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MINUTES

OF THE

❖ LITTLE ❖ ROCK ❖ CONFERENCE ❖

EIGHTH SESSION.

PINE BLUFF, ARK.

❖ 1886 ❖

MRS B. GANS,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

LEADER OF HANDSOME AND STYLISH GOODS FOR LADIES' WEAR

ALL MAIL ORDERS FILLED PROMPTLY.

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Opposite Post Office,

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

PINE BLUFF, ARK., FEB. 11-15, 1886.

LITTLE ROCK:
GAZETTE PRINTING COMPANY.
1886.

OFFICERS OF CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT.

BISHOP THOMAS BOWMAN, D. D., LL.D.

SECRETARY.

W. O. EMORY.

W. H. HIGGINS, ASSISTANT.

STATISTICAL SECRETARY.

A. J. PHILLIPS.

G. N. JOHNSON, ASSISTANT.

CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

H. R. PINCKNEY.

G. W. BABER.

FOSTER WALLACE.

CONFERENCE TREASURER.

W. H. CRAWFORD.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE.

CONFERENCE ROLL.

H. H. McAllester,	Edward Spencer,	W. H. Crawford,
J. G. Thompson,	A. J. Phillips,	Elza Roberts,
W. R. R. Duncan,	M. Lochman,	G. W. Taylor,
U. S. Kitchens,	Foster Wallace,	W. S. Lankford,
O. H. Smith,	W. O. Emory,	Seth Neal,
A. L. Richardson,	J. D. Johnson,	H. C. Dunlap,
Thos. Mason,	G. B. Donnelly,	G. W. Baber,
W. M. Fuller,	A. Harderman,	G. N. Johnson,
W. H. Higgins.		

PROBATIONERS SECOND YEAR.

J. R. Frazier,	C. C. Riley,	H. R. Pinckney,
Albert Tate.		

PROBATIONERS FIRST YEAR.

J. W. Jackson,	Isaiah Williams,	Allen Akrage,
T. H. Hanna,	J. Limons,	S. Stokes,
Henry McDonald,	Henry Moore,	J. E. Toombs,
H. P. Coulter,	Wm. Curry,	Josiah Crawley,
S. B. Witherspoon.		

PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE SESSION.

WEDNESDAY.

Seven-thirty o'clock p. m., Sunday School Union Anniversary. Addresses by Prof. H. R. Pinckney, O. H. Smith and W. O. Emory.

THURSDAY.

Seven-thirty p. m., Missionary and Church Extension Anniversaries. Addresses by Rev. T. B. Ford and Rev. Dr. Spencer.

FRIDAY.

Educational and Freedman's Aid Anniversaries. Addresses by Prof. Thomas Mason and Miss E. H. McIntosh.

SATURDAY.

Seven-thirty p. m., Conference Temperance Meeting. Addresses by Dr. M. W. Taylor and W. O. Emory.

SUNDAY.

Nine o'clock a. m., Love Feast, led by M. Lockman.
Eleven o'clock a. m., Sermon by Bishop Bowman, followed by the Ordination of Deacons.

Three-thirty p. m., Sermon by Dr. Taylor, followed by the Ordination of Elders.

Seven-thirty o'clock a. m., Sermon by Rev. W. H. Crawford.

JOURNAL OF THE SESSION.

FIRST DAY.

The Little Rock Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church began its Eighth Annual Session in the St. James Chapel, in Pine Bluff, Ark., at 9 a. m., Thursday, Feb. 11, 1886.

Rev. Bishop Thomas Bowman being unavoidably detained at Memphis, Tenn., by telegram requested Rev. O. H. Smith, of the Little Rock district, to organize the conference. Devotional exercises opened by the reading of a portion of the third chapter of St. John by J. G. Thompson. W. R. R. Duncan announced the first hymn, after which prayer was offered by W. H. Crawford, who invoked the Divine Presence upon the deliberations of the Conference. Dr. Spencer, after the singing of another hymn, led the Conference in a fervent prayer. The roll of the Conference was called by Thomas Mason, Secretary of the last Conference, and seventeen members and three probationers answered to their names.

