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Minutes of the  
Zanesville Conference  
Held at  
Mount Vernon August 29 1855

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The Zanesville Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection  
Commenced its 7<sup>th</sup> Yearly Session in Mt. Vernon Ohio Aug: 29<sup>th</sup> 1855 Nine O'clock AM

The Brethren assembled at time and place above named and were addressed in  
a very appropriate and happy manner by Bro: Hamlin, President of the Conference Text  
“Quit you like men – be strong” 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 16-13

Conference was then called to order by the Chair Singing and prayer by the  
Secretary

Roll was called when the following persons answered to their names and took  
their seat as members of Conference

A N Hamlin  
S D Jones  
A Crooks  
W Sewell  
D Wilson  
L R Royce  
G W Bainum  
B Tressonrider

Absent

E Smith  
A W Sanders  
C Woodruff  
R McCune  
E Thompson  
R Horton  
Z P Disbro  
W B Moody  
Isaac Moore Wm McConnell D L Travis

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A Committee on Credentials was ordered as follows A Crooks S D Jones and B  
Tressonrider

The Certificate of Delegates were placed in their hands – Committee retired a  
few minutes – then reported in part – as follows

Circuits	Delegates
Licking	H E Thomas
Deleware	G Pierce & S Rheem
Plymouth	Geo Steffy

Woodsfield

Zanesville

Mt Vernon

Washington

Huntington

Strongsville

Granger

Hocking Miss

Deersville

Sandusky City

Norwalk

Carlisle

North Carolina [sic]

A L Morrison S Nickerson

J D Phifer

A B Hicks

T Burr

J Adams

D L Gibson

A W Speer

Report was adopted and these Brethren came forward and took their seats as members of [insert: this] Conference.

Bar of Conference was fixed at the 4<sup>th</sup> front seat

A Committee on Religious services was appointed – B Tressonrider D L Travis

J G Pierce

Com: On Reforms

A Crooks S Rheem and S Blanchard

Com: On Sabbath Schools

B Tressonrider J D Phifer W Sewell

On Colleges and Literary Institutions

A Crooks G Bainum A B Hicks—

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W Sewell T Burr and J G Pierce

The hours of meeting and adjournment were fixed at 8 and 11 ½ A.M.

When on Motion Conference adjourned to meet at 1 ½ oclock PM

Prayer by Bro Rheem

#### Afternoon Session

Conference met President in the Chair Devotional exercises conducted by Bro Royce

Roll called minutes read and approved

Bro J Sherman was received by Conference as Delegate from Norwalk Co. A Business Committee was ordered by Conference and appointed by the Chair as follows

A W. Sanders R Dymond and H E Thomas

The Characters of E. Wmth A. W. Sanders A. N. Hamlin and A Crooks were severally considered and passed

The collection of statistics from the various Circuits and Stations was made the order of the day for Friday morning next.

A Transfer of James Speer from the Alleghenny [sic] Conference where he was a preacher on trial was presented – when on motion he was received by this Conference in the same relation.

James H Webster was received into full connection by transfer from the Miami Conference.

The examination of character was then resumed

The names of S D Jones called Bro Jones gave an account of his work when his character passed.

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The characters of W Sewell, R McCune, E Thompson, R Horton, W B Moody, L R. Royce and G W Bainum were severally considered and passed.

Name of B Tressonrider was called when certain letters were presented by brethren from Zanesville touching the character of Br: T wherupon said letters were refered [sic] to a Committee of three Jones Rheem and Webster Wm McConnell's character was considered and passed

The name of Isaac Embree was called when it appeared that he had removed beyond the bounds of this Conference while certain charges were pending against him whereupon his case was referred to the nearest Elder for investigation

Character of D L Travis Considered and passed.

Name of Z P Disbro was called when a letter from him was read by the Secretary giving an account of his work and asking that his name be ~~placed on~~ stricken from the stationed list – when on motion his character passed and his name placed on the unstationed list according to his request

Characters of preachers on trial were examined – Name of A. R. Brooks and of S Blanchard called considered and passed Conference adjourned

Prayer by Bro Sanders

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Thursday Morning  
Aug: 30 – 8 Oclock AM 1855

Conference called to order by the chair Singing and prayer by Bro Speer. Roll called Minutes of the previous Session read and approved.

The Committee on Credentials made their final report in favor of William Allen of as Delegate from North Carolina [sic] contested by D. A. Thrift

Report was adopted See no 1

W Allen took his seat as a member of this body and D. A. Thrift was invited to an honary [sic] seat

Examination of character continued preachers on trial

Name of Geo: Candee was called when it appeared that Bro C had been appointed to Carlile [sic] Circuit by the last Conference – but was not received by that Circuit on account of his Connection with the Oberlin Church

His character was passed and he continued on trial

Name of M B Adams called character considered and passed and as he had not been able to attend his duties as a travelling minister and probably would not be – his name was erased

Brethren Sullivan and McEldowney as of Leoni Michigan were introduced to the Conference by Bro Smith

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Committee on the case of Bro Tressonrider reported – report was received and discussed for a time but finally laid on the table for future action.

The Order of the was taken up and Bro Smith – Agent of the Western-Branch Book Concern reported report was received and upon the request of the Agent in behalf of the Book Committee the following members of this Conference were appointed to meet and confer with the Book Committee

-- A Crooks  
G. W. Bainum  
B Tressonrider  
L R Royce  
T Burr  
J G Pierce ~~L Rheem~~ L Sherman

When on motion of E Smith the agents report was referred to the above Committee.

