

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Alabama Conference
OF THE
Wesleyan Methodist Connection,
or Church, of America
HELD AT
ADA CHAPEL, ALABAMA,
NOVEMBER 3, 1910.

REV. E. TETER, President.
SHERIDAN, IND.

REV. W. E. HOBSON, Secretary.
CENTERVILLE, IND.

WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
SYRACUSE, N. Y.
1910.

1910 Alabama Conference

The Alabama Mission of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America met on Saturday, July 30, 1910, at 4 p. m., and Rev. E. Teter called the ministers of the mission together for the purpose of organizing said mission into a conference, and proceeded to the election of officers as follows: Rev. E. Teter was President, as Missionary Secretary; Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Vice-President; W. E. Hobson, Secretary; and Rev. E. Teter, Treasurer.

The following ministers compose the conference:

Elders

Rev. E. Teter, as Missionary Secretary.

Rev. P. C. Ramsey.

Licentiates

Rev. Mrs. Ada Ramsey.

Rev. W. F. Stamey.

Rev. R. E. Snipes.

Rev. J. A. Wood.

Rev. G. C. Tucker.

Delegates

V. A. Stewart.

J. D. Avery.

Time and place of the first annual conference, Nov. 3, 1910 at Ada Chapel. (Subject to change.)

The membership of the proposed conference at present 238.

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President:—Rev. E. Teter, Sheridan, Ind. .

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Vice-President:—Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Centerville, Ala.

Secretary:—W. E. Hobson, Centerville, Ala.

Treasurer:—Rev. E. Teter, Sheridan, Ind.

Advisory Board:—Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Centerville, Ala.; Rev. W. F. Stamey, Blocton, Ala.; E. R. Tubb, Heiberger, Ala.

Missionary Board:—Rev. P. C. Ramsey, J. D. Avery, W. M. Gleaton.

Camp-Meeting Committee:—Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. W. F. Stamey, J. D. Avery

CONFERENCE ROLL

Elders

Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Centerville, Ala.

Rev. W. F. Stamey, Blocton, Ala.

Rev. Mrs. Ada Ramsey, Centerville, Ala.

Licentiates on the Stationed List

Rev. R. E. Snipes, Centerville, Ala.

Rev. G. C. Tucker, Centerville, Ala.

Rev. L. A. Bamburg, Heiberger, Ala.

Rev. J. A. Wood, Blocton, Ala.

Delegates.

T. J. Gleaton.

E. R. Tubb.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The first session of the Alabama Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, met at Ada Chapel,

1910

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

November 10, 1910, at 10 a. m. and was called to order by Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Vice-President.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. R. E. Snipes.

The secretary was instructed to call the roll of elders and the following elders responded: Rev. E. Teter, P. C. Ramsey. Licentiates: Mrs. Ada Ramsey, W. F. Stamey, R. E. Snipes, G. C. Tucker.

On motion the time of meeting was fixed at 9:30 a. m. and 2 p. m.

Conference adjourned for religious services.

First Day. Afternoon Meeting

Conference called to order by the vice-president and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. F. Stamey.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

The following persons presented credentials as delegates and their names placed on the roll: T. J. Gleaton, Bibb Circuit, Ala., E. R. Tubb, Blue Creek Circuit, Ala.

On motion the time of religious services was fixed at 11 a. m. and 6:30 p. m.

The Committee on Religious Services was appointed as follows, Rev. P. C. Ramsey and Rev. W. F. Stamey.

The Committee on Pastoral Relations was made to include the entire membership of the conference.

Committee on Statistics: Rev. R. E. Snipes and Rev. G. C. Tucker.

Committee on Itinerary and Orders: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. E. Teter, Rev. W. F. Stamey, E. R. Tubb and W. E. Hobson.

It was made the order of the day for Friday afternoon to elect permanent officers.

The following persons were recommended to the annual conference for Elder's Orders: Rev. W. F. Stamey and Mrs. Ada Ramsey. On motion they were referred to the Committee on Itinerary and Orders.

1910

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Rev. L. A. Bamburg was recommended to the annual conference as a suitable person to labor under its direction. On motion he was referred to the Committee on Itineracy and Orders.

Conference adjourned by motion.

Benediction by Rev. E. Teter.

Second Day. Morning Meeting

Conference called to order by the vice-president and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. G. C. Tucker.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Mrs. Ada Ramsey.

Committee on Moral Reform: Rev. P. C. Ramsey.

