

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Illinois Conference

OF THE

Wesleyan Methodist Connection,  
or Church, of America

HELD AT

HOPEWELL, MERCER CO., ILLINOIS,  
SEPTEMBER 10-13, 1908.

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WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE WESLEAN METHODIST  
CONNECTION IN AMERICA.

OFFICERS—1908-1909.

**President:**—Wm. Pinckney, Sterling, Ill.

**Vice-President:**—W. W. Clay, Stockton, Ill.

**Secretary:**—W. B. Ells, Elkhorn, Wis.

**Treasurer:**—J. L. Clark, Rockford, Ill.

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CONFERENCE ROLL AND ADDRESSES.

Clergy.

D. W. Bond, Houghton, N. Y.

Wm. Pinckney, Sterling, Ill.

J. P. Spaulding, Princeton, Ill.

W. H. Clatworthy, Yates City, Ill.

J. T. Hurry, Worcester, England.

W. W. Clay, Stockton, Ill.

Glen E. Tilton, New Windsor, Ill.

Mary E. Kuhl, Chicago, Ill.

J. L. Clark, Rockford, Ill.

Laymen.

W. B. Ells, Elkhorn, Wis.

T. D. Marks, Stockton, Ill.

T. C. Vaughn, Princeton, Ill.

Mrs. M. L. Davis, Rockford, Ill.

M. H. Clark, Rockford, Ill.

F. D. Ralston, New Windsor, Ill.

Licentiates.

J. A. McPherson, Houghton, N. Y.

### Roll of Honored Dead.

C. H. Drake,	C. G. Goodwin,
Rufus Lumry,	Amos Young,
Allen Murry,	I. M. Whitney,
A. M. Spencer,	H. R. Will,
Milton Smith,	Wm. Whitten,
John Watson,	D. Wright,
Geo. Sovereign,	W. W. Stewart,
E. B. Van Alstyn,	W. H. Spencer,
W. H. Van Doren,	H. Breckenridge,
H. H. Hawkins,	Mary A. Will,
Mrs. I. M. Whitney,	W. C. Mullenix.

**Advisory Board:**—D. W. Bond, S. E. Hoisington.

**Conference Missionary Board:**—J. L. Clark, T. D. Marks, M. J. Davis.

**Conference Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society:**—  
President, Mrs. J. L. Clark; Vice-President, Mrs. Inez Tilton; Secretary, Mrs. W. W. Clay; Treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Davis.

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### Report of Treasurer of Superannuate Funds now called Conference Fund.

On hand at the date of last report, \$1,680; Received during the year, \$200; Interest due Oct. 1, 1908, \$84; Total, \$1,964. Paid out during the year, \$50.25; On hand Oct. 1, 1908, \$1,913.75.

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### Conference Treasurer's Report.

Cash on hand at date of last report, \$19.25; Received from Chelsea, \$11; From Kishwaukee, \$106; From Chelsea, \$18.30; From Bureau, \$35.41; From Hopewell, \$97.75; Total, \$287.71. Paid out, \$270.46; Balance on hand, \$17.25.



Report of Committee on Pastoral Relations.

Sugar Creek, In the hands of the President.

Kishwaukee, J. L. Clark.

Brush Point, Left in the hands of the President.

Bureau and Hickory Grove, Supplied by J. S. McInnis by consent of conference under supervision of the President.

Chelsea, W. W. Clay.

Hopewell, Glen E. Tilton.

Wheaton, Left in the hands of the President.

William Pinckney, President of Conference.

D. W. Bond, Evangelist.

J. P. Spaulding, Superannuated.

W. H. Clatworthy, To choose his own field of labor.

J. T. Hurry, Supernumerary.

Mary E. Kuhl, State President of W. C. T. U. and General Evangelist.

J. A. McPherson, Licentiate.

W. B. Ells, Secretary.

## JOURNAL OF DAILY PROCEEDINGS.

The Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America met for its sixty-fourth regular session at Hope-well church, New Windsor, Ill., September 10, 1908.

Conference called to order by its President, J. L. Clark, who conducted devotional exercises.

Roll Call responded to by five elders and six laymen.

Credentials for each of the lay delegates were presented and read to the conference.

On motion the first three seats were constituted the bar of the conference.

Glen E. Tilton and J. L. Clark were made Committee on Religious Exercises.

The hour for opening and closing the morning session was fixed at 7.30 and 10.30 respectively. The afternoon session left optional with the conference. Evening session left to be determined by vote from day to day.

