and have out of a spirit of real devotion and spirituality planned a forward looking program for the future and whereas we have been so royally entertained, having had every need supplied and every want appeased Be it resolved that we extend to the Pastor, the Officers, the helpers in every capacity and to the entire Church and friends our most hearty and sincere thanks. We trust that as we return to our several homes we shall be remembered for the good we have done in your city. We the Committee submit this report.

Committee. R. H. People
Rosa Brown Bracy
P. H. Moss.

THE BIBLE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Tuesday A. M. August 22, 1933. R. H. Peoples, presiding.

Devotions were conducted by Prof. J. C. Cowan, Dean of the Southern Christian Institute. The roll call of National Convention officers disclosed the fact all were present except the Secretary.

The following officers and workers reported on their year's work: Prof. R. H. Peoples, president; Dr. R. S. Fields, treasurer; Miss Viola Smith, assistant secretary and Mrs. Mary E. Taylor, dean of the Lincoln Ridge Young Peoples Conference. On motion these reports were adopted. Reports from the various state representatives were heard and approved. The feature of the morning was the comprehensive report of the National Field Worker, P. H. Moss. The report was adopted with appreciation.

The Bible School Session adjourned to hear reports from the Christian Endeavor workers.

Tuesday evening August 22, 1933 L. H. Crawford, presiding

Following the devotional period, Pres. R. H. Peoples of Jarvis Christian College, delivered his annual address in which he gave a survey of the field as to needs and possibilities and recommendations for procedure. His address was adopted. An offering of \$7.75 was taken.

Adjourned.

R. H. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
VIOLA SMITH, SECRETARY

Thursday Morning August 24, 1933 R. H. Peoples, presiding

The devotional period and the reading of the minutes of previous sessions were followed with the report of the future work committee. After some discussion the report herein submitted was adopted:

We the members of the Future Work Committee of the National Bible School Convention beg to make the following report. We recommend that:

- (1) We accept and adopt the name and set-up of the National Bible School Research Association (N. B. R. A.) recommended by the President of the National Bible School Convention and that each State, District and Local Representative subscribe to the Christian Plea which is to be used as the means of information.

- (2) Each state continue to emphasize and adopt the recommendation of the Future Work Committee of last year.

FAITHFULLY SUBMITTED,

JASON M. COWAN, CHAIRMAN
C. E. GRAGGETT
W. M. CUSTIS, JR.
BERT OWEN
MRS. MARY TAYLOR
PROF. R. H. PEOPLES
ALPHA D. PENN, SECRETARY.

Financial Statement:

The following statement was approved at the Bible School Session:

Disbursements: August 26, 1933

Minutes and programs.....	\$ 7.00
President's fare.....	46.50
Secretary - half fare.....	6.15
Treasurer - half fare -	10.00
Money spent during the year for promotion.....	10.62
Expense of treasurer.....	.62
Total	<u>\$80.89</u>
To the Christian Plea.....	20.00
Total.	<u>\$100.89</u>

R. H. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT -TEXAS
MRS. DORA WHITE, ASST. SECRETARY TENN.
R. S. FIELDS, TREASURER -TENN.