

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

North American Colored
Department

Organized 1909

Office address: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

Officers

Secretary, G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education:

Geneva Bryan

Advisory Council

General Conference Staff Members: L. K. Dickson
G. E. Peters, Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic
W. C. Wilson, Central
F. H. Robbins, Columbia
Jay J. Nethery, Lake
W. B. Ochs, Pacific
E. F. Hackman, Southern
J. W. Turner, Southwestern.

Local Conference Presidents:

L. H. Bland, Northeastern
J. G. Dasent, Lake Region
J. H. Wagner, Allegheny
H. D. Singleton, South Atlantic
H. R. Murphy, South Central

Union Conference Secretaries for the
Colored Department:

T. M. Rowe, Central
_____ Pacific
_____ Southwestern

Editor Message Magazine:

L. B. Reynolds

Oakwood College:

F. L. Peterson, President and Business Manager

L. E. Ford, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

Riverside Sanitarium:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

. DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

The fundamental reason for the advance step in the organization of colored conferences is rightfully set forth in the preamble of the recommendation that was adopted at the Spring Meeting held in Chicago, April 10, 1944:

"WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishing of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

"WHEREAS, it appears that a different plan of organization of our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore

"We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.

3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.

4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences."

Following the Spring Meeting several Union Conferences invited a commission from the officers of the General Conference to give study to the plan of going forward with the proposed organization. The Lake Union was first to lead out in this direction.

September 26, 1944, the colored churches of the Lake Union comprising 2,260 believers were organized into a conference taking the name, "Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". This new conference embraces the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. The officers of the conference

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisaak, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

This new conference which began its functions January 1 has a colored population of 800,000 souls, which must be warned with the message of a soon coming Saviour.

October 3 another colored conference was organized. This conference comprises the Atlantic Union territory (except Bermuda) and has taken the name "North Eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". In the new conference is the Ephesus Church of New York City with more than 1,000 members. There is a total of 15 churches with a membership of 2,200. L. H. Bland was elected President and Religious Liberty Secretary. He will also carry the Home Missionary Department for the present. L. O. Irons was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and Louis Preston, Publishing Department Secretary.

The colored population of this conference numbers 1,106,000.

December 17 the Columbia Union Conference went forward with its new organization. This conference has 40 churches with some 3,800 believers and a colored population of 2,340,832. The conference includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The name adopted was the "Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Officers of the conference are: J. H. Wagner, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager; W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and H. D. Warner, Publishing Department Secretary.

Washington Ephesus (Cont.)

Mr. Benjamin Pyndell
Mrs. Willis Dodson
Mr. Joseph Dodson
Miss Celeste Joy
Mrs. Jeannette Anderson

WASHINGTON FIRST CHURCH

Mr. Laertes Gillis
Mr. William Ingram
Mr. J. M. Harris
Mr. J. W. Saunders
Mrs. Esther Hamilton
Mrs. Lucille Lewis
Mrs. Queen Adams
Mrs. Amelia Fitzgerald
Mrs. Carolyn B. Connelly
Mrs. Dora West
Mrs. Dearae Allen
Miss Vivian Burbanks
Mrs. Tensa Warner
Mrs. Alma J. Scott
Mrs. Margaret B. Smith
Mrs. Bessie Winston

Accredited by Churches of:
West Pennsylvania Conference:

PITTSBURGH #2

Mrs. Sallie Brown
Mrs. E. Watson
Mrs. R. Shelby
Mrs. C. Saucier
T. Duncan
Jerry Holmes
Mrs. Mabel Stevens

UNIONTOWN

No delegates present

Accredited by Churches of:
West Virginia Conference:

CHARLESTOWN BEREA

Mr. James L. Hague

STATISTICS OF COLORED DEPARTMENT - March, 1946

March 27, 1946

STATISTICS OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT

Membership of the Colored Department

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| General Conference, 1941 | 14,537 |
| 1944 | 17,891 |
| 1945 | 19,008 |

Tithe of the Colored Department

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940 | \$1,112,189.52 |
| 1944 | 828,868.68 |
| 1945 | 964,515.73 |

Missions Offerings of Colored Department

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940 | \$703,347.40 |
| 1944 | 321,196.30 |
| 1945 | 407,988.71 |

Statements Concerning Colored Department - 1945

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Number of churches | 234 |
| Number of Ordained Ministers | 68 |
| Number of Licensed Ministers | 61 |

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT - HISTORICAL DATA - 1954

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Department

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Geneva Bryan

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Riverside Sanitarium:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director
H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT - HISTORICAL DATA

Heads of the Regional Department since it was organized in 1909

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| J. W. Christian | 1909-1910 |
| A. J. Haysmer | 1910-1913 |
| C. B. Stephenson | 1914-1918 |
| W. H. Green - First Colored Secretary | 1918-1928 |
| G. E. Peters | 1929-1930 |
| F. L. Peterson | 1930-1941 |
| G. E. Peters | 1941-June 30, 1953 |
| C. E. Moseley, Jr. | July 1, 1953-1954 |
| F. L. Peterson | 1954-1962 |
| <i>H. D. Singleton</i> | 1962-1975 |

Historical Data

| | |
|--|------|
| Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight | 1912 |
| New Organization of Colored Department | 1929 |
| Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic) | 1929 |
| Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences) | 1929 |
| Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney | 1930 |
| First colored president of Oakwood College J. L. Moran | 1934 |
| Message Magazine (first publication) | 1934 |
| National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College | 1934 |
| <u>Hope of the Race</u> (published) | 1934 |
| Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over by the General Conference | 1935 |
| Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college status | 1942 |
| Reorganization of Colored Department | 1944 |
| First colored editor of the Message Magazine L. B. Reynolds | 1944 |
| First Regional Conference <i>organized began operating //</i> | 1945 |
| A colored mission superintendent and two missionary families sent to Liberia, West Africa | 1945 |
| North American Informant (published) | 1946 |
| General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters | 1950 |
| An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>-F.L. Peterson</i> | 1954 |
| An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept. E. E. Cleveland | 1954 |

THE NEGRO DEPARTMENT

Previous to the creating of the North American Negro Department by the General Conference in 1909, an aggressive work was carried on by the denomination in the field of evangelization and education for the colored people.

Faith, courage, and intelligent optimism in the face of almost insurmountable barriers urged the pioneers of this work forward, until today as we note the achievements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the colored race, we say with the psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3

This department occupies a very distinct place in the program of the church, and renders both measurable and immeasurable service. There are still millions from among the colored people who are yet to be warned of the coming of the Lord and of the preparation that must be made in order to meet Him.

During the five years that have passed since the last General Conference session this department has experienced many difficulties, but God has blessed us with such exceptional opportunities for service that today we find our hearts united with the leadership of this movement for the finishing of the work of God in all the world, and we bring you a message of hope and courage.

When the apostle Paul stood on the flinty platform of Mars' Hill and delivered his challenging appeal to the Areopagites, an epoch

was turned in the history of Greece. Among the startling propositions of the sermon that caused the change of attitude of Dionysius and Damaris was the statement, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;.....and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Acts 17:24-26.

The grand old story of salvation is still being preached, and many thousands out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people are being changed until today the prophecy of Zephaniah is being fulfilled: "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My suppliants, even the daughters of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering." Zeph. 3:10/

The presence of the Negro upon American soil is the result of the cupidity of commerce. His coming was against his will. Since the landing of that little Dutch trading vessel in 1619 at Jamestown, Virginia, with its small cargo of African slaves, the descendants of these bondsmen have become free American citizens. They have contributed much to American progress and have helped to lay the material foundations of our civilization. Their labor, their songs, and their record of patriotism are evidences of their loyalty and their self-sacrificing spirit.