The election of committees was then taken up resulting as follows:

Statistics.—T. C. Vaughn, T. D. Marks.

Sunday Schools.—M. J. Davis, M. H. Clark.

Christian Education.—D. W. Bond, S. W. Bond.

Missions.—W. W. Clay, W. B. Ells.

Reforms.—Wm. Pinckney, F. D. Ralston.

Itinerancy and Orders.—W. W. Clay (3 years), W. B. Ells, T. D. Marks.

Presidency.—Eli Hoisington, D. W. Bond, Glen E. Tilton.

Courtesies.—W. B. Ells.

Post Offices.—A. L. Woodhams.

Memorials.—J. L. Clark.

On motion the time for the election of officers was fixed for Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

W. W. Clay moved that a committee be appointed to take steps to incorporate under the laws of the state of Illinois; as such committee J. L. Clark, A. L. Woodhams and W. B. Ells were appointed.



Wm. Pinckney presented to the conference the situation at Bureau and Hickory Grove and stated that he had been supplying these churches for the past nine months by arrangement made with President of conference. Resolutions from these churches were read and presented.

W. W. Clay moved that the action of Bureau and Hickory Grove be ratified by the conference.

Wm. Pinckney moved that the action of the President in accepting the resignation of W. W. Clay and placing him on the Chelsea work be ratified.

Glen E. Tilton moved the election of the Committee on Pastoral Relations, Wm. Pinckney, D. W. Bond and Glen E. Tilton, the ministerial members, and F. D. Ralston, M. J. Davis, W. B. Ells the lay members of the committee.

W. W. Clay moved that public services for the evening be taken up and that when we adjourn it be to to-morrow morning.

Glen E. Tilton reported the work of preparing and publishing the minutes of last year's conference.

Adjourned by limitation.

#### **Friday Morning Session, September 11, 1908.**

Conference opened by the President.

Devotionals led by W. W. Clay.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Roll call responded to by six ministerial and all the lay delegates.

Glen E. Tilton moved that we order the minutes published.

W. W. Clay moved that we order them published at our own publishing house.

Wm. Pinckney moved that the Statistical Committee apportion to the different churches the amount due from each for the publication of the minutes.

Examination of character taken up. D. W. Bond called; report given and character passed. Wm. Pinckney called; gave report and character passed. J. P. Spaulding called; no communication. W. H. Clatworthy called; no work assigned, reported a happy Christian experience.

Wm. Pinckney moved that the afternoon service be taken up but that we hold an evening service.

On motion of Brother Tilton afternoon and evening services to be held Saturday.

On motion of Brother Pinckney 8 o'clock Saturday morning was fixed as the hour of meeting.

Election of officers being the order of the day, resulted as follows:

President, Wm. Pinckney.

Vice-President, W. W. Clay.

Secretary, W. B. Ells.

J. L. Clark and M. J. Davis elected as Missionary Board.

On motion of Brother Tilton the names of J. L. Clark and T. C. Vaughn were added to the Committee on Presidency.

Voted that the name of J. L. Clark be added to the Committee on Pastoral Relations.

Examination of character continued. J. T. Hurry called. S. W. Bond reported a letter from Brother Hurry who is still in England. W. W. Clay moved that the secretary be instructed to correspond with Brothers Hurry and Spaulding as to membership as laid down in the new discipline. W. W. Clay called; character passed. Glen E. Tilton called; character passed. J. L. Clark called; character passed. Mary E. Kuhl called; no communication.

Order of the day for Saturday P. M. made as follows. After devotional exercises the time to be given to the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, followed by Prof. S. W. Bond presenting the connectional interests.

Prayer by S. W. Bond. Adjourned.

#### **Saturday Morning, September 12, 1908.**

Conference called to order by President Wm. Pinckney. Devotionals led by J. L. Clark.

Roll call, five ministers and all lay delegates responding.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

Committee on reforms reported through its chairman, Wm. Pinckney. Report adopted and ordered sent to Wesleyan Methodist for publication.



The Committee on Sunday Schools reported. Report adopted. Brother Tilton concluded his statistical report.

J. L. Clark reported expenses and work of the Conference President. W. W. Clay moved the adoption of the report; a general discussion of the report was participated in. Brother Clay moved that the report be referred to a committee to be named by the chair. F. D. Ralston, W. W. Clay and A. I. Woodhams were named as committee.

It was moved that the report of the Committee on Memorials be adopted and letters of sympathy be sent to the families of the Rev. L. N. Stratton, Rev. D. W. Bond and Rev. J. H. Bowen and a copy of the resolutions be sent to the Wesleyan Methodist for publication.