Conference proceeded to ballot for  
Stationing Committee

L Royce and W Sewell acting as tellers the vote resulted in the election of the following persons

E Smith}  
A Crooks}  
A. W. Sanders} Ministers  
S. Rheem}  
T Burr}  
L Sherman} Laymen

Resolved that when we adjourn we do so to meet at 8 O'clock tomorrow morning

J. H. Webster and L R Royce were elected members of the examining [sic]

Committee pro tempore

Conference adjourned

Prayer by Bro McEldowney

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Friday Morning  
8 O'clock AM Aug 31 1855

Conference – president in the chair Singing and prayer by Bro McEldowney Roll called – minutes of the previous Session read and approved.

The Committee on Colleges and Literary Institutions reported through its chairman report was accepted and laid on the table to take up the order of the day viz the collection of statistics from the various charges of our Conference

The Roll was called by the Secretary and brethren reported as follows

See Report No 2

A Committee on Discipline and Union was ordered and by motion the President was made a member of that Committee

Name of D Wilson challed [sic]—who in answer to inquiries – stated that two of our members in North-Carolina [sic] were connected with Slavery by marriage: whereupon a Committee of three were appointed to investigate the matter and report to Conference as early as possible

R. McCune}

J D Phifer}

S D Gibson} Committee

Conference proceeded in the examination of the character of Bro: Wison at length – when on motion his character passed.

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Committee on Discipline and Union was announced by the Chair as follows

E Smith

T Burr

G Pierce

S D Jones

The report of Committee on case of Bro: Tressonrider was taken from the table (The report was – “No cause of action”) A motion to adopt was lost and Conference took possession of the papers referred to said Committee and proceeded to act upon them

Conference extended the session for the purpose of arranging this case for trial

Resolved also that when we adjourn we do so to meet at 1 ½ Oclock PM.

One of the aforesaid papers, signed by Joseph Cross a member of the Wesleyan M Church in Zanesville was read by the Secretary – this paper contained charges against Bro: Tressonrider See paper

The proper notice had not been given but the question of legality was waved [sic] and defendant declared himself ready for trial – when Conference adjourned

Prayer by Bro Travis

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Afternoon Session  
Friday 1 ½ Oclock Aug 31

Conference met President in the chair Singing and prayer by Bro: McCune  
Minutes of the previous Session were read and approved

Conference resumed the case of Bro: Tressonrider and prepared to enter trial

Bros Sanders and Jones acting as counsel for plaintiff and Bro: McEldowney conducting the defence [sic]

Bro: Sanders presented the complaint of Joseph Cross vs Bro: Tressonrider as follows

Charge Immorality

Specification 1<sup>st</sup>

Deception and Falsehood

Specification 2<sup>nd</sup>

Carrying out a Pro-Slavery – Mal-administration

Bidison, Cross Woodruff and Jarvis of Zanesville were called by the counsel for plaintiff and Dymond, Wilber and Hamlin by the defence [sic] as Witnesses in the case. Conference heard them through, the case was submitted without a plea, and the chair called for the decision of Conference – which resulted as follows

1<sup>st</sup> Specification Not sustained – but one vote in its favor

2<sup>nd</sup> Specification Lost unanimously

Charge Unanimously lost

When on motion of Bro Hicks the character of Bro: Tressonrider was passed without a dissenting voice

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The following Resolutions [insert: offered by R McCune & Sanders] were then adopted unanimously by rising vote of Conference.

Whereas the subject of distinctions on account of color, in churches and Sabbath-Schools, by seating the colored people in special seats apart from the white people – has been brought before us in the examination of character it is proper for us to set forth our true position on this subject.

Therefore

Resolved 1<sup>st</sup> That we disapprove and condemn all such arrangements as contrary to the spirit and letter of our Discipline, and as contributing to maintain in community a wicked and cruel prejudice, now crushing the oppressed race, whom we profess to hold in common and equal brother of humanity.

Resolve 2<sup>nd</sup>

That we recommend and enjoin upon our ministers and Churches to allow of no such distinctions in their administrations except those which God makes in his word – those of character and not of color.

Conference adjourned

Prayer by Bro. Crooks

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Saturday Morning  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1855 8 Oclock A.M.

Conference called to order by the chair Devotional exercises conducted by Bro Jones Minutes read and approved.

The report on Reforms was presented received and laid on the table for future action.

The Report on Colleges and Literary Institutions was taken up but again laid on the table to give place to the report on "Discipline and Union" which was read and received by the Conference.

Brethren Davis and Heywood were introduced to the Conference as visitors from the Scioto Annual Conference of the United Brethren in Christ: then Brethren on invitation, entertained the Conference by very happy and appropriate remarks on the subject of Union.

As the Brethren from the Scioto Conference signified their inability to tarry with us longer that part of the Report which related to Union was taken up separately

Items 1 & 4 were adopted unanimously See report No 3

When the visiting brethren were about to retire the following was adopted by rising vote unanimously

Resolved That we tender to these Brethren of the Scioto Conference, our most hearty thanks for their kind visit and appropriate counsel – and will endeavor to reciprocate the favor.