The leaders of the advent movement, early in the history of its organization, recognized the Negro as an integral element in American life. About the year 1890 definite steps were taken to

carry the third angel's message to the people. It is interesting to note that seven years previous to this, or in 1883, a colored church had been organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, which had been raised up by a colored brother who had received the truth through reading the Signs. Our present church work in Nashville, Tennessee, is the outgrowth of this first church organization.

Since that time evangelistic meetings have been held in almost all the large cities of North America. The colporteur, true to his task, has scattered our truth-filled books and papers in both rural and urban centers, and we are happy to report at this conference that we had 236 churches, with a combined membership of 14,537, at the close of 1940.

Our colored believers are loyal to this movement, and out of their poverty they have given during the last five years with impressive liberality. From the year 1936 to December 31, 1940, the total tithe receipts were \$1,112,189.52. During the same five-year period there was sent on to foreign missions \$703,347.40. The grand total in tithes and mission offerings was \$1,815,536.92. The colored believers have also contributed many thousands of dollars for their own local church needs and home missionary enterprises.

In this department we have fifty ordained ministers, fifteen licentiates, five Bible workers, five assistant field missionary secretaries, one union home missionary and educational secretary, eight interns, one hundred church school and academy teachers, and a small army of colporteur evangelists.

There are approximately 12,000,000 Negroes in North America. The last available figures of the census reveal the astounding fact that more than six million of them are without church membership. Although our race is reputed to be a religious group, for more than a generation there has been a drift away from religion. Here at the home base the Adventist Church should view this situation with serious concern and do all that is within her power to win these people for Christ.

Since we last met in General Conference session three of our workers have been laid to rest--A. J. Evelyn, A Gaynes Thompson, and H. E. Ford.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian school has become a virile, positive force in this denomination. What Christian education has meant to our colored boys and girls, and the overwhelming importance of the church school in Negro education, cannot be adequately described within the limits of this report. It is the aim and purpose of the working force in this department to follow the blueprint in education as has been given to this people by the messenger of God. We believe that "Our children should be removed from the evil influences of the public school, and placed where thoroughly converted teachers may educate them in the Holy Scriptures."

--"Counsels to Teachers," p.204.

There are 100 teachers now engaged in giving Christian instruction to our church-school children, who are attending the 66 church school that are being conducted.

Oakwood Junior College, our advanced training school is doing an excellent work for our young people. There is a strong faculty of fifteen members. Each year the school is being improved, and a large number of students can now be accommodated there. During the last three years, approximately \$45,000 has been spent in the erection of new buildings and the purchasing of additional equipment. For the last five years 153 young people have been graduated from the junior college courses, and 73 from the academy. Some of these now in conference employ are graduates of Oakwood. The school enjoys the best financial standing it has experienced in many years. There is, however, a great need for enriching the courses of study that are offered, so that a larger number of our youth will be attracted to the school and so that they may receive a full college training.

LITERATURE MINISTRY

We have a small army of colporteurs who have set themselves to the task of taking our truth-filled literature to the homes of the people. Many thousands of copies of our large and small books and magazines are being sold by these literature ministers. The Message Magazine is filling a longfelt need in our work. It has grown from a quarterly magazine to ten issues a year. More than thirty thousand of the November-December issue for 1940 were sold. Our books and magazines are finding their way into the best homes of our people. There is a determined effort on the part of our workers to increase the circulation of the Message Magazine, and of our other magazines and books as well. It was the message that was published in the Signs that had to do with the organizing of our first colored church in 1883, and who knows but it might be

MINUTES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

PRAYER

T. M. Rowe opened the meeting with prayer.

RIVERSIDE SANI-
TARIUM

1

After much discussion, it was moved and seconded to appoint a committee to work out plans for the Riverside Sanitarium goals.

The chairman with the help of council members appointed the following committee to wait upon the group: E. F. Hackman, C. O. Franz, G. E. Peters, J. J. Nethery, T. M. Rowe, L. H. Bland, H. D. Singleton, H. R. Murphy, J. H. Wagner, W. W. Fordham, J. G. Dasent. Committee members met immediately after the adjournment of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT CHANGE

2

Following an open and candid discussion, it was moved and seconded by committee members to refer the consideration of the re-naming and re-organizing of the North American Colored Department to the General Conference Committee for study and action.

NORTH AMERICAN
INFORMANT

3

It was generally agreed by committee members that the NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT is serving its purpose. A wider circulation for the periodical was heartily suggested by T. M. Rowe.

LOMA LINDA QUOTA

4

The quota problem for the Loma Linda Hospital was cleared up by Dr. Macpherson of the medical college. He stated positively that no quota exists and that applicants are chosen solely on their scholastic rating, preparation, and recommendations.

RESIGNATION OF
MISS GENEVA BRYAN

5

G. E. Peters brought before the council members the cause of Miss Bryan's resignation and highly commended her services in the department.

PROMOTION OF
HEALTH EDUCATION

6

Whether the department should continue to promote health education was discussed pro and con by committee members, and it was finally moved and seconded that the matter of the health education office in the department be referred to the General Conference Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by L. H. Bland.

N. C. Wilson, Chairman
G. E. Peters, Associate Chairman
Mercedes Moran, Recording Secretary

MEETING OF AVAILABLE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Held in Pantlind Hotel, 1:00 p. m., Nov. 17, 1947

PRESENT G E Peters, L. B. Reynolds, H. D. Dobbins, J. H. Wagner, F. L. Peterson, H. D. Singleton, W. W. Fordham, H. R. Murphy, J. G. Dasent, O. A. Troy, L. E. Ford. Others present were R. E. Crawford, T. M. Fountain, H. W. Kibble.

PRAYER Prayer was offered by J. H. Wagner.

MESSAGE
MAGAZINE

The MESSAGE MAGAZINE was presented by Elder Reynolds. In discussing its progression, its problems, the feasibility of increasing the magazine's subscription list, which would place it on a sounder financial basis, was presented. Elder Reynolds reported that some of our churches were sponsoring large subscription lists, among them the Chicago Shiloh church taking 740 subscriptions and the New Orleans church 550 copies. Conference presidents and other present leaders were requested to urge all their churches to cooperate in this matter.

INCREASING
SIZE AND
PRICE

Elder Reynolds asked the group to consider the advisability of increasing the size of the magazine to make it more attractive. Such an increase in size as contemplated would require the magazine to sell for twenty-five cents per copy (retail). No vote was taken, but the consensus of opinion seemed to favor the increase in size to 36 pages and the consequent increase in price.

Elder Crawford spoke glowingly of the accomplishments of the MESSAGE under the efficient editorship of Elder Reynolds. He mentioned particularly the wide acceptance of the special temperance issue.

TEMPERANCE
NUMBER

The problem of supplying copies of the temperance number to the colleges making requests was presented to the group. There were commitments by the presidents of conferences and other field representatives. These were turned over to Editor Reynolds.

G. E. Peters, Chairman
O. A. Troy, Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF THE COLORED CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MEETING
For the Columbia Union Conference
Held in the Ebenezer Church, 15th and Christian Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
December 17, 18, 1944

The first meeting was called to order at 9 A. M. December 17, 1944 by Elder F. H. Robbins, President of the Columbia Union Conference.

OPENING SONG: "Know Not the Time that He Cometh" No. 542 in the Church Hymnal, was sung by the congregation, and verses 1-16 of chapter 2 of Paul's epistle to the Philippian church was read by Elder E. D. Dick, Secretary of the General Conference.

Prayer was offered by Elder G. E. Peters.

Appropriate opening remarks were made by the Chairman.