The Committee on Missions reported. Report adopted and ordered sent to Wesleyan Methodist for publication.

The Committee appointed to secure funds for the printing of the minutes for last year reported through its chairman, Glen E. Tilton.

The report on pastoral relations was made by its Secretary, W. B. Ellis. Report adopted.

J. L. Clark moved that we now make arrangements for the time and place for holding the next annual conference. It was voted to leave the time with the officers of the conference and the place in the hands of the President and invitations to be sent to him.

#### **Afternoon Session, Saturday, September 12, 1908.**

Devotionals led by T. D. Marks.

Roll call. Minutes read and approved as corrected.

Committee on Superannuated Funds reported as follows: Whereas, At a regular meeting of The Illinois Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church held at Sugar Creek church, near Tibbets, Wis., Sept. 13 to 16, 1899, there was passed resolutions creating a superannuated fund, and whereas, the original purposes of this fund have ceased to be, Be it resolved by this conference to rescind these resolutions and be it further resolved that this fund be now known as The Conference Fund and shall be used as the conference shall direct from time to time.



J. L. Clark presented his report as President of the Conference. It was moved by W. W. Clay the adoption of the report and the deficit be paid out of the interest of the conference fund. Carried.

Moved by W. W. Clay that the Committee on Incorporation be continued until the next annual conference, that they be empowered to seek such legal advice as they may deem necessary and prepare articles of incorporation and present them to the next annual conference for its action.

J. L. Clark reported his pledge to the General Conference of \$25 from the Illinois Conference for what is known as the "Boiler Fund." Brother Clark moved that the moneys received from the different charges in response to the call for Boiler Fund be returned and that the \$25 be paid from interest on conference funds.

Order of the day called for. Ladies Missionary Board.  
Adjourned.

#### **Reconvening of the Afternoon Session.**

Missionary Treasurer reported through D. W. Bond, Treasurer. J. L. Clark moved the adoption of the report and that the balance of the moneys be applied as the donors instructed through the parent board.

Order of the Day. S. W. Bond presenting Connectional interests.

Committee on Christian Education presented resolution Through S. W. Bond which was adopted.

J. L. Clark and T. D. Marks appointed to fill vacancy in Missionary Board.

The report of the Statistical Committee read and adopted.

J. L. Clark moved that the expenses of car fare be paid W. B. Ells from the conference funds.

Adjourned.

Wm. Pinckney, President, A. L. Woodhams, Secretary.

## REPORTS.

### Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

Inasmuch as God said by Moses "Ye shall lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul; and ye shall teach them to your children." We understand this teaching to be the duty of parents in their own homes first. Does this command go farther—for thousands have not Christian parents. How then shall Christ's command to Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep be better obeyed than by organizing schools where first of all the young from all homes are taught. And as Joshua read God's word to the congregation with the women and the little ones so here from the youngest to the oldest let us hide God's Word in the heart. That hidden there as God's voice it may speak to us all our lives revealing the deep things of Christ's love. Let us seek the wisdom that cometh down from above, the love that endureth all things and that never faileth, that the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the counsels of His word may be followed in this department of His holy service.

M. J. Davis, Martha H. Clark, Committee.

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### Christian Education.

We believe the Wesleyan Church was called into existence by men moved of God to accomplish a work not being performed by any church at that time. His mission has not yet been entirely fulfilled, and there remains much work to be done. In order to hold the ground already occupied and enter open, needy fields it is absolutely necessary that we retain our own young people among us. If ever there was need of well trained minds and Spirit-filled Holy Ghost baptised hearts to meet the lukewarmness and subtleties of the age, it is at the present moment. We therefore desire to reaffirm our honest convictions that the proper training of our young people in our own denominational schools



is absolutely essential if we retain them in our own church work, and we pledge our earnest prayers for the highest and best success of all our schools. We regard with especial satisfaction the steps being taken to open our Western school in September, 1909. All that may be said about the need of training our young people in our own schools is especially true in the West. We have a large territory and scores of young people and the western school is imperative if we give the greater part of the young people the opportunity of being trained in our own schools. It is our only hope of enlarging our borders and a positive necessity if we maintain our existence at all.

In a special manner our people are being prospered financially and we urge upon them the privilege of giving freely of their means for the support of this important branch of our church work. As pastors and delegates we pledge our most hearty cooperation in the efforts to secure our endowment of \$75,000 for the western school as well as to give liberally of our freewill offerings for the running expense of the school. This school must be made a success from the very opening day and we gladly do our best to urge our young people to attend, and our people to support it in every way possible by their prayers, influence and money.

