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1838 Journal of Kentucky Annual Conference

Methodist Episcopal Church

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Danville, Ky. Oct 17th 1838

The Kentucky Annual Conference met at the Baptist church at 9 o'clock A. M. Bishops Waugh and Morris being present.

Bishop Waugh opened the conference by reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures, singing and an appeal to the throne of grace, and an impressive address to the conference.

Brother G. W. McNelly was appointed secretary and bro. Collord assistant secretary.

Conference determined to meet in future at half past 8 A. M. and adjourn at half past 12 P. M.

Brothers James & Stevenson were appointed a committee to appoint the preachers and superintend the congregations during the present session.

Bros. J. Christian Harrison, H. H. Vandyke, and John Beatty were appointed Stewards of conference.

Bros. Pilcher, Ralston, and Landrum were appointed a Committee on the business of the Eastern Book Concern.

Bros. Gunn and Waring were appointed a Committee on Memoirs.

Bros. Tydings, Stevenson, and Kavanaugh were appointed a Committee on the affairs of Augusta College.

Bros. Deaving and Wooliscraft were appointed a committee to collect & forward to the Book agents, a list of all the Post offices within the boundaries of the Conference.

Bros. P. Taylor, Holman, and McReynolds, were appointed a Committee on necessitous cases.

Bros. Kavanaugh, Stevenson, Tydings, Holman, and G. W. Taylor were appointed a committee to draw up a Pastoral address to the people of our charge.

Conference entered into the examination of the Elders' characters. And Bros. E. B. Thackson, Absalom Hunt, Esau Simmons, and Wm. Atherton, having been examined, were approved, and they were continued in a superannuated relation. The character of Br. Henry McDaniel was examined & approved, and on motion he received a location.

The characters of bros. Mr. Gunn & Wm. Holman, were examined and approved.

The name of bro. Thomas H. Gibben being called, it was announced that he is no more.

The characters of Bros. John Beatty, H. J. Perry, James Ward, and Jas. C. Crow, were examined and approved.

The characters of Bros. H. E. Pilcher and Josiah Whitaker were examined and approved.
Bishop Morris in the chair.

The character of Bro. P. W. Gagg was examined and approved, and he was continued in supernumerary relation.

The character of Bro. Lorenzo D. Parker was examined and approved, and, at his own request obtained a location.

The character of Bros. Tho. Hall, John James, Joseph Marsee, John W. Reggen, and Thomas Rankin, were examined and approved.

The character of Bro. A. Woolliscraft was examined and approved and he was placed in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of Bros. Jessee Lutton, Edward Stevenson, Benjamin G. Crouch, Richard Tydings, John Christian Harrison, and Geo. "W. Brush were examined and approved.

The character of Bro. Eli B. Crane was examined and approved, and he was placed in a superannuated relation.

The characters of Bros. Richard Deaning, and Lewel Campbell, were examined and approved.

The character of Bro. Elijah Sutton was examined and approved, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of Bro. Richard Holding was examined and approved, and he was placed in a supernumerary relation.

The character of Bro. Joseph G. Ward, was examined and approved.

The character of Bro. Wm. Helm being under examination, was, on motion laid over.

The character of Bros. R. Corione, Abram Long, Gilby Kelly, R. F. Turner, John Nevius, Isaac Collord, R. T. McReynolds, Thos. Waring, and Jonathan Stamper, were examined and approved.

The following resolution was offered by bro. Stevenson, and seconded by bro. James: Resolved by the Kentucky Annual Conference that we observe Friday the 19th inst. as a day of fasting & prayer for the continued prosperity of the work of God within our bounds, and that it be announced to the congregation, and the christian community invited to participate with us in this religious service; adopted.

The hour having arrived, conference adjourned until the appointed hour on tomorrow.

Thursday morning, Oct. 18th Conference met pursuant to adjournment and after divine service conducted by Bishop Morris, proceeded to business, Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Stewards called for the pecuniary returns for the several Districts, Circuits, and Stations. The claims of bro. McNelly, who was appointed agent for the Augusta College, were referred to the committee on Augusta college.
The Bishop informed the conference that they are at liberty to draw on
the Book concern for four hundred dollars—and upon the Chartered Fund for
ninety dollars, which on motion was accordingly done.

Conference took up the second question; viz. "Who remain on trial?"
and the character of bros. Joel Peak, & Wm. Abbot were examined and approved,
and they were continued on trial.