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James McPeak recommended by the Quarterly Conference of the Plymouth Circuit was received on Trial

Name of C Woodruff was called when Bro Sewell presented the following complaints against him Viz:

1<sup>st</sup> Interfering [sic] with [sic] the charge given to Bro Tressonrider

2d In fostering and keeping up the unhappy division which happened in Zanesville – leading off a part of the charge and preaching for them.

Bro Woodruff gave an account of his course in that affair and some account of the state of his work. All the light was brought out that Conference could obtain in relation to the foregoing charges – the Session was extended indefinitely – Resolved that when we adjourn we do so to meet at 3 O'clock P.M.

After some discussion the character of C Woodruff passed and Conference adjourned by benediction

#### Afternoon Session

Conference met President in the chair  
Singing and Prayer by Bro Wilson

Committee on Sabbath Schools reported and report was adopted see No 4  
Bro Sanders, by request, was excused from further attendance at this Conference

The following resolutions were then offered and adopted

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“Whereas the subject of interference in the charge and work of one member of this Conference, by another in a way to increase difficulties and foster divisions – (has been before us in the examination of character)

“Therefore

“Resolved That we regard all such interference as contrary to the spirit and letter of our Discipline, and disapprove and condemn them

“Resolved That we advise and enjoin all our ministers and Churches to abstain from all such interference in the affairs of each other.”

The report on Colleges and Literary Institutions was again called from the table, read, considered and adopted See Report No 5

The Committee on Branch Book Concern reported – laid on the table for future action Conference adjourned to meet at the close of the Antislavery Meeting this evening

Saturday Evening  
9 O'clock P.M.

Conference met. President in the chair Calling of Roll and reading of Minutes postponed untill [sic] Monday Morning.

A Recommendation of Stephen Blanchard by the Quarterly Conference of Granger Circuit as a suitable person to be elected to Elders Orders was presented to Conference The Examining Committee reported favorably

When on Motion he was received to full Connection and elected to Elders Orders

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On recommendation of the Deersville Circuit A. R Brooks was received to full connection and elected to Elders Order

A recommendation of James Spear by the Pleasantville Circuit to the Allegheny Conference, was received by this Conf. and he received to full connection and elected to Elders Orders.

On recommendation of Plymouth Circuit, James McPeak was elected to Elders Order.

Names of each placed on the Stationed list.

On recommendation of Delaware Circuit, J. G. Pierce was received to full connection and elected to elders Orders: Name placed on the unstationed list.

Bro: R. J. Jennings, was received as Delegate from Sandusky City.

A Transfer, given by the President of the Allegheny Conference, transferring [sic] David Peachin, was received – name on the unstationed list.



Conference resolved to lift a Collection Sabbath evening for the benefit of our afflicted Bro: J McBride.

Tressonrider, Bainum, and Pierce were appointed a Committee to solicit donations for the same purpose.

Bro Hamlin requested Conference to excuse him and appoint Manson St. Clair to officiate in the Ordination services on Sabbath – request was granted.

Conference adjourned by benediction.

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Monday Morning  
Sept 3d 1855 8 Oclock A.M.

Conference was called to order by the Secretary – Prayer by Bro Woodruff – Roll called – The President arrived and took the chair – Minutes of 2 previous sessions read and approved.

That part of the report of Committee on “Discipline and Union” relating to changes in our book of Discipline, was taken from the table ~~by the~~ and read by the Secretary – Conference proceeded to consider its propositions separately.

Item 1 was read and adopted as follows

“To give to the yearly Conferences the power over the subject of the boundaries of the Circuits and stations given by the ~~Utica Convention~~ Disciplines of the Utica Convention and the General Conference of 1844 – to the District Meetings.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Proposition

“To give the yearly Conferences the same power over the appointments of the Preachers, which was given them in those Disciplines.

“A motion to adopt was lost by a vote of 15 to 10.”

3<sup>rd</sup> Proposition was adopted as follows

“To restore to the Discipline the three years limitation rule for Licentates for Elders Orders”

4<sup>th</sup> Proposition

“To take from the Quarterly Conferences the power to License Preachers, and give it to the Yearly Conferences: but no person to be licensed unless recommended by the

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Church and Quarterly Conference of which he is a member.”

A call was here made for a division of the house – that Ministers and Laymen should vote seperately [sic] – which was agreed to.

Bro: Smith enquired – Have those Local Elders who are acting as Delegates in our body, a right to vote as Laymen on this Question?

The chair decided that they have

“Inasmuch as they were sent by Laymen to represent their wishes – were received by us in as Delegates and have heretofore acted in that relation”

Bro: McCune appealed from the decision of the chair. The vote was taken on the appeal and the chair sustained by a vote of 15 to 13.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the 4<sup>th</sup> proposition as above and resulted as follows, Ministers and Laymen voting seperately [sic]

Ministers	Yeas 8	Nays 6
Laymen	" 8	" 7
Total	Yeas – 16	Nays 13

So the 4<sup>th</sup> proposition was adopted

Conference adjourned

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Afternoon Session  
2 P.M. Sep 3 '55

Conference met – President in the chair Singing and prayer by Bro Webster.

Roll called minutes of morning Session read and approved.

The Committee appointed to solicit funds for J McBride reported \$54.25 cash as the result of their efforts when the following resolution was passed unanimously

"Resolved That that [sic] we entrust the above amount ot Bro: McElowney to be presented to our beloved and afflicted Bro: McBride in the name of this Conference as a token of our sympathy and regard for him."