W. O. Emory was elected Secretary, and W. H. Higgins, Assistant Secretary.

A. J. Phillips was elected Statistical Secretary and G. N. Johnson assistant.

The following standing committees were elected:

On Public Worship—Pastor and Presiding Elder.

On Church Extension—W. S. Lankford, E. Roberts and G. W. Gill.

On Freedman's Aid—W. O. Emory, H. C. Dunlap and G. W. Baber.

On Missions—The Presiding Elders.

On Bible Cause—W. H. Morris, Foster Wallace and E. D. Spencer.

On Sunday Schools and Tracts—Seth Neal, U. S. Kitchens and W. M. Fuller.

On Books and Periodicals—H. R. Pinckney, W. H. Crawford and E. D. Spencer.

On Publication of the Minutes—The Secretaries.

On Temperance—Thomas Mason, E. Roberts and J. G. Thompson.

On Auditing Presiding Elders' Accounts—Thomas Mason, G. W. Gill and W. H. Crawford.

On State of the Church—W. S. Lankford, J. D. Johnson and J. F. Thompson.

On New York Book Accounts—J. D. Johnson.

On Local Orders—The Presiding Elders.

Conference Treasurer—W. H. Crawford.

On motion the bar of the Conference was fixed at two seats from the altar.

Conference Stewards—H. R. Pinckney, Foster Wallace and G. W. Baber.

On Memoirs—Thomas Mason, W. O. Emory and W. S. Lankford.

On motion the hours for meeting and adjourning were fixed at 9 a. m. and 12:30 p. m.

Rev. Dr. Spencer, who came representing the Church Extension Society, was introduced and spoke to the Conference of the great work of the society, and of the importance of taking the collections, after which the Conference adjourned with the benediction by Dr. Spencer.

SECOND DAY.

Conference convened Feb. 12, 1886, at 9 o'clock a. m., Bishop Bowman presiding. Devotional services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Crawford, after which the Secretary read the journal of previous session, and it was approved.

Brother Pye, of the Western Book Concern, and Rev. T. B. Ford, of the Arkansas Conference, were introduced.

A communication from the book agents, on the Episcopal Fund, was presented by the Bishop and referred to the Presiding Elders, who were authorized to apportion the amount asked, (\$35), to the various charges of the Conference.

A communication from the Educational Society was read by the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Education.

A draft from the Chartered Fund was presented by the Bishop, and he was authorized to sign the same; also a draft from the Book Concern of \$47, dividend arising from sale of books, was presented and the Bishop authorized to sign the same.

The twentieth question was called: "*Was the character of each preacher examined?*"

Rev. O. H. Smith, Presiding Elder of Little Rock District, was called, his character passed, and he reported his district, after which the characters of the following Elders were passed, viz: G. N. Johnson, missionary collection \$2; W. O. Emory, missionary collection \$12; W. S. Langford, missionary collection \$20, and Thomas Mason.

Rev. G. B. Donnelly, Presiding Elder of Pine Bluff District, was called, his character passed and he reported his district.

B. J. Donnell was called and he was announced as transferred to the Mississippi Conference.

The names of the following Elders of that district were called, viz: G. W. Baber, missionary collection \$7.50; J. G. Thompson and G. W. Gill, missionary collection \$1.35, and their characters passed.

Rev. W. R. R. Duncan, Presiding Elder of Van Buren District, was called, his character passed, and he reported his district, after which announcements were made and the Conference adjourned with benediction by Bishop Bowman.

THIRD DAY.

Conference was called to order by Bishop Bowman at 9 o'clock a. m., Feb. 13, 1886. Devotional services were conducted by J. G. Thompson, after which the journal of the previous session was read and approved.

The twentieth question was resumed, and the names of the following Elders were called, viz: G. W. Taylor, missionary collection \$6; A. J. Phillips, missionary collection \$13; W. H. Higgins, missionary collection \$10; E. Roberts, missionary collection \$10; W. H. Crawford, missionary collection \$17, and their characters passed.

The fourth question was called: "*Who are discontinued?*"

S. J. Brown and Osborn Wheeler were discontinued without their request. Draydon Gamble and C. G. Brooks were discontinued at their own request.

