

Eastern Canadian Messenger

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UNION

Resolutions Passed at the Eighth Biennial Session of the Eastern Canadian Union Conference

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Whereas, The record of the past two years has been one of sparing mercy on behalf of the Union Conference, none having been called away in death, and God's kind hand having been seen in every department and branch of his work,

We render our tribute of praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for all his kind providences, and rededicate and consecrate our lives to unreserved service to his gospel.

2. Whereas, The name does not properly represent the work being done by the Union school at Oshawa,

Resolved, That the name Buena Vista Academy be changed to Eastern Canadian Missionary Seminary.

3. Whereas, The colporteur work properly conducted is missionary work of the highest order, and it is as good and successful a method as can be employed for placing before the people the important truths for this time, and

Whereas, God has ordained the colporteur work as a means of presenting before the people the truths contained in our books and periodicals.

We recommend, That consecrated men and women of good address, tact and ability, and those who have made a success of other lines of work, be encouraged by those who have the oversight of the different departments of our work to take up this line of work and join the ranks to help give this last message of mercy to a dying world and,

That we plan for canvassing institutes in the spring of the year at the Eastern Canadian Missionary Seminary, Williamsdale Academy and such other

places as the conferences shall consider necessary, to raise up a good force of colporteurs to place this most precious literature in the hands of the people.

4. In harmony with the recommendation of the North American Division Conference,

We recommend,

(a) That our next Union Conference session be held four years hence, thus fixing the time midway between the quadrennial sessions of the North American Division Conference.

(b) That the local conference be held every two years beginning with the year 1916, and the Union and local constitutions be changed to provide for this.

5. As our Union Educational and Missionary Volunteer work throughout our large Union is somewhat disjointed and inactive,

We recommend, That a Union secretary covering these departments be appointed, and

That an active campaign be inaugurated to develop these several lines of work to the fullest possible measure.

6. We recommend to all our churches the use of the weekly envelope system for the weekly collection of tithes and offerings.

7. Whereas, The North American Division Conference has instituted the plan of securing quarterly reports from all parts of the field, and

Whereas, These reports are much appreciated and very helpful in securing a clear understanding of the progress of the work along evangelical lines, therefore,

Resolved, That we urge upon all the secretaries of our conferences and church clerks the duty of sending in these reports promptly, and also that every reasonable care be taken to make these reports accurate in membership and all lines of evangelical work.

8. As an aid to our conferences in raising the Twenty-cent-a-week fund,

Resolved, That we urge all our Sabbath schools to strive to reach the aim of fifteen cents a week a member.

9. Resolved, That we adopt the pledge card system in our churches for raising mission offerings during 1916.

10. Whereas, When the study of the "Testimonies" is taken up by the members of a church, there is manifested by them a fuller consecration to the Lord, and a deeper personal spiritual experience which leads to active labor in the winning of souls,—

We recommend, That in every conference an effort be made to place the "Testimonies," especially volumes 6 to 9, in the home of every Sabbath-keeping family, and that the members be urged to read these volumes during 1916.

11. Whereas, The times in which we are living, when important issues are rapidly developing, and signs that show the end to be near are multiplying on all sides, make it an urgent necessity to enlist every Sabbath keeper in the finishing of the work,—

We recommend, That the Home Missionary Department be given its definite place among the conference departments, with the same representation as the other departments.

That each local conference appoint as a home missionary secretary a suitable individual as soon as such person can be found.

That these union and local home missionary secretaries organize a permanent campaign in all their churches and companies, devoting themselves to teaching the people in a practical way how to work for souls.

That for the year 1916, the following be the special goals:—

- (1) One soul for Christ in 1916.
- (2) An average of one tract a day circulated by each member.
- (3) One subscription to the weekly *Signs* obtained by each member, and a club for each church and company.
- (4) The *Review* in every Sabbath-keeping family.
- (5) The systematic circulation of the Maple Leaf series in every large town and city.
- (6) A club of magazines in every church.
- (7) Systematic work for the foreigners around any church.
- (8) The reading of "Testimonies," volumes 6 to 9.
- (9) The building up of other lines of work already being carried on.

12. Whereas, The Lord "gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the edifying or building up of the body of Christ," (Eph. 4:11, 13, A. R. V.) and

Whereas, We are told that, "Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labor successfully. Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received," therefore,

We recommend, That all our ministers actively co-operate with this home missionary work by carrying these instructions of the Lord into effect in all the churches and companies they raise up and visit.