A Committee of three was ordered consisting of Bros Fordney, Travis and Tressonrider to solicit funds to defray the traelling expenses of Bro. Wilson Delegate from North Carolina [sic]

The discussion on the 5<sup>th</sup> proposition of the report on Discipline was resumed in which Bro. Smith, Webster and others participated. Bro Smith called for the previous question – call not sustained. After some further discussion a motion to adopt the 5<sup>th</sup> proposition was lost.

The 6<sup>th</sup> proposition was laid on the table.

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The report of Committee on Branch Book Concern was taken from the table and adopted unanimously Item by Item and then as a whole see Report No 6

Joseph Evans was received by this Conference from the Christian denomination of North Carolina [sic] on presentation of his papers by Bro Smith who received them of Bro: Thrift he having brought them from N.C.

Name placed on the Stationed List.

An application of a certain Bro who withdrew from the United Brethren under censure was presented to this Conference for admission – the chair decided the case inadmissible and Conference sustained the decision.

Bro A N Hamlin and Obadiah Nichols were appointed visiting Delegates to the Scioto Annual Conference of the United Brethren in Christ – to Convene at Chillicothe the 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo [?]

Bros Smith and Burr were chosen as Delegates to the Delegated Union Convention to be held May next

Crooks and Rheem Alternates

G W Bainum and J G Pierce were appointed visitors to the Michigan Union College at its next Annual Commencement

Orange Delaware County was fixed upon as the place and the last Wednesday but one in August 1856 as the time of holding the next Annual Session of this Conference.

Conference proceeded to the election of Officers for ensuing year Bro Royce and Brooks acting as tellers The following were duly elected

President R. McCune

Secretary G. W. Bainum

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The Stationing Committee reported – report was laid on the table for future action  
Conference adjourned to meet at 7 ½ O'clock PM Prayer by Bro Wilson

Monday evening 7 ½ O'clock PM

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855

Conference met – president in the chair. Singing and prayer by Bro McEldowney  
Calling of the roll and reading of minutes omitted

The Committee appointed to inquire as to the connection [insert: of certain ~~of our~~ members] of our churches in North Carolina [sic], with slavery reported and report was laid on the table for future action.

Conference was then entertained by very happy and encouraging remarks by Bro: Matlack in reference to the affairs of the Wesleyan Book Concern at Syracuse

Remarks were also made by Bro Smith When the following was offered and adopted unanimously by rising vote

“Whereas we are about to take the parting hand with our esteemed Bro Matlack, and wish, as a Conference, to give formal expression of the feelings of our hearts to him:

“Therefore Resolved

“That we have been highly gratified in all our relations

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“with him, and that we shall always feel glad to extend to him fraternal intercourse

“And assure him that our fervent and united prayers shall be that God may prosper and bless him in whatever position, in the providence of God, he may be called to occupy.”

Bro Stephen Blanchard by request received a transfer to the Iowa Conference.

The following was also adopted by rising vote

Resolved That we tender our most hearty thanks, to the Citizens of Mt Vernon for their kindness, courtesy and hospitality to us, during our session.

The report in reference to the connection of certain members of our Churches in North Carolina [sic] was taken from the table and adopted See Report No. 7

The report of Stationing Committee was taken up and adopted as follows See Report No 8

A Crooks was re-elected to the examining committee

The following was then adopted

“Resolved

“That each preacher in charge be required to lift a collection in each of his preaching places at the earliest date possible for Missionary purposes the sum to be forwarded to E Smith re-elected Treasurer of the Missionary fund of this Conference.

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The report on Reforms was again called up read and adopted See No. 9

Wm Sewell}

L. R. Royce}

A. B. Hicks}

H E Thomas}

G W Bainum}

Elected Committee on Presidency

On motion it was resolved that our next Annual Meeting be opened by a sermon by the President

Present Officers of benevolent Societies of the Conference re-elected *en masse*.

The labors of the Session being completed the Minutes were read and approved the divine blessing implored and

Conference adjourned

A N Hamlin

President

Geo: W. Bainum

Secretary

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Reports

No 1

Report on Credentials

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that two certificates of election were presented from Guilford N. C. viz by D A Thrift – done at a special Quarterly Conference held at Caraway July 14<sup>th</sup> 1855, and by Wm Allen – done at Zion Meeting-house Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Having examined the conflicting claims of the above, your Committee are unanimous in the opinion that the election of Bro Thrift, on two accounts, was not legal.

1<sup>st</sup> It was not done by ballot as the Discipline requires page 32

2<sup>nd</sup> It was not done at the time and place of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting as the Discipline also requires on the same page.

Your Committee discovered nothing illegal in the election of Wm Allen.

We agree to recommend that Bro. D A Thrift be invited to an honorary seat in the Conference.