The thirteenth question was called: "*Who are the traveling deacons of the second class?*"

Seth Neal was called, being absent was continued in the second class of deacons; also H. H. McAllester and Beriah M. Cain. A. L. Richardson, Foster Wallace, U. S. Kitchens and M. Lockman were called, and the committee reported their examination and they were elected to Elder's orders.

Rev. John Carr, of the M. E. Church, South, M. W. Taylor, D. D., of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, and Mr. Jacko, of the Arkansas Mansion, were introduced.

The twelfth question was taken up: "*Who are the traveling deacons of the first class?*"

H. C. Dunlap, Edward Spencer and Peter Humphrey were continued in the first class of deacons.

Edward Pinkett was located at his own request. J. D. Johnson examined and passed to the second class of deacons.

The third question was taken up: "*Who remain on trial?*"

Albert Tate, J. R. Frazier and H. R. Pinckney were examined and passed to second year. Albert Tate was elected to deacon's orders under the missionary rule. C. C. Riley was continued on trial in first year's course of study.

The fifth question was called: "*Who are admitted into full connection?*"

W. H. Morris, missionary collection \$5. A. Harderman and W. M. Fuller were admitted into full connection, and W. H. Morris was elected to deacon's orders, the other two being deacons.

The sixteenth question was called: "*What local deacons have been elected elders?*"

None.

The tenth question was taken up: "*What local preachers have been elected deacons?*"

Albert L. Tate and James E. Toombs.

Having arrived at the time of adjournment the time was extended, and

The second question was taken up: "*Who are admitted on trial?*"

The following brethren were represented by their Presiding Elders and admitted on trial, viz: J. W. Jackson, Isaiah Williams, Allen Akrag, T. H. Hanna, J. Limons, S. Stokes, H. McDonald, H. Moore, J. E. Toombs, H. P. Coulter, William Curry, Josiah Crawley and S. B. Witherspoon.

On motion the credentials of Wm. Curry from the A. M. E. Church and T. H. Hanna from the A. M. E. Zion Church were recognized.

On motion Simon Linning's parchments were restored.

On motion a committee was appointed to try the case of Robert Boon, consisting of G. N. Johnson, W. H. Higgins, G. W. Baber, A. J. Phillips, W. S. Lankford, W. H. Crawford, G. W. Taylor, G. W. Gill, E. Roberts, J. G. Thompson, chairman, and Thomas Mason, secretary. H. R. Pinckney was elected to represent the Conference at the trial.

On motion Dr. Taylor, editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, was invited to speak to the Conference, which he did in an able manner, and conclusively demonstrated the fact that the Southwestern is doing, and can do more for the negroes of our church than any other church paper.

Rev. Lewis Johnston, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, was introduced.

After which announcements were made, and the conference adjourned with the benediction by Dr. Taylor, until Monday morning.

FOURTH DAY.

Conference met at 9 o'clock a. m., Feb. 15, 1886, Bishop Bowman presiding. Devotional services were conducted by O. H. Smith, after which the journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The Committee of Trial in the case of Robert Boon made their report, which was adopted, and he was expelled from the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The following, complimentary to Bishop Bowman, was adopted by a rising vote.

WHEREAS, We have been favored with the presence and wisdom of our beloved Senior Bishop, Rev. Thos. Bowman, D. D., as president of our conference. And

WHEREAS, We can fully appreciate such wisdom, derived from ripe scholarship and large experience; therefore,

Resolved, That he has our prayers and best wishes for success in the future, and that the Church may be favored with his wise counsels for years to come.

Resolved, That as the organizer of our work in this State, we will ever welcome him in our midst as a Father in God and faithful Bishop of the Church.

W. S. LANKFORD.

Resolutions complimentary to Dr. Marshall W. Taylor and Bro. Pye were adopted.

Thirty-third question was called: "*Where shall the next Conference be held?*"

Fayetteville and Hot Springs were nominated, and Fayetteville was elected.

On motion, G. W. Gill was located at his own request.