ORGANIZATION:

By unanimous affirmative vote, Elder F. H. Robbins was chosen as chairman, and C. H. Kelly was chosen as secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called on the secretary to read the call for this meeting as published in the Columbia Union VISITOR of December 7.

The Secretary also read the actions of the Spring Council in April 1944.

At the request of Elder F. H. Robbins, Elder E. D. Dick made a statement outlining the purpose of the meeting and discussing in detail the action of the General Conference calling for the organization of the Colored Conferences.

Remarks dealing with this subject were made by Elder G. E. Peters, and Elder H. T. Elliott of the General Conference.

SEATING OF DELEGATES:

Upon call of the roll of delegates, the following named persons were seated as delegates and the meeting was declared open for business:

Members of the General Conference Committee:

E. D. Dick
H. T. Elliott
G. E. Peters

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Committee:

F. H. Robbins
C. H. Kelly
C. P. Sorensen
S. L. Clark
J. C. Holland
L. H. King
H. J. Detwiler
C. V. Leach

Columbia Union Conference Committee (Cont.)

M. E. Loewen
W. B. Hill
W. M. Robbins
M. G. Conger
J. P. Neff

Ordained and Licensed Colored Ministers Holding Credentials and Licenses:

Chesapeake Conference: L. H. Bland, W. L. Cheatham, Juanita Jones,
Julia Cooper.

East Penna. Conference: F. L. Bland, R. L. Bradford, Paul Winley

New Jersey Conference: M. S. Banfield, J. R. Britt, E. I. Watson,
Miss E. Mason.

Ohio Conference: J. H. Lawrence, F. G. Phipps, U. S. Willis,
Alan Anderson, D. J. Dixon, Louis Brantley

Potomac Conference: I. A. Christian, T. M. Fountain, E. S. Dillet,
W. R. Robinson, J. H. Lester, H. D. Warner,
Mrs. Nell, Mrs. McDonald.

West Penna. Conference: Monroe A. Burgess, R. Ruffin, Columbus McChristian,
Miss L. Cherry.

West Va. Conference: W. A. Thompson.

Accredited by Churches of:

Chesapeake Conference:

BALTIMORE BEHEA

J. T. Buchanan
J. Z. Cooper
J. E. Roache
Elizabeth Tillman
Thelma Mainon
Eunice Canady
Hettie Jackson
Blanche Russell
Marcelena Johnson
Venus Harris
W. J. Ridley
Lillie Peakes
Many Waller
Addison Pinkney
Leslie Jones
Blanche Williams
Virgil Montgomery
Mamie Swann
Auman Beatty
J. S. Green

ARTICLE XI

SESSIONS: Section 1. This Conference shall hold regular sessions at intervals of two years at such time and place as the Conference Committee shall designate by a notice published in the "Columbia Union Visitor" at least three weeks before the date of the session.

Section 2. The Conference Committee may call extra sessions at such times and places as it deems proper by notice as provided for in Section I of this Article, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

ARTICLE XII

BY-LAWS: The delegates of this Conference may enact by-laws or amend or repeal them at any session thereof, and such by laws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the constitution.

ARTICLE XIII

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds' vote of the delegates present and voting at the session, provided that if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

After a full and free discussion of Agenda item No. 5. "To Organize or not to organize a Colored Conference which would comprise the entire territory of the Columbia Union Conference, " it was voted to organize a Colored Conference for the believers in the Columbia Union, the vote being 265 affirmative; 18 opposed.

The morning meeting of the session closed by singing hymn No. 647. "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done," and we were dismissed with prayer by Elder L. H. Bland.

Meeting adjourned until 2 P. M.

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 P. M.

Meeting opened by singing "O, How Sweet to Trust in Jesus," and we were led in prayer by Elder M. S. Banfield.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE STANDING COMMITTEES:

In harmony with customary procedures, the churches represented in the meeting appointed members of a committee to serve with the president of the Columbia Union Conference as Chairman, to nominate standing committees for the session as follows:

Wilmington #2
Berea Temple
Milford
Millsboro
Dover #2
Harrisburg
Ebenezer
Elwood
Norristown
Camden
Bridgeton #2
Jericho
Atlantic City
Asbury Park
Englewood
Jersey City
Montclair
Newark
Cincinnati
Columbus
Oberlin
Springfield
Akron, Youngstown
Cleveland
Toledo

W. L. Cheatham
L. H. Bland
G. Moseley
E. Norwood
Mrs. W. Waters
J. Washington
F. D. Bland
Miss Alice Ruffin
James Street
G. Clarke
M. C. Higgs
Letha Brockenbrough
M. S. Banfield
Mrs. Anna Moore
J. R. Britt
John Craig
Miss Elizabeth Bronner
E. I. Wateon
Fred D. Frazier
S. F. Underdew
Bonnie Stewart
G. L. Henry
D. J. Dixon
H. W. Laurence
David Washington

Dayton
Ephesus
Alexandria
Norfolk
Newport News
Danville
Richmond
Petersburg
First Church Washington
Pittsburgh #2
Uniontown
West Va. Conference

E. U. Carter
T. M. Fountain
D. J. Barbor
Henry Parks
J. H. Lester
Joseph Cunningham
John T. Scott
W. R. Robinson
Elder Dillett
R. Ruffin
M. A. Burgess
J. L. Hague

At this time the meeting recessed to allow time for the large committee to meet for the nomination of the standing committees.

At 2:45 P. M. the meeting was called to order and the Committee on Nomination of the Standing Committees submitted its report as follows:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Chairman

F. H. Robbins
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dillett
Dr. Kimbrough
M. S. Banfield
M. A. Burgess
Addison Pinkney
W. R. Robinson
Mrs. J. E. Barnett

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
Chairman

J. P. Neff
E. U. Carter
Ernest Williams
C. H. Kelly
J. H. Wagner

CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES
Chairman

H. T. Elliott
F. H. Robbins
President-Elect

PLANS

Chairman

G. E. Peters
Charles Stewart
L. H. Bland
Titus Duncan
F. L. Bland
Joseph Parley
A. A. Anderson
Mrs. A. Bethel

Plans (continued)

Mrs. A. J. Scott
Elder J. H. Laurence
M. G. Higgs
Joseph Dodson
E. D. Watson
J. H. Lester
Members of the Columbia
Union Conference Committee

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
J. W. Lawrence, Secretary

After a recess of the second meeting we came together for a report from the various standing committees:

First report was from the nominating committee whose report was as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| President | J. H. Wagner |
| Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Mgr. | J. L. Moran |
| Publishing Dept. Sec'y. | H. D. Warner |
| Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary | W. R. Robinson |
| Religious Liberty Secretary | J. H. Wagner |
| Temperance & Radio Sec'y. | W. R. Robinson |
| Conference Committee | J. H. Wagner |
| | J. L. Moran |
| | U. S. Willis |
| | Addison Pinkney |
| | M. S. Banfield |
| | F. L. Bland |
| | Incoming pastor of Pittsburgh |
| | E. S. Dillett |
| | C. A. Morgan |

All others referred to the Conference Committee.

Upon motion this report was accepted unanimously.

We next had the report of the committee on Constitution and By-Laws: which was read as follows: (Waive reading)

We next listened to the report on the committee on Plans who rendered a partial report, which was acted upon item by item as read by the secretary.

Adjourned was taken until 7:30 P. M. and we were dismissed with prayer by Elder H. T. Elliott.

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

Since "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers, " and

Whereas the supreme objective of the Allegheny Conference is to give the "Everlasting Gospel" to every colored person in the territory of the conference, and

Whereas, "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work in order to reach our objective and complete the task."