Respectfully Submitted

A Crooks

Chairman

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Report No 2

Statistics of the Conference

| Circuits     | No. in Connection | Paid for Preaching | Sabbath Schools | Libraries                     | Scholars | Missionary Contributions |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Licking      |                   |                    |                 |                               |          |                          |
| Deleware     | 75                | \$287              | 3               | 3                             |          |                          |
| Plymouth     | 94                | 168                |                 |                               |          | \$7                      |
| Zanesville   | 35                | 100                | 1               | Bal-Vol<br>12.44 –<br>1 - 416 | 165      |                          |
| Woodsfield   |                   | 325                | 2               | 1                             |          |                          |
| Deersville   | 150               | 256.55             |                 |                               |          |                          |
| Leesville    |                   |                    |                 |                               |          |                          |
| Mt Vernon    | 46                | 95                 | 1               | 1-250<br>vol                  | 50       |                          |
| Washington   | 90                | 250                | 2               | 2 - \$15                      | 60       |                          |
| Granger      | 60                | 88.86              | 2               | 2 -<br>\$9.50                 | 40       | 19.50                    |
| Huntington   | 104               | 3.37               | 1               | 1                             |          |                          |
| Strongsville |                   | 200                | 1               |                               |          |                          |
| Carlisle     |                   |                    |                 |                               |          |                          |
| Norwalk      | 60                | 200                |                 |                               |          |                          |

|                 |      |       |  |             |        |  |
|-----------------|------|-------|--|-------------|--------|--|
| Sandusky City   | 50   | 200   |  | 1 -300-\$42 | 2 – 60 |  |
| Hicking Mission | 16   |       |  |             |        |  |
| Marietta Miss   | 31   |       |  |             |        |  |
| Guilford N. C.  | 320  | 33.45 |  |             |        |  |
|                 | 1133 |       |  |             |        |  |

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### Report No 3 On Discipline and Union

On Discipline as adopted [note: the next two words are too faded to read]

Your Committee and ...[faded: maybe “previously”...] recommendation to the next Gen. Conference the following changes to be made ... [faded] of Discipline.

1<sup>st</sup> To give to the Yearly Conferences, the power over the subject of the boundaries of Circuits and Stations, given by the Disciplines of the Utica Conventions and the General Conference of 1844 – to the district meetings.

2<sup>nd</sup> To give the Yearly Conferences the same power over the appointment of the preachers which was given them I those Disciplines

3<sup>rd</sup> To restore to the Discipline the three years limitation rule for Licentiates for Elders Orders

4<sup>th</sup> To take from the Quarterly Conferences the power to license preachers and give it to the Yearly Conferences but no person to be licensed unless recommended by the Church and Quarterly Conference of which he is a member.

E Smith

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### Report No 4 On Sabbath Schools

The Committee on Sabbath Schools, in presenting this report cannot but express, first of all, their ~~great~~ deep sense of the importance of the enterprise they hae been called upon to consider. This cause we regard as one of the most powerful and efficient auxiliaries to the Church of Christ for the early and permanent reformation and Salvation of our race. And that as we consider the future prosperity of the Church is involved in the prosperity of the Sabbath School cause, we therefore deem the

enterprise second to none, in its claims upon the Ministry and Membership of the Wesleyan M Connection.

Your Committee are of opinion that Bible-Classes conducted with a view to the better qualification of Sabbath School Teachers, and the instruction of larger children, constitute a most important and efficient auxiliary [sic] for the promotion of the great objects of Sabbath-Schools, and that they should, therefore, command a greater degree of interest and exertion than has hitherto been bestowed upon them.

We regret the smallness of the number of Sabbath Schools reported to this Conference.

The number of preaching appointments in the different charges is not known, but it appears to your Committee, that there should be at least as many Sabbath Schools, as there are regular preaching places, at least there should be a school at every preaching place where twelve children could be got together. If it be important

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To minister the word of life to adults it is equally important to minister it to the rising generation.

It is probable that many of the Schools now reported as in operation, will close for the winter in a month or two.

Were the Sabbath-School Statistics to be collected during the winter months instead of the Summer, there is no doubt that the number of the Schools would be greatly diminished: This practice, unfortunately so prevalent, of suspending Sabbath-School operation during the winter months has a most injurious effect; it is about as easy to establish a new school as to reorganize an old one after a suspension for four or five months. There can be no doubt that Sabbath-Schools can be kept up through the winter months wherever a weekday School can; And it would be just as proper to suspend preaching during the winter as to suspend Sabbath Schools. It is just as important to minister to the young during the winter as to the old. It is hoped that all interested in these Schools, especially the preachers, will continue to strive against the practice of going into winter quarters, until [sic] all the Schools shall be kept up from year to year without intermission.

We cannot dismiss this report, without recommending to every Sabbath School within the bounds of the Zanesville Conference the favorable consideration of the ~~Juvenile Instructor~~, published in Syracuse and also the ten volumes of Uncle Tom's kindred, being published in Mansfield, by Bro E Smith.

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These publications have only to be fully known in order to be appreciated and sought after by young and old

In conclusion we offer for adoption the following resolutions

Resolved

1<sup>st</sup> That, we are attached to the interests of Sabbath Schools, and, that we will endeavor to use greater efforts the coming year, to increase their number, and improve those already established in the bounds of this Conference

Resolved

2<sup>nd</sup> That every minister in this Conference, is in duty bound, to make vigorous efforts to sustain an efficient Sabbath School in each of his appointments during the year and in neglecting to do so, he shall be required to give satisfaction to the Conference, before the passing of his Character.

Resolved

3<sup>rd</sup> That, we consider it the duty of every minister, as far as possible, to preach to the children of his charge, to give particular attention to them in his pastoral visits, and be present at each Sabbath in the School and take an active part therein.

Resolve 4<sup>th</sup>

That we greatly regret the non-attendance of many of the members of our Churches in our Sabbath Schools, And pledge ourselves to use our best efforts to induce them to actively cooperate with us in this cause.

Resolved 5<sup>th</sup> Tat we have great confidence in the utility, for religious reform, of the publication of our Sabbath School Books [insert: turn over]

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And recommend them to the patronage of all.