The character of bro. Wright Merrick was examined and approved, and on
account of ill health, he declined further continuance in the itinerant work.

The character of bros Edmund J. Johnson, John C. Hardy, Wesley G. Montgomeroy, Williams B. Kavanaugh, Walter Sheever, Moses Levi, Albert H. Redford, John B. Perry, William D. Matting, and Lorenzo D. Harland, were approved,
and they were continued on trial.

Bro. Jesse P. Murrell's character was approved, and he on account of
ill health declined farther continuance.

The characters of bros. Jedediah Faster, and Calvin W. Lewis, were ap­
proved, and they were continued on trial.

Conference took up the 4th question; viz. "Who are the Deacons?" And
the character of bro. G. R. Malone being under consideration, and he being
absent from the conference room, his case was, on motion laid on the table.

The character of bros. John C. C. Thompson, Wm. M. Crawford, and Wiley B.
Murphy were examined and approved.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

Conference took up the 5th question viz. "Who have been elected and or­
dained Elders?" And the character of bro. Peter Taylor was examined and ap­
proved, and he was elected.

The character of bro. Solomon Pope was examined and approved, but, on
account of his not having given satisfaction relative to the course of study
recommended to graduates, he was not elected.

The character of bro. G. W. Merrit being under examination, his case was,
on motion laid over for the present.

The character of bro. Napoleon B. Lewis was approved, and he was el­
ected.

On motion it was resolved to have an afternoon session commencing at
half past 2 o'clock.

A communication was received from the New York book concern, and on
motion offered to the committee on the business of that concern.

On motion, it was resolved, that persons having moneys to pay into the
funds of Augusta College, be directed to pay.
Conference adjourned until a half past 2 o'clock P. M.

Thursday afternoon, half past 2 o'clock, Conference met, and after divine service, proceeded to business, Bishop Morris in the chair.

Conference resumed the 5th question.

The character of Bros. Robert Fisk, and Alexander Robinson were approved and they were elected; and Bro. Robinson was, at his own request, placed in a superannuated relation.

The characters of Bros. "m M. Grubbs, Mathew W. Lasley, Daniel S. Barksdale, James D. Holding, Geo. Switzer, R. E. Sidebottom, H. N. Bandyke, and Albert Kelly, were approved and they were elected.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Conference resumed the examination of the 'Elders' characters, and the character of Bros. Milton Jameson, and John Denham were approved, and Bro. Denham was continued in a superannuated relation.

The character of Bro. Jas. H. Brooking was approved, and his superannuated relation continued.

The character of Bros. George W. Gaylor, E. M. Bosley, James King, Joseph D. Barnett, H. H. Kavanaugh, and Thomas Lasley were approved and Bro. Lasley, at his own request received a location.

The character of Bros. Clinton Kelley, Richard Neale, Andrew Ease and Wm B Landrum were approved.

Bishop Waugh appointed Bro. Kavanaugh to preach before the conference on the subject of the ministry in the place of Bro. Bascom, who, it is understood will not be present during the present session, and, on motion conference adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Friday morning Oct 19th. Conference met pursuant to adjournment & after divine service proceeded to business: Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Conference resumed the 5th question and, on motion, the case of Bro. George Merrit was called up, his character approved, and he was elected to the office of Elder.

Conference took up the 3rd question; viz. "Who are admitted into full connection?" Whereupon the candidates were called forward and examined by the Bishop before the conference according to the form of discipline.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

The character of Bros. Andrew J. W. Laughlin, Wm Bellaxey, and Wm James were approved, and they were admitted into full connection, and elected to Decons orders.
Conference having been informed that Bro. William James has come in possession of some slaves by inheritance, on motion Bros Jameson, McReynolds, & Collard were appointed a committee to inquire into and report in relation to the steps which he proposes to take for their emancipation.

The character of Bros. Aaron Rice and Edwin Roberts, were examined & approved, and they were admitted into full connection, and elected to Deacon orders.

The characters of Bros. John Waring was approved and he was admitted and having traveled two years as a Deacon, he was elected to Elders orders.

The Characters of Bros. Robert G. Gardner, Thos. E. Demoss, were approved and they were admitted, and elected to Deacons orders.

The character of Bros George S. Gatewood was approved, and at his own request he was continued on trial.

The character of Bro. Alanson C. Dewit was approved, and on account of affliction, discontinued: leave being given to the Presiding Elder to employ him, should his health become such as to enable him to labour.