Dr. W. H. Vernor, of the American Bible Society, was introduced and spoke to the Conference in the interest of that Society, and took a collection of \$2.35 from the brethren present.

Rev. J. M. Collins, of the A. M. E. Church, was introduced.

A resolution was adopted thanking Bishop Mallalieu for books donated by him for the preachers of the Conference.

The following Committees made their reports, and they were adopted. On Periodicals, Church Extension, State of Church, Bible Cause, Auditing Presiding Elders' Accounts, and Temperance. [See reports.]

The Committee on Memoirs presented the following, which was adopted:

MEMOIRS.

Sister Nancy Crawford, consort of Rev. W. H. Crawford, departed this life, May 22, 1885, at Van Buren, Ark. Sister Crawford was an acceptable member of the M. E. Church for over nineteen years, seventeen years having been spent in the itinerant work. As an affectionate wife, a loving mother and

exemplary Christian she lived a useful life, and experienced a victorious death. Peace to her ashes.

W. O. EMORY,
T. MASON,
W. S. LANKFORD.

The Committee on Freedmen's Aid reported, and Prof. Mason and others spoke in the interest of the Society and of Philander Smith College.

On motion, the Conference Stewards were ordered to pay an account of Rev. G. W. Sams, at the St. Louis Book Concern, of \$46.38.

The Statistical Secretaries presented their report, which was adopted. While they were rendering it in detail, the hour for adjournment was reached. By motion, the time was extended in order to finish the reading of it.

The usual announcements having been made, the Conference adjourned to meet at 7:30 p. m.

Benediction by Bro. Phillips.

EVENING SESSION.

Conference was called to order by Bishop Bowman, at 7:30 o'clock p. m. Religious services were conducted by J. W. Jackson. The journal of the previous session was read and approved.

The Conference Stewards made their report and it was adopted.

The Conference Treasurer made his report and it was adopted.

The following was offered to the memory of Rev. G. W. Sams, by Thos. Mason, W. S. Lankford and W. O. Emory:

MEMOIR.

Rev. G. W. SAMS was born in 1847, on the Arkansas river, below Little Rock, and died in Little Rock, Jan. 6th, 1886.

The death of Brother Sams marks an epoch in the history of the Little Rock Conference. He was, from its organization after the separation from the Arkansas Conference, one of our leading members, and was highly esteemed for the interest and zeal manifested in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him. The history of Brother Sams is filled with interesting incidents; and affords many examples, that are worthy the imitation of our young men, who are struggling to fit themselves for future usefulness. He was converted to God, and joined the M. E. Church in 1872. He was received on trial in the Arkansas Conference in 1874, at Batesville, Ark., where he lived, and he was assigned to Center Point Circuit, and served that people successfully for two years, after which he was sent to Wesley Chapel, Little Rock, in 1876. From there he went to Jacksonport station, which charge he filled during 1877 and 1878; and in 1879 he traveled the Sweet Home Circuit. In 1880 he filled the pastorate at Pine Bluff; and in 1881 he was appointed to the Presiding Eldership of the Hot Springs District, which position he filled for four years with credit to himself and his conference. In the year 1884, he represented his Conference in the General Conference. In which position he ably and faithfully acted. In consequence of failing health, although given mission work near his home, he was obliged, finally, to abandon the work. Like the watchman, he could not stand high on Zion's wall, "Pointing out the path to heaven, offering life and peace to all;" but as faithful Aaron, he was always ready to hold up the prophet's hands.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

W. O. EMORY,
THOMAS MASON,
W. S. LANKFORD,

Committee.

The following was presented by the Secretary and adopted:

Resolved, That each preacher be required to take a Conference Claimant Collection of \$2 per quarter and forward the same to Mrs. G. W. Sams, at Little Rock.

The following was presented by O. H. Smith and was adopted:

Resolved, That preachers who have receipts for money paid to any of our benevolence be required to send the same to the Secretary within two weeks, so that the minutes may be correct, and give the Conference due credit for all that it has done.