We recommend that the Conference Committee develop such plans and inaugurate a type program based on the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, which will train and assign every member to some line of soul-winning service suitable to his talents.

EVENING SESSION 7:45 P. M.

The third meeting was called to order by the chairman, Elder F. H. Robbins at 7:45 P. M. and we were led by Prayer by Elder Leach, who invoked God's blessing on the newly organized conference and its officers in this tremendous task of Evangelism in the populous cities of the Columbia Union.

We sang one stanza of "Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb."

The Committee on Credentials rendered a full report as follows through its secretary, J. H. Wagner, which was accepted by vote.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES:

Your committee on Credentials and Licenses made the following recommendations:

For Ministerial Credentials:

M. S. Banfield
F. L. Bland
R. L. Bradford
Monroe A. Burgess
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dillett
F. M. Fountain
J. H. Lawrence
J. L. Moran (subject to his acceptance of call)
F. C. Phipps
W. R. Robinson
W. A. Thompson
J. H. Wanger
U. S. Willis

For Ministerial License:

Alan Anderson
L. W. Brantley
J. R. Britt
Columbus McChristian
D. J. Dixon
J. H. Lester
R. Ruffin
H. D. Warner
E. J. Watson
Paul Winley

For Bible Instructor Credentials:

Louise Cherry
Julia Cooper
Elvira Mason
Mrs. Geneva McDonald
Mrs. Ethel Nell

For Missionary Credentials:

Juanita Jones

That all other names be referred to the Conference Committee, in counsel with the Union Conference officers.

One more resolution from the Committee on Plans was presented by Elder J. C. Holland which was accepted by a unanimous vote of the delegates present.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PLANS:

I

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS: The Spirit of Prophecy states that, "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the scriptures," and further that, "In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory." Vol. 7:140

AND WHEREAS: The vigorous promotion of our colored colporteur work in the past has undoubtedly been a major factor in building our colored constituency to its present splendid proportions.

Therefore we recommend: that the newly formed Allegheny Conference give diligent study to the organization of its local publishing department keeping in mind that adequate personnel be provided for the promotion of the publishing work so that the present splendid program be carried forward with ever increasing success.

II

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In order to save our children, unite them to our church membership, and prepare them to have a part in giving the Third Angel's Message to the world, we recommend that the Conference Committee encourage, promote and support the sacred course of Christian Education to the end that all of our children be educated in our schools.

III

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER

Realizing that the children and the youth of the church are its greatest resource and if saved constitute the church of tomorrow, and

Whereas we will have failed if the home, the school and the church fails to hold its youth even after bringing them to a decision,

We recommend:

1. That our churches and the Conference give the best possible leadership to our Missionary Volunteer organization.
2. That we organize and maintain societies in all our churches and church schools, and
3. That these societies maintain a strong program of devotional, educational, missionary, and social activities.

IV

GRATITUDE TO GOD

Recognizing that our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and the constituency in developing the work among the colored people of the Columbia Union,

WHEREAS, The time has come when our general and union brethren have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference in order that our work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

RESOLVED, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all out program of evangelism, loyalty in tithes, and liberality in offerings for foreign missions and home work.

V
CONFERENCE LOCATION

We recommend, That the location of the Allegheny Conference headquarters be referred to the Conference Committee in council with the Union Committee.

VI
PLANS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, This newly formed conference is a part of the Columbia Union Conference, and a sister conference to the other seven conferences of the Columbia Union,

We recommend, That the newly formed conference place itself on record as in harmony with all the plans and policies now in operation within the other conference of the Union.

VII
ACTIVITIES

Believing the true purpose of this conference to be expressed in Article III of our constitution, namely "The object of this conference is to teach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

We recommend, That the new conference Committee lay large progressive plans for the furtherance of all phases of evangelism, carefully fostering all our departmental and pastoral work in our churches and among our isolated believers and all denominational endeavor.

VIII
BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

We recommend, The establishment of a Book and Bible House at the conference headquarters at such a time as may seem advisable to the conference committee in council with the Union Committee.

IX
MESSAGE MAGAZINE

WHEREAS, The Message Magazine has become a strong factor in the spreading of the everlasting gospel to the colored people,

We recommend, That a renewed effort be put forth to greatly increase its circulation both in subscription and in single copy sales.

X

That any church school comeback funds received by the Allegheny Conference from the General Conference through the Columbia Union conference be held as a separate fund and disbursed by action of the Educational Committee of

the conference for the support of its church schools in harmony with the provisions and regulations governing the use of such funds.

XI

That the Allegheny Conference assume its proportionate share of contributions toward the support of the "Voice of Prophecy," Columbia Union Conference VISITOR," etc., the division of these costs among the conferences of the Union to be determined by the Columbia Union Conference Committee, it being understood that general provision will be made for a share of these expenses in the financing budget.

XII

That in the operation of the Allegheny Conference and its building plans the "no debt" policy be followed and that operating and building and improvement budgets be approved in the regular ways provided in the working policies of the General Conference and of the Columbia Union Conference before commitments are made.

XIII

That the Ingathering basic goals for the Allegheny Conference be set annually by the Columbia Union Conference Committee and that any comeback or reversion funds received from the Union Conference to be held as a separate fund in the conference treasury and disbursed by action of the Conference committee of the Conference.

XIV

That the amounts of operating funds and reserves on hand at the close of the year 1944 in the several conferences of the Columbia Union be shared with the Allegheny Conference in proportion as it has contributed in building up these reserves during the past five years, determined by the records of the conferences, taking into consideration existing liabilities, obligations and commitments.

XV

That a detailed operating budget be adopted annually by the Conference Committee approved by the Columbia Union Conference Commission, and that a reasonable operating capital be held in the conference treasury in harmony with the General Conference working policies.

Voted that a vote of thanks be recorded for the hospitality and service of the Ebenezer Church.

The minutes of the previous meeting and this meeting were read and approved, after which we adjourned. Sine - Die

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

REPORT SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

The special committee was called by Elder J. J. Nethery, chairman, to discuss the matter of raising the balance of funds needed for furnishings and equipment for the Riverside Sanitarium.

There was much deliberation concerning ways and means of raising the required conference goals. It was pointed out by the chair that the only way to get anything done is to get right after it and do it.

G. E. Peters reported that the churches had already raised \$47,000, but the total amount now needed is \$120,000.

It was voted to request our colored churches to raise the balance of \$37,000 by February 14, 1948. It was also discussed that the offering that would be taken in all of our churches, including our white congregations, would apply on the over-all goal allotted to our churches.

J. J. Nethery, Chairman

G. E. Peters, Secretary

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

In 1947 when the Central States Mission was organized, the membership stood at 789. This represented all of the colored members of the Central Union territory. The financial strength of this membership in 1946 was in tithe \$39,608.77. Missions offerings \$14,040.22. Just three years later after the organization of the Central States Mission we notice quite a change. The membership has now reached 1,142, a net gain of 333 for the three year period. The tithe for the year 1949 was \$66,758.03. Missions offerings \$24,957.86. Comparing the year 1946 with 1949 in combined tithe and offerings, we see that in 1946 the combined tithe and offerings amounted to \$53,648.99. In 1949 the combined tithes and offerings amounted to \$91,715.89, a net gain of \$38,065.90.

Now let us look at the comparison between the three years prior to the organization of the Central States. The combined tithes and offerings for the three year period prior to the organizing of the Central States was \$128,261.00. The combined tithes and offerings for the three year period since the organization of the Central States was \$243,366.00, a net gain for the three year period of \$115,105.00. They have organized to strongly promote evangelism during this year 1950. We feel that God has great blessings in store for the work of the Central States Mission.