Respectfully Submitted

B. Tressonrider

Chairman

Report No. 5

On Colleges and Literary Institutions

Your Committee on Colleges and Literary Institutions have had the subject under [insert: careful] consideration & ask to submit the following

The founding and permanent establishing of Colleges, Theological and Literary Institutions of a high character is of unquestionable interest, and importance to our enterprise in spreading the Gospel as a purifying and sanctifying power among men, That denomination cannot succeed without such aids we do not affirm, for we do not know, that such a thing has ever been attempted.

But Scriptural precept as well as the example of all other religious denominations impress us deeply with the imperative necessity of putting forth as early as possible the most vigorous efforts to provide for the education of a ministry that need not be ashamed of their power rightly to divide the word of Divine truth.

In every period of the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has indicated that ignorance in those that preach the word is especially to be guarded against and that study and education shall give efficiency to men of piety which cannot be had without these. That an

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Uneducated Ministry of deep piety and good natural ability, may be useful we do not question, but how much more useful would they be, if to these valuable gifts there be added that of a liberal education.

Nor are those who enter the ministry alone those that are to be educated; The entire youth of our Land, the children of our own people, the young men and women,



who are or may be brought under our influence ask that we furnish them the facilities for obtaining a sanctified, religious, education; and our own interest, as well as the benevolent intent of our holy religion, requires us to say, you shall have it.

The question, with us is not, shall our youth be educated, but shall they be educated aright; shall they be educated so that their cultivated powers shall be used for, [insert: and not] against us.

Conservative Colleges are all over the Land collecting the most promising Youth and sending forth their men of might and power, well trained in the art of grappling in the field of mind, and if we would be wise, we must count whether we are able to achieve the grand moral victory over men of tow, five and ten talents [sic]. But how impressive and for... [?] the consideration that our own children, trained in our enemies' Camp, turn against us. If we do not sustain Institutions of Learning, where a Sanctified Literature shall have place, and men of reform shall be the educators, then will those who seek learning go elsewhere and their minds and hearts shall be filled with that which will make them our foes.

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It must not be! It absolutely must not be!! We must – and we will educate.

Some noble efforts have bene made and are now being put forth by brethren of our denomination in this direction and we are most happy here to bid them “God speed” nor are empty wishes all the sympathy they shall have from us.

We assure them by resolution, by pledge, and by Act, that we are with them in their work.

The Michigan Yearly Conference, some nine years since established a Theological and Literary School, which has through adverse circumstances, maintained its existence and come to us the present year with claims of additional weight and importance to any, ever presented before.

During the last winter a college charter has been obtained, Trustees are elected from the various Yearly Conferences of our Connection, and Our [insert: own] Conference is represented in the Board of Trustees. A College faculty has been appointed in part, and a Board of Instruction which we feel persuaded betokens a good in which we will rejoice.

Their Catalogue placed in the hands of your Committee, exhibits the fact that during the last year 314 Students have been in attendance in the Preparatory Department and a small Theological Class. And we are informed that the prospects of the present year opens with the encouragement, that the number will reach 500.

And yet, without prompt pecuniary aid, success cannot be expected. Their prosperity must needs rest, for the most part, upon the material aid furnished by our people and Churches.

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An effort is now being made to secure by donations a fund of \$100,000 which shall constitute a permanent endowment fund for the College and thus place it upon a basis that shall fully warrant its success. This is worthy our careful attention – We know the undertaking is a heavy one but it Can be ~~done~~-accomplished The Question for us to meet is, Shall it be?

The Sale of Scholarships is also continued as a matter of additional aid in the erection of Buildings and the procuring of Apparatus and other aids essential to success. After a careful review of the matter pertaining to the present position and prospects of this Institute, in which the advantages of a College and Theological Institution are combined, we commend it to the Sympathies and support of our people and Churches.

With a like praise worthy purpose to promote the cause of a reformatory education, the Brethren of the Illinois Conference are putting forth honorable efforts to establish a School or College at Wheaton, Illinois; and have within the last few years, erected for that purpose a stone building 45 feet by 75 three stories high at a cost of about \$8000, all of which has been paid except about \$2000 – have a capital in Scholarships and buildings of nearly \$21,000 and have \$4000 pledged for the purchase of apparatus to cost \$5000. Their Scholars during the past year have numbered 140.

In view of the facts thus presented by your Committee – we recommend for your adoption the following Resolutions

[insert: see next page]

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Resolved That this Conference heartily sympathize with the movements made by the brethren above referred to, to erect in the Young West – Institutions of Learning which proffers facilities to education youth in the paths of Goodness and Greatness and which will throw upon the destiny of many and upon the well being of our Churches, a halo of beauty and lasting Glory – And that we cordially commend the College and Theological Institution at Leoni Michigan; and the Institute at Wheaton Illinois – to the liberal patronage of our Churches and people everywhere.

2<sup>nd</sup> That we are please do meet and greet the Agents of these Institutions – Bro A St.Clair of Michigan and Bro C F Hawley of Wheaton Illinois at this present Session of our Conference.

3<sup>rd</sup> That, we advise all to strengthen their hands and gladden their hearts by aiding them in their work and pledge our hearty Cooperation on our several charges.