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The members of the Little Rock Conference have been so kindly and generously entertained by the pastor and citizens of Pine Bluff, during the present session, therefore,

Resolved, That thanks are due and hereby tendered to all who have entertained and so generously provided for the members of the Conference, and that in taking leave of the city for our different fields of labor we shall carry with us grateful remembrances of the kindness shown, and will pray for their peace, prosperity and happiness.

Resolved, That we tender thanks to the gentlemanly railroad officials, who have rendered efficient aid by securing to the members and visitors of the Conference reduced rates over the several railways.

The Committee on Missions made their report, which was adopted.

The following was offered by the Secretary and adopted.

Resolved, That each preacher be required to pay one dollar for the publication of the minutes, and that the Presiding Elders collect the same and forward it to the Secretary as soon as possible.

A resolution appointing a committee of visitors to Philander Smith College was presented by O. H. Smith and adopted.

The following, complimentary to the Secretaries, was presented by H. R. Pinckney and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be tendered the Secretaries for the careful, and intelligent manner, in which they have noted the proceedings of the Conference.

The journal was read and approved.

Dr. Taylor then announced the 816th hymn, and offered a most pathetic prayer.

Bishop Bowman in a calm and dignified manner commenced his closing remarks to the Conference, which abounded in wise suggestions and advice to the brethren. The most earnest heed was given to what he said. And his fatherly admonition will be long remembered as coming from one whose friendship and esteem we gratefully acknowledge.

The appointments having been read, the Conference adjourned with the benediction by Dr. Taylor.

DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

Question 1. Who are received by transfer and from what Conference?

None.

Question 2. Who are admitted on trial?

James W. Jackson, Isaiah Williams, Allen Akrag, T. H. Hanna, James Limons, S. Stokes, Henry McDonald, Henry Moore, James E. Toombs, Henry P. Colter, William Curry, Josiah Crawley, S. B. Witherspoon.

Question 3. Who remain on trial?

John R. Frazier, Albert L. Tate, Henry R. Pinckney, Christopher C. Riley.

Question 4. Who are discontinued?

S. J. Brown, Osborne Wheeler, Drayton Gamble, Charles C. Brooks.

Question 5. Who are admitted into full connection?

William H. Morris, William M. Fuller and Alex. Hardeman.

Question 6. Who are readmitted?

None.

Question 7. Who are received on credentials from other churches?

None.

Question 8. What traveling preachers have been elected Deacons?

William H. Morris.

Question 9. What traveling preachers have been ordained Deacons?

William H. Morris.

Question 10. What local preachers have been elected Deacons?

Albert L. Tate and James E. Toombs.

Question 11. What local preachers have been ordained Deacons?

Albert L. Tate and James E. Toombs.

Question 12. Who are the traveling Deacons of the first class?

H. C. Dunlap, Edward Spencer, Peter Humphrey, Wm. H. Morris, Wm. M. Fuller, Alex. Hardeman.

Question 13. Who are the traveling Deacons of the second class?

Seth Neal, H. H. McAllister and J. D. Johnson.

Question 14. What traveling Deacons have been elected Elders?

Meshac Lockman, Alfred L. Richardson, Foster Wallace, Ulysses S. Kitchens.

Question 15. What traveling Deacons have been ordained Elders?

Meshac Lockman, Alfred L. Richardson, Foster Wallace, Ulysses S. Kitchens.

Question 16. What local Deacons have been elected Elders?

None.

Question 17. What local Deacons have been ordained Elders?

None.

Question 18. Who are the supernumerary preachers?

Peter Humphrey.

Question 19. Who are the superannuated preachers?

None.

Question 20. Was the character of each preacher examined?

This was strictly done as the name of each preacher was called in open Conference.

Question 21. Have any died?

G. W. Sams.

Question 22. Have any been transferred, and to what Conference?

Beriah McCann to the St. Louis Conference, and B. J. Donnell to the Mississippi Conference.

Question 23. Have any withdrawn?
None.

Question 24. Have any been located at their own request?
Edward H. Pinkett and G. W. Gill.

Question 25. Have any been located?
None.

Question 26. Have any been permitted to withdraw under charges?
None.

Question 27. Have any been expelled?
None.