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT - HISTORICAL DATA

Heads of the Regional Department since it was organized in 1909

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| J. W. Christian | 1909-1910 |
| A. J. Haysmer | 1910-1913 |
| C. B. Stephenson | 1914-1918 |
| W. H. Green - First Colored Secretary | 1918-1928 |
| G. E. Peters | 1929-1930 |
| F. L. Peterson | 1930-1941 |
| G. E. Peters | 1941-June 30, 1953 |
| C. E. Moseley, Jr. | July 1, 1953-1954 |
| F. L. Peterson | 1954-1962 |
| <i>H. D. Singleton</i> | 1962-1975 |

Historical Data

| | |
|--|------|
| Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight | 1912 |
| New Organization of Colored Department | 1929 |
| Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic) | 1929 |
| Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences) | 1929 |
| Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney | 1930 |
| First colored president of Oakwood College J. L. Moran | 1934 |
| Message Magazine (first publication) | 1934 |
| National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College | 1934 |
| <u>Hope of the Race</u> (published) | 1934 |
| Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over by the General Conference | 1935 |
| Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college status | 1942 |
| Reorganization of Colored Department | 1944 |
| First colored editor of the Message Magazine L. B. Reynolds | 1944 |
| First Regional Conference <i>organized began operating 1/1</i> | 1945 |
| A colored mission superintendent and two missionary families sent to Liberia, West Africa | 1945 |
| North American Informant (published) | 1946 |
| General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters | 1950 |
| An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>- F. L. Peterson</i> | 1954 |
| An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept. E. E. Cleveland | 1954 |

OFFICERS - NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1944

NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

OFFICE ADDRESS: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

OFFICERS:

Secretary: G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education: Geneva Bryan

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

General Conference Staff Members:

W. G. Turner

G. E. Peters

Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic Union

F. H. Robbins, Columbia Union

Jay J. Nethery, Lake Union

N. C. Wilson, Central Union

L. K. Dickson, Pacific Union

J. W. Turner, Southwestern Union

E. F. Hackman, Southern Union

Local Conference Presidents:

L. H. Bland, Northeastern Conference

J. G. Dasent, Lake Region Conference

J. H. Wagner, Allegheny Conference

Union Conference Secretaries for the Colored Department:

A. E. Webb, Central Union

H. D. Singleton, Southern Union

T. H. Coopwood, Southwestern Union

F. L. Peterson, Pacific Union

EDITOR, MESSAGE MAGAZINE

L. B. Reynolds

OAKWOOD COLLEGE:

J. L. Moran, President and Business Manager

L. E. Ford, Assistant Business Manager

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

PRE-SPRING COUNCIL - APRIL 8, 1944

PRE SPRING COUNCIL

April 8, 1944

7:30 P. M.

Prayer: Elder Spicer

J. L. McElhany

Previous to the last autumn council, the General Conference officers met with our Union Conference leaders and gave some preliminary study to the steps to be taken in creating some method or means whereby study could be given to the colored work or phases of its interest. As a result of that preliminary study, the officers and Union Presidents brought to the General Conference Committee the following recommendation:

"WE RECOMMEND to the Autumn Council that a meeting be held prior to, and in the same place as, the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee, for the purpose of studying the future development of our colored work in North America, and that the General Conference Committee be authorized to make all the necessary preparation and arrangements for this meeting, including the naming of those who shall be invited to attend, it being understood that there shall be representatives of our colored work invited. "

Following the Council the General Conference Committee designated the number to be invited from each Union Conference. A little later on it was agreed by the General Conference Committee to suggest to the Union to select a representative layman to sit with us in this session.

If I may be permitted to speak, personally, I am delighted to say that I have reasons for a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of our colored work. I come from an ancestry that for more than 300 years has been closely associated with colored people. For 34 years I have had direct and continuous administrative contacts with our colored churches and believers, and there has developed in my heart a deep interest in their welfare. I have never sensed more keenly, than I have at any time, the great need of our laying wise and adequate plans for the development of the work. I greatly rejoice over what has been accomplished in the growth and development of this work.

There is one thing I want to say to you, tonight, and that is we ought to frankly face it and admit that a Seventh-day Adventist regardless of race and color, face an antagonistic world. We are a very small layity. We can't do what larger and more influential denominations do. We are hated and despised by the world at large. I sometime think we deceive ourselves in thinking that we are popular in the world. Just let some little incident happen and every S.D.A. will be a marked man, hunted and persecuted. We are a small layity; our only help and hope is in God.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

The thing for us to do is to get this work finished just as soon as we can and go to our eternal home where these racial conditions do not exist.

I am thankful in my soul for the council of the Spirit of Prophecy when followed, saves us from a lots of trouble. I pray that God will guide us in this meeting. May God speed the day when this message will be through and the Lord shall come. It will be a glorious thing when we can go to our eternal home. We will forget all the things that have troubled us in this world.

Whether the present plan should still operate or whether the work has grown to the place where something different should be adopted as a means of strengthening our Colored Department I do not know. Every self interest ought to be laid aside. I understand that in certain sections some brethren have already decided the presidents and officers. I think that this is only a rumor.

Should we continue to operate on the status quo? The greatest test of a man to lead is his ability to work with those who disagree. You must make it a rule to allow the brethren to make their opinions if they agree with you or not. We want you brethren to express yourselves; Whether we continue as we are or has the time come when we ought to proceed to organize conferences? If we should decide to organize conferences I do not feel that it could cover every Union in the North American field, as example the Northern Union. We don't want to undertake anything that will make us ashamed, I have known conferences to be organized with only 300 members which proved to be successful.

A. Wellington Clarke

Is there a necessity for a change or are you brethren forcing this upon us? Is it because of the widening extent of our work?

J. L. McElhany

No, this is nothing that has been forced upon the brethren. The General Conference has not come here with cut and dry answers. You might be waiting for us to hand out another sheet. We don't have it. We are anxious that the Lord will lead us in developing a plan that will be for the best interest of developing the work.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

Were we to organize in a Union a colored conference what would be the relationship of that conference to the Union? It would be in the sisterhood of that Union conference. In the Southern Union where this plan is operating would the present plan be continued in addition to the organizing of colored conferences? I don't see how that would be possible. You would have a dual administration. We would not have two forms of organizations operating in the same field.

E. D. Dick

In the event of this organization would the boundaries of a colored conference be exactly the same as the local conference relationship to the Union Conference? Do we have any experience of such an organization?

L. H. Christian

Yes, we have experienced this organization in Europe. It has worked very well. In Africa it was not as successful because of the scattered churches.

Note: Meeting adjourned

April 9, 1944

T. M. Fountain

I have been studying the Council at Jerusalem. The same situation as far as race is concerned is envolved now. I believe that the S. D. A. movement is superior to any organization on the earth Baptist or Methodist. I do not think that we ought to compare this movement with Baptist or Methodist.

I was called to represent all the ministers in the City of Nashville to speak at a ministers' association. The chairman of the committee was a Baptist minister that knew something about the early work of our message. He was once interested in this message. He thought he would have been a better man if he had been an Adventist. I asked the church to pray for me. I spoke on better feeling between the races; also the difficulty that first came into the church. I presented the message. After the meeting Dr. Small, the leading Baptist, said "that he was pleased with the message and wanted me to present this message to his church. ~~The Seventh-day Adventist organization is superior to any organization on the face of the earth.~~ The man's message was good, but there was only one thing that I had against him, he ought to be a Baptist."