All of which is respectfully submitted

A Crooks

G W Bainum

Wm Sewell

T Burr

J G Pierce

A. B. Hicks

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#### Report No. 6 On Branch Book Concerns

The Committee to whom was referred the Statement of the Western Branch Agent, have had several sessions on the subject, and ask leave to report that they regard the existence and success of the Branch, as being intimately connected with the future interests of our connection in the west as well as the interests of reform generally,

and especially of the oppressed – and the Conferences of the west are now called on, in the providence of God, to put forth such an effort, as shall place it above doubt and make it effectual in accomplishing the design for which it was established.

It has already done much good by its publications, especially by a series of Antislavery Sabbath School Books, which do great credit to the head, heart, and industry of the Agent and Editor and which furnish the rising generation with light on that Subject of Subjects on which all the great societies, and publishing houses of the Country have maintained a studied silence -- Slavery: for the publication of which, we award great credit to Bro Smith, and the efficient and valuable aid rendered him by Bro McCune.

But it could have accomplished much more but for some prejudice and much more indifference [sic] on the part of its friends – And but for the fact that the western field had not been left to occupancy of the Western Agent

Your Committee believe that the experience of past years should remove both prejudice, fear and indifference;

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And that our brethren over the West generally interested with us, will now be prepared to give the Branch an undivided support, and we think also, that new as is our locality, and poor as are any people the Branch Agent ought to have the advantage, in future, of selling books at our Western Conferences and to our brethren.

By the location of the Branch in some place where it should be central and acceptable alike to all portions of the west and where it might be recommended by its friends and supporters, your Committee are lead [sic] to believe it would derive many advantages which it does not now enjoy. Some of the brethren at Leoni Michigan, the seat of our College and Theological Institute, and where we have a strong Church, have been negotiating with the Agent in relation to its removal to that place; and should satisfactory arrangements be made, it will undoubtedly be to the interests of the Concern.

The proposition of the Agent, to raise by donations the sum of \$3,000 to facilitate its publications, Your Committee most heartily approve, but doubting whether this sum will be sufficient, they have unanimously agreed to recommend that it be extended to \$5,000. The Committee report the following Resolutions for the action of the Conference, to carry out the recommendations herein contained

1<sup>st</sup>

Resolved, That we will unitedly and heartily support the Branch, and carry into full effect the design of the General Conference in creating it

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2<sup>nd</sup>

Resolved That we approve of the plan of the Agent, to raise by donations, \$3,000 as a publishing fund \$1,200 of which is already subscribed and we pledge our united influence and efforts in favor of this movement.

3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved That, we recommend the Agent to increase the sum to \$5,000 believing the sum fixed by him too small to supply the wants of the Concern.

4<sup>th</sup> Resolved That we regard the continued publication of "The Christian Statesman" as of vital importance to the Branch Book Concern of essential importance to our Western Conferences and Churches, and the great cause of reform in which we are engaged; and therefore pledge ourselves to rally in an effort to increase its subscription list, and place it on a basis that shall make its existence, permanent and abiding

5<sup>th</sup> Resolved That the interests of the Branch require that the concern be removed to some point further west and as the brethren at Leoni, Michigan, have applied to have it removed to that place, we recommend the favorable consideration of their application, to the Book Committee, and also to the next General Conference.

6<sup>th</sup> Resolved That the roll of the Conference be called by the Secretary, and each member be called upon to give the number of Subscribers to the Christian Statesman, he will be responsible for in the next year.

7<sup>th</sup> Resolved, That this Conference refer the above Resolutions, to the other Western Conferences, and fraternally and affectionately as their Co-operation [sic].

A Crooks}

Geo. Bainum}

B Tressonrider} Committee

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#### Report No 7

Report of Committee appointed to inquire as to the connection of certain members of our churches in North Carolina [sic] with Slavery:

Your Committee have conferred with Bro. Wilson, and have ascertained from him the following facts;

About two years ago a man named William Dawson applied for admission into the Wesleyan Methodist church in Caraway – North Carolina: He had formerly belonged to the M. E. Church – South – but brought no certificate from that Church – About the time of his application, Bro. Wilson ascertained that he was in some way connected with Slavery or had some interest in Slave property, and conversed with him on the subject.

Several years previous to the time of these conversations, the Father of Mr. Dawson's wife, at his death, willed to Mrs. Dawson, two female slaves, -- A Mother and her daughter. Bro. Wilson is of opinion, though not certainly informed, that they are willed to the heirs of Mrs. Dawson, they are therefore [insert: by law] the property of her children – Mr. Dawson and wife have an interest in them only during the lifetime of Mrs. Dawson, the same as in case of real estate similarly entailed In view of Mr Dawsons connection with Slavery, he has been retained only as a probationer. He would otherwise have been received, as nothing else appears against his moral character.

The Second case is that of Solomon J. Linthicum and wife, both of whom for four or five years past, members of the

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Wesleyan M. Church in Caraway, N. C.

Mrs. Linthicum's Father, before his death some six or seven years ago, willed his entire property, including three or four slaves to his widow during her life time [sic], and directed that, at her death, all said property should be sold by executors, and the proceeds divided among the children, some five or six in number.

His widow died about one year ago and the executors, have disposed of the estate as directed by the will, but so far as known, the proceeds have not yet been distributed among the heirs.

Bro Wilson has conversed with Bro Linthicum on the subject. Bro Linthicum has labored with the other heirs of the estate to effect the emancipation of the slaves, but has not been successful, He expresses himself opposed to receiving any portion of the money coming from the sale of Slaves. His wife; however, seems disposed to receive it as she looks at the subject differently.