Conference resumed the 4th question and the case of Bro. T. R. Malone having been called up his character was approved.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The examination of the Elders characters were resumed, and the character of Bro. John Tevis, was approved & his superannuated relation continued.

The character of Bro. Silas Lee was approved, and at his own request he obtained a location.

The character of Bro. Wm Helmn being called up on motion it laid over for the present.

The characters of Bros. G. W. Chandler, Joseph S. Tomlinson, and H. B. Bascom were approved.

Bro. Bascom being absent, a communication from him was laid before the conference accounting for his absence, which was deemed perfectly satisfactory.

Bro. Tomlinson was on motion added to the committee on Augusta College only so far as relates to the collection of moneys for the College.

The character of Br. T. H. Ralston and Hiram Baker, were approved, and Bro. Baker, at his own request, obtained a location.

And the hour having arrived, Conference adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Saturday morning Oct. 20th Conference met according to adjournment, and after being opened in the usual form proceeded to business, Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Conference resumed the examination of the Elders character, and the characters of Bros. Lamb Veach, and Foster H. Blades were approved, and Bro.
Blades having requested a location, it was granted.

The characters of Bro. Stephen Harbor was approved, and his supernumerary relation continued.

The character of Bro. Carlisle Babbit was approved.

Bro. Q. McKelly present a report of his proceedings as Agent for Augusta College, which was referred to the committee on the college.

Bro. Tomlinson presented a communication from the Ohio Conference and also one from Augusta College on the affair of that institution, which were read, and referred to the committee on Augusta College.

The report of the visiting committee to Augusta College was read, on motion adopted.

The character of Bro. G. McNelly was approved, and he was placed in a superannuated relation.

The character of Bro. McMahan was approved.

The character of Bro. John Carr Harrison was approved, and he, in accordance with his own request, received a location.

Bro. Swormstedt presented a communication from Cincinnati Book Concern, accompanied by an exhibit of the present state of that Concern.

On motion the thanks of this Conference were tendered to the Agents in charge of the Western Book concern at Cincinnati, as due for their diligence and faithfulness in the management of the affair of that concern.

A communication was received from the Book Agents in New York, presenting and exhibit of the affair of that concern.

Conference entered into the election of local preachers to deacons orders and Bros. George W. Sinece of Falmouth Circuit, and Saml Kenyan of Lewis Circuit, having been duly recommended, were elected.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

George Edwards (a man of color) of Maysville Station having been recommended, on motion his recommendation was laid on the table.

Bros. Wesley Carsons of Somerset circuit, John Niblack of Winchester circuit, Jacob Williams of Hardinsburg Circuit, William Manning of the 4th street Station, Louisville, and Peter Booth (a colored man) of the same Station, having been duly recommended were elected.

The recommendation of George Edwards being called up, he was elected.
Bro. J. J. Harrison of the Lafayette circuit, having been duly recommended, his recommendation was withdrawn for the purpose of obtaining information from him on the subject of his connection with slavery.

Bro. Fountain P. Jones of the Hopkinsville Circuit, having been duly recommended, was elected.

The case of bro. J. J. Harrison being called up, and it being ascertained that he is the owner of a slave, which he proposes to emancipate only on condition of its emigration to Liberia, he was pronounced by the Bishop, ineligible.

Bros. Wm G. Bowman of Elizabeth circuit, James S. Kelly of Wayne circuit Wm M. Belt of Lebanon Circuit, James Breeding of Columbia circuit, London Gowen (a man of color) of Prestonsburg Circuit, having been duly recommended, were elected.

Conference went into the election of Local Deacons to Elders orders; and Ambrose Butt, of Liberty circuit, being duly recommended, was elected.

Bro. Hamilton C. Upton of Yellowbanks circuit, being duly recommended, pending this case, the hour for adjournment having come, the session was, on motion prolonged a half hour. Bro Ullens recommendation was, by permission, withdrawn.

Bro. James Taylor, of Hardinsburg circuit, being duly recommended, was elected.

Bros. Thomas M. Rice of New Castle circuit, and Henry Hopson of Hopkinsville circuit, having been duly recommended, were elected.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The hour having come, Conference adjourned until Monday morning.

Monday morning Oct 22nd

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, and after divine service, proceeded to business: Bishop Waugh in the chair.