D. W. Bond, S. W. Bond, Committee.

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### Reform.

From Re, again, and Form, to make, or create, meaning to make again. To form again for the better. So that the object of the making may be the better attained. Man was created good, all his faculties perfect, so that in the exercise of them all according to the intent of the Creator, the object of the Creator, would be secured and man live happy. But the mark was missed by man; he came short of the obedience required, not

because he had not capacity or power, but because he chose not to do the will of the Father. In carrying out the choice made a loss of condition was experienced with a loss of power to get out of the condition; hence man became a slave to the conditions chosen and the record made by man has been one of unrighteousness and sin, except when he has listened to the Creator and returned to His ways.

As with the individual man so men associated together, for any purpose, either in church or state; for a time they accomplish their purpose then fail of the mark, come under the control of corrupt men and are used only for present aggrandizement. So we have in existence corrupt parties, corrupt administration in government, in church for the same influences are at work in church as in state. This is evident to all who open their eyes to existing conditions. It is evident therefore that reform, re-adjustment, recreation, is absolutely necessary to righteous, perfect, joyous conditions among men.

This being conceded the inquiry is by all thoughtful men, How may this change for the better be brought about. Answers vary. Some say as to evil in organized bodies of people, let us organize a new society to combat the evil, to purify society, so we have all manner of reform societies to change what is considered the wrongs of the work. Let us ask, Is it the pressure from the outside which changes the character of a people, a party, or a person? Does the exercise of coercive power change the character of the criminal? It may separate him from his fellows and prevent farther injury but does it touch the character? All experience seems to give a negative answer, if so then some other way must be found. Our Lord presents it. "The kingdom of heaven is like the leaven hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened," this is for society. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Regeneration for the man. Have we not emphasized too much the outside pressure plan rather than the introduction of the new life? Of course we stand by our reform principles but let us labor more earnestly for the implanting of the heavenly life.

Wm. Pinckney, Frank Ralston, Committee.



### Missions.

The paramount characteristics exhibited in the life of the Savior was His missionary spirit. It is because of His example in this and because of our participation as the children of God of the Spirit of Christ as well as His great command that we are a missionary Church. If we are to retain the blessing of God we must make prominent the missionary spirit. To this end we ask the hearty support of our people in prayer and generous contribution for the enlargement of our work in our own state, for our work in taking a full gospel to the various parts of our nation, especially the neglected regions of the south, and for the African mission. While we realize the need of increased contributions to the Educational and Publishing interests we urge that it be done by an increased consecration and not by decreasing our support of the missionary cause. Also believing that we as a Church stand for principles of which we are not ashamed and which are not being upheld by the great majority of the different denominations we urge this conference to formulate plans for the institution of a missionary system by which funds may be provided and a line of work begun to organize new churches in Illinois not only near our charges that are not able alone to support a pastor thus making it possible their future existence but especially in cities and towns. We must do this or die, both because of the natural sequence of changes in our country charges and because if we do not do this work God will take it from us and give it to others. We urge upon our pastors to educate our children in missionary interest by forming and pushing the work of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, and to heartily cooperate with the Woman's Missionary Societies.

W. W. Clay, W. B. Eells, Committee.

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### Resolutions.

In view of our former acquaintance with the family of the Rev. L. N. Stratton we recognize in the death of his son, Owen Lovejoy Stratton, that the cause of God on earth has

lost an able worker, and we hereby express our sympathy to the family and pray that grace may be given to sustain them in their great loss.

Whereas, it has pleased God to remove the Rev. J. H. Bowen, our former Connectional Agent, from the earthly to the home triumphant, therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the connection of churches and the cause of God in general has lost a godly man and an able Christian worker. And, 2. That we the members of the Illinois Annual Conference do hereby express our sympathy to the family of the deceased in their loss, and we pray that wisdom may be given to direct and grace to uphold them in this the hour of their sorrow.

Whereas, In the death of our beloved sister, Matilda Bond, wife of the Rev. D. W. Bond of our conference, therefore we the members of the Illinois annual conference assembled at Hopewell do hereby express our sincere sorrow and sympathy to the bereaved husband and family. While we mourn our loss, we rejoice in the fellowship of her rich Christian experience and in her triumphant passage from earth to the home of the blood washed company. We tender our beloved brother and his household our tenderest regards and pray that God's richest blessing may be with them until they shall be a reunited family in the throne room of our Redeemer.

Done by the order of said conference this 12th day of September, 1908.