Committee on Secret Societies: Rev. W. F. Stamey.

Committee on Thanks: W. E. Hobson.

Conference then proceeded to the examination of characters and the names of the following ministers were called and characters passed: Elders, Rev. P. C. Ramsey. Licentiates, Rev. W. F. Stamey, R. E. Snipes, J. A. Wood, G. C. Tucker and Mrs. Ada Ramsey.

Conference adjourned by motion.

Benediction by Rev. G. C. Tucker.

Second Day. Afternoon Meeting

Conference called to order by the vice-president and devotional exercises were conducted by Miss Cleona Peebles.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

The order of the day was called for and the conference proceeded to the election of officers. On the first vote Rev. E. Teter was elected president. On second vote Rev. P. C. Ramsey was elected vice-president. On third vote W. E. Hobson was elected secretary. On fourth vote Rev. E. Teter was elected treasurer.

Delegates to General Conference were elected as follows: Elder, Rev. P. C. Ramsey; lay delegate, Rev. R. E. Snipes, W. E. Hobson, alternate.

1910

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Missionary Board: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, J. D. Avery and W. M. Gleaton.

Advisory Board: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. W. F. Stamey and E. R. Tubb.

Camp-Meeting Committee: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. W. F. Stamey and J. D. Avery.

Conference adjourned by motion.

Third Day. Morning Meeting

Conference called to order by the vice-president and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. R. E. Snipes.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

Committee on Moral Reform reported. Report adopted (See report No. 1.)

Committee on Sabbath Schools reported. Report adopted and ordered to be sent the Wesleyan Methodist for publication. (See report No. 2.)

Committee on Thanks reported. Report adopted. (See report No. 3.)

Treasurer reported. Report adopted. (See report No. 4.)

The following memorial was presented asking the General Conference to change the Discipline, section 30, page 195, to be changed so as to read as follows: That we require all our members and ministers to abstain from its cultivation, manufacture, sale and use in all its forms for Jesus sake. The vote stood thus, 8 votes cast in favor, none cast against.

Conference adjourned by motion.

Benediction by Rev. W. F. Stamey.

Third Day. Afternoon Meeting.

Conference called to order by the vice-president and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. P. C. Ramsey.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Committee on Secret Societies reported. Report adopted. (See report No. 5.)

Committee on Statistics reported. Report adopted. (See report No. 6.)

On motion the conference ordered the Treasurer to pay Rev. R. G. Ramsey \$25 for his labor among us.

On motion the vice-president of the conference was authorized to appoint the various committees at least three months before the next session and notify them of said appointments.

On motion the conference ordered the treasurer to pay Rev. W. F. Stamey \$25 for his labors in the conference.

On motion the buying of a tent for the missionary evangelists was referred to the Missionary Board.

It was voted that the next session of the conference be held at Friendship Station. Time with Connectional officials.

Conference adjourned to meet at the call of the chair.

Conference called to order.

Committee on Itinerary and Orders reported. Report adopted. (See report No. 7.)

On motion the secretary was ordered to prepare the minutes for publication. Collection was taken for the publication of the minutes amounting to \$5.50

On motion conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. E. Teter.

REPORTS

Report No. 1—Moral Reform

Your committee to whom this subject was referred makes the following report: We all know that this subject of moral reform is a big subject and one that is larger than the committee to whom it was referred, but be this as it may I will try by the help of the Lord to say a few things upon this subject. First, we want to find

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

out what it means to reform. It means to form again, create or shape anew, to restore to a former good state, or bring from bad to good, to amend, correct, better, reclaim, to amend what is defective, vicious, corrupt or depraved, and as we look at our country in which we live we can see that it is in a bad state of things, and that because of the immorality of the people, and when we begin to trace back to find out the cause of so much immorality we can trace it back to the liquor traffic which is the fountain head of nearly all the immorality of this land of ours. We have about 100,000 souls going down every year to fill drunkards graves and to populate hell, and when we look at this multitude of souls going down every year, it seems then to me that we need a reform, and if we need a reform the question is, Where shall this reform start? So I will say first that we should begin with the individual person, and next with the home, and next with the churches, and next with the county and next with the state and last with the United States. Then how are we to bring about this reform, well we find in the Word of the Lord—in Titus 2:12, For the grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men hath appeared teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. So then if we can get the individual to accept the grace of God it will reform his life by saving him from all his sins, and then if we can get him sanctified he will sure become a prohibitionist, and we can then depend upon him to stand for all the reforms of the day, and sanctified persons will make sanctified homes and sanctified homes will make sanctified churches and sanctified churches will help to make sanctified counties and sanctified counties will help to make sanctified states. Hence we could reform the United States of this awful curse of liquor. We have another curse in this fair land of ours and that is the coca-cola habit, this to my mind is a great evil among our young people, and the tobacco habit is another great curse to our land and is sending a number of our young people to an untimely grave every year. Therefore, Be it