Whereas, The Lord has called this denomination into existence for the definite purpose of teaching, in all the world, certain specific, fundamental truths of his holy Word, which made us a separate and distinct people, and

Whereas, The Spirit of Prophecy in the chapter in "Early Writings" entitled, "A Firm Foundation," solemnly warns us against changing those teachings or stepping off from the platform of present truth; and

Whereas, Every Bible doctrine is intended to reveal the gracious purposes of God and his power to redeem men through the grace that is in Christ Jesus our Lord; therefore,

Resolved, That it is of supreme importance that our ministers faithfully preach and teach everywhere these fundamental doctrines, and that they do so only from the standpoint of the truth as it is in Jesus; and

We Recommend, (1) That these truths be presented in a dignified and affirmative manner, keeping in mind the instruction found in "Gospel Workers," page 167, "Let the message for this time be presented, not in long, labored discourses, but in short talks, right to the point;" and that in our churches the Sabbath service be so conducted that our people shall have more time for social meetings.

(2) That ordinarily all the vital truths of the message be presented in a series of meetings continuing from four to six weeks, and if the interest warrants it, the same truths be repeated.

(3) That in keeping in mind the cautions contained in "Gospel Workers" concerning sensational methods we do more of that genuine revival work recommended in the "Testimonies," which leads to true repentance from sin, and actual change of heart; and, not only should special services be devoted to a living exposition of the doctrines of divine grace, but "in every discourse fervent appeals should be made to the people to forsake their sins and turn to Christ." (Gospel Workers, pp. 158-9.)

(4) That each laborer select a regular time each day for prayer and personal study of the word of God: we suggest that the first hour in the morning is best for this purpose.

(5) The careful conservation of our resources of time, talent, and money, and to assist in accomplishing this, we suggest—

a. That each laborer work to a daily program suitable to his needs.

b. That evangelists, and those in charge of assistant laborers, systematize and carefully supervise the work of those whom they direct.

c. That we associate well balanced, medium sized companies of laborers.

d. That the strongest available corps of auxiliary workers be organized from among our church members.

e. That where the public attendance is large, the place of meeting be divided into sections in charge of special ushers and assistants, and that a card system for the securing of names and addresses and a follow-up system be used in conserving the interest produced.

f. That we emphasize the judicious use of our spirit filled literature.

g. That our tents and other places of meeting be made as neat and attractive as possible, being careful to avoid that class of decoration that is either expensive or grotesque.

h. That a larger number of strongly organized public efforts be conducted during the winter season.

Whereas, The acceptance of the entire message is necessary to the building up of a strong church prepared to meet its Lord; therefore,

6. Resolved, That we urge all our laborers and church elders to thoroughly examine each candidate for baptism upon every point of present truth.

Whereas, The work of the gospel ministry is a sacred and holy work, and only those should be encouraged to enter it who renounce the world, sin, the love of display, and worldly pleasure, and who are willing to lead humble, self-sacrificing, Christian lives, that by precept and example they may preach the pure gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, The third angel's message and our world-wide work demand a growing, progressive, educated ministry, who can preach the gospel to all classes, and who give evidence of a divine call to the ministry, not only in their own experience, but in the judgment of the brethren,—

We recommend, That all candidates for ordination to the gospel ministry shall be carefully examined in Bible doctrines, their ability correctly to expound the same, and their confidence in and loyalty to the denominational organization.

We recognize that God often calls to the gospel ministry men of limited education, but whose mature judgment and practical experience in life, with rich spiritual endowment, give them a special fitness for the work of the ministry. The fruit of their la-

borers has demonstrated the genuineness of their call, and we esteem them highly for their work's sake.

We recommend, That these workers in the exercise of the ability which God has given them, seek by every reasonable means to increase their efficiency. By the opportunities offered in the Fireside Correspondence School, in the Ministerial Reading Course, and in general reading and study, this increased efficiency may be obtained.

We recommend, That young men who are planning to enter the ministry, avail themselves of the opportunities offered in our denominational training schools to secure a good education, and that they be encouraged as far as possible, to complete not less than fourteen grades of school work before they are ordained to the gospel ministry.

We further recommend, That all under twenty-five years of age, now laboring in the ministry, either as ordained or licensed preachers, who do not possess an education equal to fourteen grades of work, be encouraged to attend either our denominational training schools, or take work in the Fireside Correspondence School until the educational standard of fourteen grades has been reached.

That all our ministers shall pursue the ministerial reading courses and such others regular courses of study as they can take consistently with their gospel work.