Question 28. Who are selected for triers of appeals?
Thos. Mason, W. S. Lankford, W. R. R. Duncan, W. O. Emory, O. H. Smith, A. J. Phillips, G. B. Donnelly.

Question 29. What is the statistical report for this Conference year?
See statistical tables.

Question 30. What are the claims on the Conference Fund?
\$133.25.

Question 31. What has been received on these claims, and how have they been applied?
\$133.25, which has been applied to G. W. Sams and his widow, by order of the Conference.

Question 32. Where are the preachers stationed?

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT—O. H. SMITH, P. E.
Bledsoe—Seth Neal.
Helena—W. H. Morris.
Hot Springs—W. O. Emory.
Little Rock S. E. Mission—C. C. Riley.
Carlisle—J. W. Jackson.
Forrest City—A. L. Richardson.
Little Rock—W. H. Crawford.
Little Rock S. W. Mission—J. D. Johnson.

Lonoke—J. G. Thompson.

Marvel—A. L. Tate.

Saulsburg and Brinkley—

J. R. Frazier.

Marianna—J. E. Toombs.

Palestine—to be supplied.

Sweet Home—H. C. Dunlap.

Thomas Mason, President of Philander Smith College, member of Wesley Chapel Quarterly Conference.

PINE BLUFF DISTRICT—G. B. DONNELLY, P. E.

Center Point—to be supplied.

Fulton and Baber Chapel—

H. P. Coulter

Gurdon—W. King.

Lockesburg—W. M. Fuller.

New Edinburg—A. Harderman.

Pine Bluff—G. N. Johnson.

Garland City—supplied by G. W. Thompson.

Lewisville—G. W. Baber.

Magnolia—to be supplied.

Peytonville—supplied by Wm. Lee.

Pine Bluff Ct.—supplied by H. Murphy.

Texarkana, 1st Church—W. H. Higgins.

Texarkana, 2d Church—W. H. Higgins.

Texarkana Circuit—J. C. Crowley.

Washington—Wm. Curry.
Watson—S. B. Witherspoon.

VAN BUREN DISTRICT—W. R. R. DUNCAN, P. E.

Alma—To be supplied.

Atkins—I. Williams.

Argenta Mission—J. Limons.

Batesville—M. Lockman.

Batesville Ct—H. McDonald

Beebe and Searcy—T. H. Hanna.

Cloverland Ct—Henry Moore.

Conway—A. Akridge.

Fayetteville—E. Roberts.

Fayetteville Ct—S. Stokes.

Fort Smith—A. J. Phillips.

Little Rock and Argenta—

Morrilton—U. S. Kitchens.

G. W. Taylor.

Newport and Jacksonport—F. Wallace.

Van Buren—W. S. Lankford.

H. H. McAllister and Edward Spencer left without appointments to go to school.

Beriah McCain transferred to St. Louis and B. J. Donnell transferred to the Mississippi Conference.

Question 33. Where shall the next Conference be held?
Fayetteville, Arkansas.

DEACONS.

This certifies that I have this day ordained William H. Morris, Albert L. Tate and James E. Toombs, Deacons in the Church of God.

Done at Pine Bluff, Ark., Feb. 14, 1886.

THOS. BOWMAN.

ELDERS.

This certifies that, assisted by several Elders, I have this day ordained Meshac Lockman, Alfred L. Richardson, Foster Wallace and Ulysses S. Kitchens, Elders in the Church of God.

Done at Pine Bluff, Ark., Feb. 14, 1886.

THOS. BOWMAN.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Missionary Sermon—J. G. Thompson. Alternate—E. Roberts.

Conference Sermon—T. Mason. Alternate—J. D. Johnson.

COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION.

First Year—A. L. Richardson and J. G. Thompson.

Second Year—J. D. Johnson and E. Roberts.

Third Year—W. H. Higgins and G. N. Johnson.

Fourth Year—W. S. Lankford and T. Mason.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

Thomas Mason, President.

A. L. Richmond, Vice-President.

C. C. Riley, Secretary,

Wm. LaPorte, Treasurer.

Ely Dye,

B. Crumpton,

H. C. Dunlap,

J. H. Stephens,

J. D. Johnson,

} Managers.