Resolved, That we as Wesleyan Methodist preachers do all that

1960

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

we can against these great evils that are cursing so many of our young people, let us preach, teach and write against these things, and let every member of the Alabama Conference do all that they can to rid our land of these curses, then we will see sinners being brought to Jesus and will see them saved and sanctified wholly, and we will see the time come by and by when sin will be driven out of this land and Christ's Kingdom will be ushered in and holiness and righteousness will cover the face of the earth as the waters do the face of the seas.

P. C. Ramsey, Committee.

3

Report No. 2—Sabbath Schools

Your Committee on Sunday Schools wishes to make the following report: First of all will say that the Sunday School is of God, and should be carried on in a way that will glorify Him, and we as a denomination standing for a high standard of grace should take more interest in the Sunday School work than we have in the past, for it is a place where we should teach the Word of God to the young generation in such a way that it will fasten on their hearts and minds and lead them to God and Salvation. And I believe if we have real sanctified men and women at the head of our schools that the interest will grow. And I for one am opposed to having superintendents and teachers in our schools who are not sanctified wholly or that don't believe in the second work of grace, for it is the very thing that Christ died for, therefore we should be very careful in these things, we should select the best and most spiritual teachers possible that will take an interest in their class and not just simply ask the questions laid down but will also teach or explain the lesson in such a way that the class will be able to understand it. I am also opposed to giving our means to the support of county and state workers who use tobacco

~~1909~~ 1910

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

in any form, and that wear unnecessary dress such as putting on of gold, feathers, flowers, etc. Therefore, Be it

Resolved, 1 That we raise our voices against these things.
2 That we do our best to promote the spiritual interest of the schools by our prayers, presence and means. 3 That we use our own literature in the schools.

May God help us as men and women professing holiness to prove to the world not only by our testimonies, but by doing something that we have what we profess.

Mrs. Ada Ramsey, Committee.

8 Report No. 3—Resolution of Thanks

Wherefore as the time for our annual conference to be held at Ada Chapel has come, and the kind and generous hearted people of this church and community have so pleasantly and comfortably entertained us, the Alabama Annual Conference, at its first session and as we have so much enjoyed the presence and faithful labors of our President and Missionary Secretary, the Rev. E. Teter, of Sheridan, Ind., and the pleasant and congenial association of our Brethren and Sisters and visiting friends: Be it

Resolved, That we express our gratitude and appreciation of the same by each one voting in the affirmative on these resolutions, and pray that God's richest blessings may rest upon all who have contributed in any way to the support of this conference, and that these resolutions be read at the public service on Sunday morning.

Respectfully,

W. E. Hobson, Committee.

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Report No. 4—Treasurer's Report

Receipts

Missions:

Blue Creek charge, P. C. Ramsey, Pastor, Foreign.....	\$69 60
Blue Creek charge, P. C. Ramsey, Pastor, Home.....	103 10
Bibb Circuit, W. F. Stamey, Pastor, Foreign.....	6 50
Bibb Circuit, W. F. Stamey, Pastor, Home	165 90
Total	\$345 10

Disbursements

Paid to B. L. Padgett	\$30 04
Paid to C. H. Boggs, for Cleo Young	20 05
Paid to W. F. Stamey	25 00
Paid to R. G. Ramsey	25 00
Paid to E. Teter for Parent Board	155 25
Balance on hand	89 76
	<hr/>
	\$345 10

Superannuated Ministers' Fund

W. F. Stamey, Pastor	\$1 21
E. Teter, Treasurer.	

Report No. 5—Secret Societies

Your Committee on Secret Societies begs leave to make the following report:

By secret societies we mean all oath-bound societies such as Free Masons, Odd Fellows, Red Men, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Beavers, Juniors and others, even the Farmer's Union is an oath-bound organization, we, as Wesleyan Methodists stand opposed to all secret societies.