If Bro L and wife refuse to receive the money it will be placed in the County Treasury and remain there for seven years and then be appropriated under the direction of the Court, to public uses.

No action has been had by the Church.

Your Committee would recommend the following as action suitable to be taken by the Conference in the premises.

Resolved That, in the case of William Dawson, we recommend, that the Church with which he is connected require of him to render, to the Slaves under his oversight, what in the judgment of the Church shall be, a just and equal compensation for their services.

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And in case of his refusal so to do, to discontinue him from all connection with the Church.

Resolved, That, in the case of Bro Linthicum and wife, we recommend that they refuse [insert: to receive] the money which shall accrue from the sale of slaves, unless they can appropriate it to procure the emancipation of the slaves of said estate or some part of them or some other persons in bondage, and in case they or either of them shall refuse act contrary to this recommendation, they or the party offending, be excluded from the Church.

All of which is respectfully submitted

R. McCune}

D. Phifer}

S D Gibson} Com.

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#### Report No 8

##### On Pastoral relations

Circuits

Plymouth

Woodsfield

Zanesville

Deersville

Names

H Webster J McPeak

H Webster

E Thompson

A R Brooks

Licking  
Deleware  
Mt Vernon  
Washington  
Huntington  
Granger  
Norwalk  
Sandusky City  
Strongsville  
Carlisle  
Leesville  
Guilford N. C.  
Marietta Mission  
Hocking

G W Bainum  
A Crooks  
to be supplied  
L R Royce  
A W Sanders  
W Sewell  
to be supplied  
E Smith  
W B Moody  
to be supplied  
to be supplied  
D Wilson J Evans  
S D Jones  
James Spear

Conference Missionary's [sic]  
Book Agent and  
Editor of Christian Statesman  
Assistant Ed

A N Hamlin Wm McConnell and  
E Smith  
R McCune

Reserve List

Wm Smith

Left without appointment at their own request

R Horton B Tressonrider and D L Travis

A N Hamlin  
Prest.

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## Report No. 9

### On Reforms

Your Committee on Reforms, having had the various subjects connected therewith, under consideration, submit the following report

### On Slavery

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved, That, if it is I wrong to extort labor without reward – to inflict the greatest punishment without crimes, to doom the intellect to perpetual darkness – annihilate the marriage institution – rudely sever all ties of affection – render impossible those duties these ties were designed to make delightful – exile all that is dear to the human heart – poison the foundations of pleasure, intellectual social and spiritual – turn aside [insert: from] the immortal spirit, the light which guides to God – subvert the divine government, by making obedience to the divine Law, impracticable – And to uncreate man, made in the image of his Creator to make place for a thing: If these things are wrong, then is American Slavery, rightly denominated, the “Sum of all Villainies.”

2<sup>nd</sup> If Slavery is a sin, and one of vast magnitude, then it is the bounden duty of all, but especially of Christians, in their individual and associated capacity to labor not for its limitation only, but for it's [sic] complete and speedy overthrow

3<sup>rd</sup> That, all professed Christians and Churches, which do not thus behave; but

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More especially those which defend slavery as a Bible institution, or practically sanction it as such, by receiving Slave holders tot heir communion, are in this respect, an evil, and not a good, as they deepen and perpetuate the darkness which rests upon the hearts and hopes of the Slave.

4<sup>th</sup> That as a Conference, and as individual, not because Slavery is aggressive, but because it is essentially and eternally wrong; renewedly pledge ourselves to each other and to God, that we will politically, religiously and unceasingly labor for its overthrow

#### Intemperance

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved That Intemperance is opposed to, and destruction of, whatever things are honest, pure and of good report, that it has cast down many wounded, yea! Many strong – that, like a living flood has swept over this land, and has brought unmixed misery, unrelenting poverty, and degrading ignorance to man, in every relation of life

2<sup>nd</sup> That from experience, mans best Teacher, we have learned that nothing short of the most stringent legal enactments will effectually remedy this great Evil.

3<sup>rd</sup> That our entire influence shall be used for it's [sic] overthrow, by the application of this – essential remedy.

#### Covetousness

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved That Covetousness is one of the great sins of the age, and of the Church – that its ponderous chain is at this time upon the Angel of the Gospel, while its poisonous dart pierces the Church, which is Christ's body, with many sorrow's [sic]

2<sup>nd</sup> That it is the imperative duties of Ministers, as did Christ, faithfully to warn their hearers to ...[note: unreadable word]

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Take heed and beware of Covetousness.

#### War

Resolved That the Gospel of Christ in a Gospel of peace – the Kingdom of Christ, a Kingdom of peace, and that his name shall be called the "Prince of peace" and therefore, we most fully endorse the sentiment of our excellent Discipline Viz! That War in all its forms, and those customs which tend to foster the wr spirit are inconsistent with the benevolent designs of the Christian religion.

#### On Secret Societies

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved That, Secret Societies come of evil, had their origin in the day and Land of darkness – should be classed with works of darkness, with which, Christians as children of the Light, are commanded to have no fellowship;

2<sup>nd</sup> That we witness with unmingled pain, the present great increase of such societies; and as a Conference pledge ourselves to firmly maintain the position of our Discipline, and on no account tolerate our Ministers or Members in joining “Secret Oath Bound Societies” or in holding fellowship with them.”

A Crooks}

S Blanchard} Com.

G W Bainum  
Secretary