In regard to the colored conferences; I want to say here that the laymen's movement was born in Washington. Some of these same laymen told me that they were not in favor with colored conferences. Most of the laymen in our churches are not in favor with colored conferences. If there are those in favor with the conferences they are very few. I can't believe that anyone would like to be a president. I don't believe a word of it. None of our churches are in favor of pulling out.

(Referred to the three points on the agenda)

I don't believe anyone is in favor of the colored conferences here in this place. We have three propostions offered here. We don't want colored conferences.

G. E. Peters

What do they want?

T. M. Fountain

That we maintain Status quo. At this point, T. M. Fountain moved that we maintain status quo.

E. S. Dillett

Seconded Fountain's motion.

O. A. Troy

What is the Status quo?

M. A. Burgess

If we continue on Status quo, improvements should be considered.

A. Wellington Clarke

(Asked to read an address prepared by him.)

J. L. McElhany

To me it is wonderful to see that the colored have large churches, efficiently led and directed by colored men. We have some colored churches with more members than we have in some conferences. I think our colored men do a very good job. This gives me confidence in their being leaders. To say that a man could be a pastor of a 1000 members, but he couldn't direct a 1000 members if they were divided into conferences seems to me, to be inconsistent in reasoning.

This message has spread out into all the world and when this present war broke out, we found we had to turn the work over to the natives. We had to call our missionaries from some of these countries. It was for the sake of the believers. A native believer to be seen with a foreign man might be sentenced to death and made a marked man. We have had to turn our management over to the native workers, viz. So. Pacific, China, Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Manchuria. Wherever the native administration has taken over God is helping.

We must help those that are taking over responsibilities.

If I thought anybody was proposing a Conference organization that would drive a wedge between the races I would oppose it. I do feel anxious for us to develop every resource. We ought to develop every source of strength in our leadership and in our ministry. If a man could lead a large congregation, I do not see why he couldn't be a conference leader. We must keep together and maintain the spirit of council and helpfulness. Every great man has been looked upon as being dangerous. When we first organized churches people looked upon it as dangerous. Some people felt that it was wrong to have conferences. The same is true when we organized Y.P.M.V.

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

to a great station. The object in view is to bring more souls in the true.

We thank you for your words again. We want to assure you that we want to give you the assurance of our loyalty.

F. L. Peterson

I think this is one of the most outstanding moves that have ever been made for us. I am not in the habit of criticizing Seventh-day Adventist for all the things they do that I don't like. All that I am and ever accomplished is because I depended on God. I am grateful for what is being done. The thing that has impressed me is the fine spirit in which this organizing of colored conferences has been done. I believe that it is going to have a wholesome affect on all our people throughout North America.

Whenever we used to say colored conferences many people thought we meant separation. I feel that it will be a very fine thing to give an explanation in the Review of this organization, so that our people will know that this is something that has been handed down by the General Conference to us. If this is done it will help us. They will understand that this is a General Conference idea.

I don't hand out many flowers. I would like to say that during the eleven years I was secretary of the department, and at times it seemed that we weren't going to get certain things; I have always felt I could go to Elder McElhaney and he would bring it about.

This organization will bring the young people courage and something to look forward to in the denomination. They can look forward to more than just teaching school.

I think this is a very fine thing that we have come to. I believe that this means we are going to finish the work. I was told never to mention conferences. Don't ever mention them! I am glad I didn't mention them. I am more than glad that it is now here.

M. A. Burgess

I realize through Elder Peters great things have been done for our department. He has also helped me to do what I have accomplished. At this time, I would like to have us show our appreciation for his leadership by rising.

DELEGATES STOOD FOR VOTE OF APPRECIATION

G. E. Peters

I thank you for your vote of appreciation. I have only made accomplishments through God. I do want you to remember, however, that if our people believe that we are divided on this thing, we will bring about a great deal of confusion.

April 12, 1944

Dr. Olsen, of the Home Study Institute, spoke concerning the Bible Home Study Plan.

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Motion: O. A. Troy: "In each church ask the Medical Missionary Secretary, and those who do not have one, to elect a Medical Missionary secretary to represent Riverside each Sabbath in receiving donations.

Seconded: M. A. Burgess

April 13, 1944

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

^{R.}
G. E. Crawford--Circulation Manager of the Message Magazine.

Note: "As far as the single copies are concerned, the "Message Magazine" sells as much as "Life & Health," "Health" and Watchman put together."--R. E. Crawford

Finis

T. H. Coopwood

There is no question that this is God's way and the only way in these last days.

I happen to have in my possession, at least in my pocket, a letter. This person is insisting that we continue with what we have. Two years ago a white brother said, "I don't see why the General Conference doesn't take over the colored work and run it." There are some of our group who look forward to conferences because of exalted places and authority. There may be some of the other group who don't want to be bothered with us. Perhaps this is the reason they would like to have colored conference to get rid of us.

We should come together like the disciples. They realized their trouble. There was strife among them. They put it away and all their difficulties and the HOLY SPIRIT came upon them. (Joel 2:15-17.

The colored conferences is not in my mind what we need. We need to get closer together and have a more cooperative spirit. We have now a form of organization to last until the Lord comes.

Hooper

The laymen think that the head officials are not interested whether the colored receive a higher education. My son made application to P. U. C. They sent him the forms and he filled them out. After received the application at P. U. C., they must have decided the picture had stayed in the oven too long. Perhaps this racial difference is the thing that we are trying to solve. We are not asking for equal social opportunities. We want the same educational opportunities as the white.

I am positive that God will frown on us if we do not do the right thing. I am not here to apostatize. Let us have our colored conferences if we please. Perhaps our preachers haven't gotten a vision. They need a vision. I am helping to pass on to you this vision. Let us have the same success as the white people have in their conferences. There is nothing wrong with a colored brother being over a colored conference. He has the same kind of brain if the opportunity presents itself. I can't do anything unless I have an opportunity.

God loves me just as much as he loves a white person. We should unite together and finish the work. We are living in a time of the judgment and it should be our desire to finish the work quickly. Let us work together and put over this program. It CAN BE DONE. A colored conference can be managed by colored brethren.

G. E. Peters

I am not in favor of maintaining a status quo form of organization. I haven't got wisdom enough to decide while on the floor the kind of organization that we should have. Any one person's ability is not sufficient to decide this matter. I have studied my people. I wrote the General Conference and mentioned that we should come with something definite in mind so that we could avoid confusion. I did this because I know my people from infancy. We ought to decide on a policy that spells progress and give it to our friends. This is a serious matter. I don't believe that this is a time for office seeking. The salvation of the 13,000,000 colored souls in the United States is at stake.

In 1930 I listened to more speeches against the progress of the colored people than we have had today. Fortunately the speakers today are sincere. We have confidence in them. In 1930 several of the men who fought against the advanced step of the colored work are not in the work today. Those same men were not bringing in souls. They were doing a very small work. They were not in touch with the Negro to a great extent. They thought if they would say something to the white folk, they would then be sure of a job for life. Everyone is present today, of those who stood for progress in 1930.

I am not a radical. I am not an agitator. Nothing is accomplished without God. Pardon my personal reference, but I have through the help of God brought in about 3,000 souls. In one meeting I baptized 145 without stopping. At the close of the meeting 250 souls were won to Christ. God has given me the ability to lead. I suppose that I have erected more churches than any of the brethren, but yet I am standing for progress TODAY.

I maintain that it stands out very clearly, if we continue to maintain the Status Quo form of organization, that we need something for the colored people in the Southwestern. This is shown very definitely. It is also quite evident that something new is needed where my good friend, Clarke, is located. For example, in the Southern New England Conference there are only 349 colored Adventists, this shows that something is needed to propell the work to our colored people.