On motion Bro. Kavanaugh was requested to deliver a funeral sermon at some suitable time, during the present session on the death of Bro. Thomas H. Gibbins.

The case of Bro. Helmn was called up, his character approved, and he was located at his own request.

Conference took up the lst question; "Who are admitted on trial?" And Bro. Allen Sears of Burlington circuit, having been duly recommended, was admitted.

Bro. Martin L. Eades of Cynthiana having been duly recommended, was admitted.

Bro. George W. Simcoe, of the Flamouth Circuit being duly recommended, was admitted.

Bro. Haron Moore of the Falmouth circuit being duly recommended, was not admitted.
Bros. Peter O. Meek, of Minerva circuit, Valentine C. Holding, of Germantown circuit, Stephen A. Rathbun of Greenuppsburg circuit, Elisu Green, and Peter Duncan, of Madison circuit, David H. Dabis of Winchester circuit, Wm. H. Anderson of Brook street charge, Louisville, have been duly recommended were admitted.

Bro. Absalom D. Fox, of Jefferson circuit, having been duly recommended, was readmitted.

Bros. Elkanah Johnson of Shelby circuit, Kathaniel H. Lee of Glasgow circuit, having been duly recommended, were admitted.

Bro. Alberry L. Alserson of Glasgow circuit, having been duly recommended was readmitted.

On motion, Conference reconsidered the case of Bro. A. C. Dewit, and he continued on trial

Bishop Morris in the chair.

The committee on Augusta College reported in relation to Bro. McKelly's claims; when, on motion, the report was recommitted with instructions to the committee to settle with Bro. McKelly in relation to his services rendered to Augusta College.

A certificate was presented of the restoration to his former standing by the quarterly conference of Hardinsburg circuit, of John G. Denton, a Local Elder, who had been formerly expelled; whereupon it was moved and seconded that his credentials be restored --- voted and lost.

By request of Bro. Wiley B. Murphy he was placed in a supernumerary relation.

Conference again resumed the election Local Preachers to Deacons Orders, and Bro. John Conkright of Winchester Circuit, having been duly recommended, was elected.

Bro. Hamilton C. Ullen of the Yellow banks circuit, having been duly recommended for the office of Elder, on motion, his recommendation was laid on the table for the present.

The committee on the case of Bro. Wm James presented the following Report:

Your committe appointed to consider the case of Wm. James as it stands connected with slavery, are prepared to report as follows:----

Bro. James has three slaves— one a child, another a girl, about 15 years of age, and the third about 17 years.

Since his case was refered to you Committee, Bro. James has executed a bill of Emancipation, in which the freedom of his slaves is secured at the age of 25 years. In view of the whole case

Resolved that we consider the conduct of Bro. James altogether satisfactory, and consistent with the character of a Methodist Minister.

M. Jameson
J. Collord
R. Y. McReynolds
the report was adopted.

And the hour having arrived, Conference adjourned until the usual hour tomorrow morning.

Tuesday Morning Oct 23rd

Conference met according to adjournment, and after divine service, proceeded to business. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

On motion Conference reconsidered the case of Bro. Aaron Moore, who was rejected yesterday on application for admission on trial. He was not admitted; but on motion, it was resolved that the Presiding have liberty to employ him provided that he give satisfaction respecting his qualification for the work.

It was resolved to fix a bar within which members of the Conference shall sit.

The committee on Augusta Colled again reported on the claims of Bro. McNelly, and their report was adopted. See report No. 2.

Conference called up the case of Bro. Ullen, and he was elected to Elders orders.

Bro. Jamison having requested a location, on motion, it was granted.

On, motion the relation of Bro. E. Sutton was changed from that of a supernumerary to an effective man.

Conference proceeded to call for the Statistical returns for the present year. The result of which is as follows, Viz

(following page)
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Conference proceeded to fix the place of its next annual sitting, when on balloting RUSSELVILLE was chosen and the Bishop announced the 16th day of October 1839 as the day of its commencement. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The Stewards presented their report, see Report No 3. which was adopted.

On motion the Stewards were instructed to pay the surplus in their hands into the hands of the committee on necessitous cases.

Bro. Stevenson reported an additional collection from the Danville & Harrodsburg Station of six dollars, which, on motion he was directed to appropriate to Bro. McNelly.

On motion Resolved that Bro. Tomlinson be requested to furnish a copy of his address on Education delivered on Staurday last, for publication the the Wester Christian Advocate.