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

1st. Because in our judgment they are contrary to the Word of God, for Jesus said, "Swear not at all," but yet they all take an oath to ever conceal and to never reveal the secret. Jesus said, "In secret have I done nothing," but if the secret societies do any good at all it is in secret.

2nd. The most of them teach that if their members live up to the rules of the Order that they will be sure of heaven in the end, and at the same time the Order will not permit the name of Jesus to be spoken in the Order and God hath said, "That there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved" save the name of Jesus. Therefore if we can be saved through the Order or by keeping its rules, we can be saved without the blood, but the Bible says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

3rd. We see that the lives of those who join are not reformed from moral standpoint, that is those who join that drink don't quit, those who swear continue to swear, those who commit adultery continue to do the same, we hear God say, "Out of the heart are the issues of life," hence we come to the conclusion that there is no change upon the heart and the heart must be changed before we can go to heaven, and when the heart is changed the life will prove it. The strange thing to me is how a man can get to heaven and belong to them, yet we see ministers of the Gospel who are in them, then I think of what Paul said, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," and every man that joins the Free Masons, Odd Fellows and others has joined himself with unbelievers for Jews, Mohammedans, Unitarians and all join them and make good members and they all deny the divinity of Jesus Christ, therefore they are unbelievers and the man that joins these societies is unequally yoked with them for they will not let them speak in the name of Jesus. Then again they claim to be a charitable institution, but they are not for they do not help anyone who is not a member in good standing and it is for their oath's sake that they help then. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we as a conference do all we can as a people to

1910

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

uncover the hidden things of darkness and get the truth before the people.

2nd. That we talk in public and in private against these things, giving our reasons from the Word of God, hoping for the good time to come when all of the secret societies will go down and the Church of God rule in their stead.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. Stamey, Committee.

9

Report No. 7—Itineracy and Orders

We, your Committee on Itineracy and Orders make the following report: We recommend that Rev. W. F. Stamey and Mrs. Ada Ramsey be ordained to Elders' Orders and that they continue the course of study, and that R. E. Snipes and G. C. Tucker continue the course of study, and that Rev. L. A. Bamburg take up the first year's course of study preparatory to travel under conference directions.

Rev. P. C. Ramsey,
Rev. W. F. Stamey,
Rev. E. Teter,
E. R. Tubb,
W. E. Hobson.
Committee.

10

Report No. 8—Pastoral Relations

Bibb Circuit, West Blocton and Ada Chapel, W. F. Stamey, pastor.

Friendship Station, Mrs. Ada Ramsey, pastor.

Waycross Circuit, Mt. Ivalh and Waycross, R. E. Snipes, pastor.

P. C. Ramsey, Conference Missionary Evangelist, subject to the call of the Mission Board; G. C. Tucker and L. A. Bamburg, Missionary Evangelists, subject to the call of the Mission Board.

P. C. Ramsey, E. Teter, W. F. Stamey, R. E. Snipes, G. C. Tucker, Mrs. Ada Ramsey, E. R. Tubb and T. J. Gleaton.

Statistical Report 1910

	Time (Mo.)	Churches	Appointments	Members Received	Members Expelled	Members Died	Members Discontinued	Granted Letters	Present Numbers	Baptized	Licentiates	Wes. Meth. Taken	Wes. Lesson Helps	Sabbath Schools	Superintendents	Teachers	Scholars	Church Property	No. Meeting Houses	Value	Parsonages	Value	Pastor's Salary	Evangelist's Receipts	Superannuated Ministers	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Educational Enterprises	Sabbath Schools	Building and Repairs	Incidental Expenses	Other Benevolent Objects
Blue Creek	12	3	3	31	3	1		140		5	3	35	30	12	12	8	132		2	\$1050 00	1	\$250 00	\$188 89	\$113 18		\$103 10	\$69 00	\$4 65	\$18 74	\$148 10	\$1 50	\$18 40
Bibb	12	2	2	27	2	2		1102		8	3	26	36	12	12	7	80		2	1000 00	1	500 00	257 28	118 00	\$1 21	165 90	6 0		15 00	50 00	67 89	9 65
Total		5	5	61	5	1	2	1242	13	6	61	66	4	4	15	212		4	\$2050 00	2	\$750 00	\$446 17	\$231 18	\$1 21	\$269 00	\$76 00	\$4 65	\$33 74	\$198 10	\$69 39	\$28 05	