Rev. J. L. Clark, Committee.

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#### Report of the Committee on Courtesies.

The members and visiting friends of the sixty-fourth Illinois annual conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church do hereby express our most hearty thanks to the Hopewell church for the generous manner in which we have been entertained during our stay with you and as we leave for our homes we carry with us the pleasing remembrance of your hospitality and Christian fellowship.

W. B. Ells, Committee.



### Statistical Reports.

**Bureau and Hickory Grove:**—W. W. Clay and Wm. Pinckney, pastors; Time employed 1 year; appointments 2; Number of churches 2; Membership: Received none, expelled none; granted letters 8; Baptized 1; Unstationed elder 2; licentiates 1; Present numbers 117. Periodicals: Wesleyan Methodists taken 16; Sunday-school Banners none; Iconoclast Lesson helps none. Sunday-schools: Number of 2; Superintendents 2; Teachers 9; Scholars 92. Church Property: Number of meeting houses 2; Value \$3,600; Parsonages 1; Value \$1,600. Amounts contributed: Pastor's salary, donation and entertainment, \$678.54; Evangelist's receipts \$7; Missions \$27.47. Education \$2.87; Sunday-schools \$65.86; Building and repairs none; Incidentals \$169; Other benevolence \$20.85; Total \$911.59.

**Chelsea Charge:**—D. W. Bond and W. W. Clay pastors; Time employed 1 year; Appointments 1; Number of churches 1. Membership: Received 4; Discontinued 4; Died 3; Baptized 2; Present number 27. Periodicals: Wesleyan Methodists taken 8; S. S. Banners taken 15; Lesson helps 95; Sunday-schools: Number of 1; Superintendents 1; Teachers 5; Scholars 90. Church property: Meeting houses 1; Value of \$2,500; Parsonages 1; Value of \$1,500. Amounts contributed: Pastor's salary, donation, parsonage rent, \$565.70; Evangelistic receipts \$5.50; Missions \$18.36; Sunday-schools \$25.30; Building and repairs \$49; Educational \$6; Incidental \$46.14; Total \$716.

**Hopewell Charge:** Glen E. Tilton, Pastor; time employed 1 year; appointments 1; number of churches 1; Membership: Received 4; Expelled none; Discontinued none; Died none; Granted letters 3; Baptized 1; Total membership 48. Periodicals: Wesleyans taken 10. Sunday-schools: Number of 1; Superintendents 3; Teachers 6; Scholars 87. Church Property: Meeting houses 2; Value \$4,000; Parsonages 1; Value \$2,000. Amounts contributed: Pastor's salary, rent and donation \$640; Evangelist's receipts \$68.10; Missions \$143.71; Educational \$64.31; Sunday-school \$40; Building and repairs \$16.75; Incidentals \$34.20; Other benevolent objects \$289.55; Conference work \$6.15; Total \$1,302.77.

**Kishwaukee Charge:**—J. L. Clark pastor; Appointments 1; Number of churches 1. Membership: Present number 75; 15 non resident and 10 children. Periodicals: Wesleyans taken \$10; Children's Banner 20; Sunday-schools: Number of 1; Superintendents 4; Teachers 9; Scholars 87. Church Property: Number of churches 1; Value \$3,000; Parsonages 1; Value \$2,000; Pastor's salary, presents, house rent, \$650; Evangelistic \$10; Missions \$90.20; Sunday-schools \$86; Building and repairs \$49.32; Incidentals \$74.95; Other Benevolences \$40; Kishwaukee Y. M. W. B. \$15.80; Total \$1,016.27.

**Summary of Statistical Reports:**—Time employed 4 years; Appointments 5; Number of churches 7; Membership: Received 8; Expelled none; Discontinued 1; Died 3; Granted letters 11; Present number 282; Baptized 4; Unstationed elders 2; Licentiates 1. Periodicals: Wesleyan Methodists taken 45; S. S. Banners 35; Iconoclast Lesson Helps 95; Sunday-schools: Superintendents 11; Teachers 32; Scholars 386; Church property: Number of meeting houses 7; Value \$14,600; Number of parsonages 5; Value \$8,300. Amounts Contributed: Pastor's salary \$2,474.24; Evangelists receipts \$90.60; Missions \$279.74; Educational enterprises \$76.31; Sunday-schools \$229.16; Building and repairs \$279.07; Incidental expenses \$214.29; Other benevolences \$391.20; Total \$4,025.61; Average per member \$14.27.

T. D. Marks, T. C. Vaughn, Committee.