That the ordination of men to the gospel ministry shall be governed as follows:—

(a) The Committee on Ordination shall consist of the Union Conference Committee, with such members of the General and Division Conference Committees as may be present, and such other ordained ministers of experience as may be invited in; and if the candidate be for work in a foreign department, the secretary of that department be consulted.

(b) The Union or local conference executive committee, believing that one of their workers should be ordained to the gospel ministry, shall by vote recommend said person to their Union Conference Committee for examination for ordination.

(c) The chairman of the Union Conference Committee shall take up the question of ordination of a candidate at a meeting of the committee, and if the vote is favorable, shall call the candidate to appear before the committee on ordination, or a sub-committee appointed by the same, for examination in harmony with these recommendations.

(d) Those passing satisfactory examinations and giving full proof of their call to the ministry, shall be recommended to their respective local conference for ordination at the earliest suitable occasion.

We further recommend, That the arrangements for the ceremony of ordination be in the hands of the representatives of the General and Division

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Conference who may be present, together with the Union and local conference presidents; and that the service in general be conducted as follows:—

Let there be a sermon on the ministry, if possible; then a short history of the one chosen for ordination; then the prayer, followed by the charge, and lastly the welcome.

Whereas, Our rapidly advancing work oftentimes affords opportunity for men to do efficient service for the Lord who are worthy to be engaged in the work because of their deep spiritual experience and ability to organize and lead in missionary work, who are sufficiently qualified to enter the regular ministry; therefore,

We recommend, That we recognize the call of these persons to a service which may or may not be a call to a lifework, by giving them missionary credentials.

Whereas, The Union Conference is called upon to adjust matters when the local conferences become burdened with too heavy a force of laborers; therefore,

"We recommend, That whenever additional regular laborers are to be added to the payroll of the local conference, the Union Conference officers be consulted.

"That credentials shall be revocable at such time, and for such cause as the conference granting them deems it unwise for the person to continue in the work of the gospel ministry.

We recommend, That ministerial credentials be renewed only to such as give their undivided time to the sacred work of the ministry to which they were set apart by ordination, except in cases where ordained ministers are employed by the conference in other lines of conference or institutional work. It is understood that this does not apply to aged or infirm workers who may receive their support from the sustentation fund or from private income.

That where ministerial credentials are not renewed the authority to administer the ordinances of the church, to perform marriage ceremonies, etc., be not recognized.

That where for any cause ministerial credentials are revoked, or are not renewed, and application is made to another conference for their renewal, this request be not granted without consultation with the local and Union conference previously granting the

credentials. This does not preclude the right of appeal.

We recommend, That section 3, Article 5 of the constitution of the Eastern Canadian Union Conference be changed so as to read "The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, secretary, treasurer, auditor, the representatives of the various departments, the presidents of the local conferences and superintendents of mission fields, and not to exceed five other persons."

Resolved, That we express our hearty thanks to the Ontario Conference and the Toronto West Side church for the entertainment which they have so generously provided for the delegates to this session of the Eastern Canadian Union Conference.

Conference Sessions in the Eastern Canadian Union

Ontario June 19-25.

Quebec June 26-July 2.

Maritime July 3-9.

Newfoundland General Meeting July 14-18.

The location of these meetings will be determined later by the conference committees and announced through the MESSENGER. Begin now with your plans to attend. None can afford to remain away who can possibly arrange to be present. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is;—and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25.

M. N. CAMPBELL.

OBITUARY

BAUGHMAN—Miss Elizabeth Lilla, aged thirty-nine years, beloved daughter of Charles S. and Margaret Baughman, died January 16, 1916, after an illness of five days. Miss Baughman was a zealous Christian girl, loved the Lord, and was a seeker for truth. She became interested in the study of the prophecies of the Bible, was attending our Sunday night meetings and had joined two evening Bible classes, one at her own home and the other at mine. She heard the truth on the Sabbath question and accepted it immediately, attending three Sabbath meetings. Miss Baughman came to my home for instructions concerning baptism and arrangements were made for her to be baptized on Tuesday evening with others. She was on her way to attend the convention and was taken ill. The young lady was conveyed to the hospital where she died Sunday, January 16. We expected to receive her into church fellowship on Sabbath, but the good Lord saw best to let her fall asleep in Jesus. It was a great shock to her parents, but they are both pleased that she walked in all the light that God showed her. They said that from the first meeting she attended she talked a great deal about the truth and her Bible seemed a new book to her. Her father has accepted the Sabbath and her mother is very favorably impressed with the truth. We believe that when the Lifegiver comes Miss Baughman will have a part in the first resurrection together with all the other command-keepers, and have a right to the tree of life.

MATT. J. ALLEN.