Whom am I to say that we should have colored conferences? Whatever it is that takes to bring all classes of Negroes into this message, that is the thing that I am after. We must have a greater evangelism. It is not a matter to insure one's bread and butter as the years go by. We should have some organization that will give us a future. It is not a matter of simply pleasing public sentiment. That does not ring with God's people.

God gave Eldar Blunden a vision for his publishing department. LOOK how under this plan our colored men have advanced. This shows that colored people can lead. Today is a high day for our men in the publishing department. We can also look at Oakwood and see what God has done with colored leadership. We are proud of Oakwood.

I remembered how the colored people cried when they were taken out of the white church herein Chicago. Now the colored church is the largest we have in the Lake Union. It shows how God can bless under your own leadership.

G. E. Peters (cont.)

We should decide whether we should have a colored conference. It ought to be very carefully considered. I don't believe that we should try it in the whole field at the same time. I believe our people have leadership. We aren't ashamed of our progress. I don't believe that we should continue under the present plan of the Status Quo.

J. Gershom Dasent

A strong protest arose against the employing of a Negro Secretary for the colored work some years ago. I came to this country just about that time. The denomination decided to let us have a colored leader in the Department. We have had three colored leaders and God has blessed the work under their leadership. Oakwood is managed by a colored president. We have more students there than we have ever had before. We look at the "Message Magazine." God has set His stamp of approval upon it.

We are living in a time when the Negro is seeking for something more and better than political, economical, social and church affairs.

We shouldn't continue the Status Quo. What we should do is to take a stand for something different. We have tried everything save a colored conference. This shows that something should be done. If we have tried everything else why not try a colored conference?

In 1930 I stood against this very thing of a colored conference. I believe the time has come when we need something more than what we have. The greater work is in front of us. May the Lord give us wisdom and guidance that whatever decisions we arrive at, might be for the furtherance of His cause.

J. H. Williams

We have grown too large to be satisfied with so little. The present plan is far from being satisfactory. I am in favor of making a move that we have colored conferences, if we have the men to handle them. If the local Conference is not in favor of it, it would be just an ornament. It is quite true that something is needed where I am located.

E. S. Dillett

If we have twenty conferences it would not take care of the present issue that is confronting us. I am for progress. If you should organize a colored conference at this meeting and the majority ruled, I will be

E. S. Dillett (cont.)

glad to go along with it and sell books and do the janitor work if it is necessary to make the conference set-up a success.

I am not a race man, even though I am in the race. I am against my race if my race is wrong. I love my brethren. Recently at the meeting held in Topeka the white brethren did not let me know that I was a Negro. We had a wonderful meeting. I have eaten dinner with my conference president, and sat between he and his wife. They were most cordial and did not let me know that I was colored. In St. Louis the Young People of my church go to the White church and have programs. We are made to feel at home.

I am anxious for my people.

(Mentioned the conditions and prejudice that exist in our colleges)
We do not have a copy of the paper prepared by him and read at this time.)

J. G. Thomas

I believe we have in the Southern Union the best plan for colored people. We have today a strong leadership among our workers. I don't believe there is a better fellowship anywhere than among the men in the Southern Union. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation that is manifested among us. We are headed to success.

When I came to this meeting I wondered what it was about; but since being here and noticing the sympathetic spirit of our general brethren, and that they do not think we are agitating for a separation, I am seeing this conference idea in a different light. They along with us are looking for a solution to the problem. I do realize one thing and that is there can be some help given to our work. We are not displeased or disgruntled. We are working together.

We do face one thing. In my evangelism, when we are dealing with the better class of colored people, we find that it is not our church doctrines that keep them from accepting this message; it is questions they ask concerning the position our men hold in the denomination. It is hard for us to explain our situation to them along that line. I have been against the colored conferences; but since I see the General Conference brethren, as plainly seen by all of us, in favor of revising and giving more responsible positions to us, and if this calls for organizing colored conferences I don't see anything wrong with it.

Personally, I don't want any administrative work. I don't think the conference idea is a dangerous one. If the conference plan should go through, we should go home and talk the matter over with our members in an enlightening manner. I believe we should help them to see this thing in the correct light.

H. H. Wagner

I think it is a good thing to have opposition. There is opposition in our political government. Our general brethren want me to be honest and sincere. They want me to have enough foresight and vision to enter in any kind of plan that will promote the work among our people. We have some of the finest men working in the Columbia Union. I have done some evangelistic work in many places and God has blessed.

I believe we should adopt a plan that will be an advanced move for our people. In my recent effort held in Washington, D. C., a lady who was a member of one of the chain stores, cornered me and said, "We believe the Sabbath and that it is the right day. We can't get around that, but you are a minister in your denomination and how far can you go beyond that? What else is offered the colored people?" It was hard for me to answer that. I offered some kind of weak excuse. We must realize that there are certain things that we can do that will make it easier to reach our better class of people. By organizing conferences it will give us a great advantage in reaching this type of people.

Referred to Vol. 9, pages 205,207,210.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was received through President Lincoln, it was through God's leadership. When the slave owners told the slaves that they were free, the slaves still wanted to stay with their masters. They didn't realize what the emancipation meant. I don't mean that we are in slavery; this illustrates that because we have a difference of opinion, it doesn't mean that we are not on the right course. We preach of the United States in prophecy and we can see that he came up just at the right time. God ordained the country by raising it up at that time. It was for people who were looking for freedom.

Whether we have conferences or not, the work will not advance as much until something new is started.

S. O. Cherry

I believe that we should give more power to the present plan that we have now. The Southern Union Plan is the best plan we have, but it is void of power. If our leaders had more executive power they would be happy.

T. M. Rowe

I believe that we have outgrown the Southern Union Plan. I believe the time has come for something different.

H. D. Dobbins

There is a motion before the house. I believe that we should form a committee to study which plan of organization we should operate under. Since we do not seem to want to remain under the status quo, I wonder if Elder Fountain will withdraw his motion.

T. M. Fountain:

I believe in progress, but our very attitude showed that we believed in the Status quo because we didn't do anything about the others. Whatever organization is selected, I assure you, that I will cooperate with it one hundred per cent. We have come here at great expense to the cause of God. We should get something started. If it will help any, I will withdraw that motion.

E. S. Dillett:

Withdrew the seconded.

H. D. Dobbins

I move that we appoint a committee to study the conference plan and bring back recommendations.

J. G. Dasant

Seconded the motion.

W. A. Spicer

I hope that this body will set its approval on the Conference plan.

J. J. Nethery

I believe that we should appoint a body that will look with favor on giving additional strength to the organization of our colored work and possibilities of local conferences. I believe in Local Conferences for our colored people. I believe in progress. I believe in a good strong organization which is not anything else, but good cooperation.

J. J. Nethery (cont.)

I am serious about how we are getting along in this denomination. I think a number of things should be looked into and helped. We need a closer organization.

We organized into conferences when there were only 15,000 members. This was less than we have colored members now. It has worked. In 1880 we had 640 churches with 15,000. That meant an average of 24 members to a church. In those days we had 15,000 members and had 24 conferences. That was an average of 648 in each conference.

I don't think that we should think of 17,000 colored members and making 30 conferences. You can take your 17,000 members, or at least the membership in a few conferences, you could build a good conference with these members. If we take the membership in twenty churches, we probably would have about 2,200, and this little territory could be organized into a colored conference. A good man that knows how to manage a church with a large group, should make a good leader for a conference. A territory where there are three or four colored pastors we can use one as a President. We might have to pick another man from another field. By having a colored President, they will be able to save more souls in their territory.