A sealed letter addressed to the conference was presented by Bro. Chandler, which, on motion was refered to a committee consisting of Bros. Babbit, Holman, and Jamison.

The committee on the business of the Eastern Book Concern presented their report, which was adopted, see Report No 4

And the hour having arrived, Conference adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Wednesday morning, Oct. 24th

Conference met in the Methodist Church and after divine service proceeded to business. Bishop Morris in the chair.

Bro. Gardner pointed out an error in the Stewards' Report, which, on motion, they were directed to correct.

Bro. Swornsteadt addressed the Conference on the interests and prospects of the Book Concern.

The committee on Memoirs reported a Memoir of Bro Thos. H. Gibbons, which, was accepted.

The Committee on Augusta College presented their report (see report no 4) with sundry resolutions: all which were adopted: and on their recommendations, Wm. James, Mason County was elected to fill a vacancy in the Board of Trustees in that Institution.

Bros. Stevenson Tydings, and Brush were appointed a Committee to estimate the allowance of the agent appointed to collect funds for Augusta College.

Bros. Kavanaugh, Collord, and Ralston were appointed a Committee to visit Augusta College at the next annual examination and Commencements.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The Committee on necessitous cases presented their report which was adopted (see report no 5)
The committee appointed to draw up a pastoral address to the people of our charge, reported an address, which was adopted, and the committee were instructed to forward it to the editors of the Western Christian Advocate for publication.

On motion it was resolved that it shall be the duty of each preacher in charge to read the above address to each of the congregation within his charge.

Resolved by the Kentucky Annual Conference that we officially approve of the publication in connection with the Western Book Concern, of the Christian Apologist, under additional supervision of the Rev. Mr. Wast; and that we will exert ourselves, as far as practicable, to promote the circulation, especially among the German population within our charges.

Resolved that the Secretary forward a copy of the above resolution for publication in the Western Christian Advocate.

On motion, the Secretary of the Kentucky Conference Missionary society was directed to furnish a copy of his report together with a brief notice of the late anniversary for publication the Western Christian Advocate.

A resolution of thanks to the citizens of Danville & vicinity xxxxxxxxxxx for their kindness to the Conference during its present session, was unanimously adopted.

The President laid before the Conference, the following resolution from the New England Conference, which he prefaced by say, that he did not admit the obligation of the annual Conference to make him the hearer of any resolution which in his judgment, was not only not promotive of the interest of the Church at large, but injurious to its union and prosperity; but that in the present case, as a matter of courtesy, he would present the resolution, as request by the New England Conference, especially as he understood that his colleagues would pursue the same course. He took occasion to say that he was in principle and habit opposed to slavery, nor was he less decidedly and unequivocally opposed to abolitionism. He submitting the resolution, he stated his belief that its tendency was revolutionary and injurious.

*resolved that the New England Annual Conference recommend to the Next General Conference to be held in the city of Baltimore May 1840 to alter our general rule on the subject of slavery so that it shall read as follows: The buying or selling or holding men, women, or children as slaves under any circumstances, or giving them away unless on purpose to free them.*

On motion it was resolved unanimously, that we disapprove of the above resolution.

On motion resolved that the secretary forward a copy of the course of study recommended to graduated by the Conference for publication in the Western Christian Advocate, together with the names of the committees appointed to examine them at the next conference.

Resolved that the Presiding Elders in charge be instructed, to inquire into the tenure by which our Meeting Houses and parsonages are held; and to report at the next session of our Conference.
Resolved that those having charge of circuits and stations use their endeavors to carry out the discipline in relation to the quarterly renewal of tickets for admission into Love-feasts.

Resolved that it be, and it is hereby recommended to the preachers of this Conference to acquaint themselves with the new Methodist Harmonist, and as far possible recommend it to all our peoples and any others who may be likely to favor it well.

Resolved, that the Friday next before Christmas be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer.

The Bishop appointed the following Committees to examine the graduates at the next Conference; viz,

For the graduates of the first Year—Edward Stevenson, G. W. Brush, & Joseph Massee.


Third year—H. B. Bascom, Wm Holman, & H. H. Kavanaugh


The first named for each year is the chairman.


After singing and prayer by Bro. Tydings, the Bishop addressed the Conference, and then proceeded to read out the appointments, after which Conference adjourned to meet again at Russellville on Wednesday the 16th of October, 1839.

Signed in behalf of the conference.

Geo. F. Kelley

Waugh