I haven't any prejudice in my soul against the colored man. They accuse me of being a colored man. My wife knows I like to go to colored churches. We are all a related family. I believe this talk, of the organization trying to get rid of the colored people, ought to be stopped. This is not the truth. The Union brethren should be in favor of a colored conference under this arrangement. If we tried and failed, YOU WILL FORGIVE.

It may be that we cannot organize a colored conference in every Union. Why not start with one or two and with the help and council of the brethren we can see how it works and later on we can start in another Union.

I hope you will think kind of us for we believe in this proposition.

H. M. Blunden

We have had a great expansion in the Publishing Department. We have multiplied our leadership under this new plan. At Oakwood recently an institute was held, since it was a colored institute we turned the entire program over to the colored men. They assigned the program to the others. The General men and Union men took no part in the Council. Speaking frankly, it was a fine institute and fine instructions on salesmanship was given. It was just about the finest institute I have ever been to.

I don't see why this new conference set up couldn't work. The colored men in the Publishing Department are progressing. Of course, at first problems will be created but we can work it out.

The Committee was appointed to bring back the recommendations to the large body of delegates.

J. H. Wagner

Moved that the agenda be referred to this committee.

April 10, 1944

The Special Committee appointed for the Colored work brought back the following recommendations:

1. Advanced School in the North:

We recommend, 1. That a school be established in the North where advanced training can be given our colored youth; and,

2. That a commission be appointed to give study to this plan and report to the 1944 Autumn Council.

2. Sanitarium in the North:

We recommend, That a commission be appointed to give study to providing for the medical and nursing education needs of our colored constituency in the North, this commission to report at the earliest possible date.

3. Future of Riverside Sanitarium:

We recommend, That the commission on the Riverside Sanitarium be requested to further consider the work and future of that institution and endeavor to report during this Spring Council.

4. Publishing Work:

We recommend, 1. That the Southern Publishing Association secure a colored editor for the Message Magazine.

2. That plans be laid to establish a small periodical for the colored constituency, somewhat comparable to the Union Conference papers in size and style, which will carry church news and promotion material.

5. Conference Organization:

WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishment of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

WHEREAS, It appears that a different plan of organization for our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore

We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.
3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.
4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
5. That the General Conference Committee appoint three members of a commission to join with other members to be appointed by each Union Conference committee concerned, for a study of the colored work in the respective unions; these commissions to report to the respective union committees, and that in cases where it is found necessary for any union committee to request additional appropriations, organization of colored conferences be deferred until after the 1944 Autumn Council, in order to ascertain whether or not this will be possible.
6. That the 1930 plan of colored organization for the Southern States be adopted for all territories in North America with sufficient members, but where the constituency is not sufficiently large to warrant the organization of colored conferences.

N.B. These recommendations were submitted to the delegation at the April Spring Council, 1944, and were unanimously adopted.

Finis

The Meeting adjourned.

March 27, 1946

STATISTICS OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT

Membership of the Colored Department

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| General Conference, 1941 | 14,537 |
| 1944 | 17,891 |
| 1945 | 19,008 |

Tithe of the Colored Department

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940 | \$1,112,189.52 |
| 1944 | 828,868.68 |
| 1945 | 964,515.73 |

Missions Offerings of Colored Department

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940 | \$703,347.40 |
| 1944 | 321,196.30 |
| 1945 | 407,988.71 |

Statements Concerning Colored Department - 1945

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Number of churches | 234 |
| Number of Ordained Ministers | 68 |
| Number of Licensed Ministers | 61 |

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY WAYS
TO STRENGTHEN THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMER-
ICA

APRIL, 1944

*Spring Council
April 1944*

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE WAYS AND MEANS
OF STRENGTHENING THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMERICA

Organization

1. Status quo
2. Extend Southern plan to whole field
3. Organize conferences where the location and membership would make this possible.

Educational

1. Establish school in North of academic grade capable of development into a junior college
2. Foster development of primary schools

Medical

1. Establish medical institution in North with a view to training colored nurses
2. Continue to develop the medical work in the South

Literature

1. Colored editor
2. Church paper for colored churches

Departmental

1. Continue to train and develop field missionary secretaries to train colporteurs
2. Departmental leadership

(Stratified organization)

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

**G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

The fundamental reason for the advance step in the organization of colored conferences is rightfully set forth in the preamble of the recommendation that was adopted at the Spring Meeting held in Chicago, April 10, 1944:

"WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishing of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

"WHEREAS, it appears that a different plan of organization of our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore

"We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.

3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.

4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences."

Following the Spring Meeting several Union Conferences invited a commission from the officers of the General Conference to give study to the plan of going forward with the proposed organization. The Lake Union was first to lead out in this direction.

September 26, 1944, the colored churches of the Lake Union comprising 2,260 believers were organized into a conference taking the name, "Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". This new conference embraces the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. The officers of the conference

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

This new conference which began its functions January 1 has a colored population of 800,000 souls, which must be warned with the message of a soon coming Saviour.

October 3 another colored conference was organized. This conference comprises the Atlantic Union territory (except Bermuda) and has taken the name "North Eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". In the new conference is the Ephesus Church of New York City with more than 1,000 members. There is a total of 15 churches with a membership of 2,200. L. H. Bland was elected President and Religious Liberty Secretary. He will also carry the Home Missionary Department for the present. L. O. Irons was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and Louis Preston, Publishing Department Secretary.

The colored population of this conference numbers 1,106,000.

December 17 the Columbia Union Conference went forward with its new organization. This conference has 40 churches with some 3,800 believers and a colored population of 2,340,832. The conference includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The name adopted was the "Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Officers of the conference are: J. H. Wagner, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager; W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and H. D. Warner, Publishing Department Secretary.

These three conferences have been organized to meet present day conditions and to help in the speedy finishing of God's work on earth. Our colored workers and believers in North America are loyal and true to this Message. The tithe paid by our colored churches during the year 1943, amounted to \$686,853.11 and offering to missions, including Ingathering, was \$279,755.09. The report for 1944 will show a substantial increase in both tithe and offerings, which will prove helpful to the operation of our work both at home and abroad.

We must not neglect to state that the Southern Union Conference with a colored membership of 5,000 believers plan to go forward in the near future with an organization of two conferences in the eight states included in that territory, which has a colored population of 6,000,000.

We realize that the organizing of these conferences will not be without trials and difficulties. But with God at the helm, as the Omnipotent Captain these newly launched ships will sail on to victory.

The progress of the Message Magazine, now about nine years old, is another cause for much gratitude. This magazine is a monthly, full-message journal, the only periodical of its kind in the world. Its psychology is especially adapted to meet the spiritual needs of the 13,000,000 colored people of the United States. At present it is going to all colored Universities, Colleges, Academies, and newspaper editors. It is the ideal medium for making the primal contact with the wealthy families of our cities.

It is amazing to learn that by the end of November its circulation had reached 1,297,133 for the year; a gain of 500,000 over the previous year, which was also a record year. Since its origin nearly all the articles have been prepared by our colored ministers and workers.

At a recent meeting of the Southern Publishing Association Board, L. B. Reynolds, one of our colored ministers, was elected as Editor. In selecting this brother, the leaders of the Southern Publishing Association felt assured

of his qualification for this responsibility. Elder Reynolds entered upon his new duties January 1. It is also understood that he will give some time to the Riverside Sanitarium as Chaplain.

We are thankful to report that our work in North America is growing fast in membership. Figures for the first ten months of 1944 reveal that there have been more than 1,500 baptisms.

May we pledge ourselves to be faithful and true; and with all seriousness and assiduity address ourselves to the task before us this New Year. The task of being ready ourselves and that of making "ready a people prepared for the Lord."

George E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED ~~DEPT.~~

(Article for the Review and Herald)
1945