TRIERS OF APPEALS.

T. Mason,

W. O. Emory,

G. B. Donnelly.

W. S. Lankford,

O. H. Smith,

W. R. R. Duncan,

A. J. Phillips,

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

To Our Venerable Senior Bishop and Conference:

Your committee on the State of the Church, after a careful investigation of this subject, would most respectfully present the following:

I. Never, in the history of Methodism, have the prospects of our dear old Mother Church been brighter or more hopeful than at present.

The Methodist Church of today is working as no church has ever worked. Through her various missionary enterprises, the Gospel is being preached in all the world. Through her Church Extension Society the world is being dotted with churches, and by means of her educational enterprises, ignorance is disappearing like dew before the morning sun. The Freedmen's Aid Society, by planting schools and colleges in all the principal centers of the South, is meeting a pressing emergency that could be met in no other way, and is lifting up a long neglected people, by preparing them for usefulness on

but its two quarterly reports showed earnestness and zeal in its officers and members.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE W. H. M. S.—CONFERENCE YEAR, FEBRUARY, 1885, TO FEBRUARY, 1886.

	Annual Members.	Dues Remitted.
Wesley Chapel Auxiliary	23	\$16 00
Young People's Auxiliary	20	3 50
Saulsburg Auxiliary	24	2 60
Total	67	\$22 10

Respectfully Submitted,

LOTTIE E. STEPHENS, *Conference Secretary.*

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., March 1, 1886.
Shall the harvest be!!!

The Lexington Conference last year raised for benevolent purposes, \$657.85. The Little Rock Conference raised \$325.

Taking the Lexington, as an average Conference, and it gives us an approximate of about \$10,000 annually, raised for benevolent purposes by the entire colored membership of the

Question 33. Where shall the next Conference be held?
Fayetteville, Arkansas.

DEACONS.

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THOS. BOWMAN.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Missionary Sermon—J. G. Thompson. Alternate—E. Roberts.

Conference Sermon—T. Mason. Alternate—J. D. John-

COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION.

COMPLIMENTARY.

WHEREAS, The presence and thrilling addresses of Rev. Marshall W. Taylor, D. D., Editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, are additional evidences of the wisdom of the General Conference in electing him to this important trust; and,

WHEREAS, Our colored Editor has given abundant evidence of his ability to grapple with the problems of the age, and especially the *Negro problem*; therefore,

TRIERS OF APPEALS.

T. Mason,	W. S. Lankford,	W. R. R. Duncan,
W. O. Emory,	O. H. Smith,	A. J. Phillips,
G. B. Donnelly,		

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

To Our Venerable Senior Bishop and Conference:

Your committee on the State of the Church, after a careful investigation of this subject, would most respectfully present the following:

1. Never, in the history of Methodism, have the prospects of our dear old Mother Church been brighter or more hopeful than at present.

The Methodist Church of today is working as no church has ever worked. Through her various missionary enterprises, the Gospel is being preached in all the world. Through her Church Extension Society the world is being dotted with churches, and by means of her educational enterprises, ignorance is disappearing like dew before the morning sun. The Freedmen's Aid Society, by planting schools and colleges in all the principal centers of the South, is meeting a pressing emergency that could be met in no other way, and is lifting up a long neglected people, by preparing them for usefulness on earth and happiness in heaven.

2. God and our friends all over this broad land have "done great things for us, whereof we are glad." With homes, churches and schools, God expects the two hundred thousand colored members of the Mother Church to be "co-workers" with Him in the redemption of the millions who are groping their way in darkness and superstition. Dr. Rust says: "In seventy years there will be over 50,000,000 of negroes in the United States with the almost countless number in Africa and the isles of the sea. Brethren! brethren!! what shall the harvest be!!!"

The Lexington Conference last year raised for benevolent purposes, \$657.85. The Little Rock Conference raised \$325.

Taking the Lexington, as an average Conference, and it gives us an approximate of about \$10,000 annually, raised for benevolent purposes by the entire colored membership of the

church. We ought to raise that amount for missions alone! Two hundred thousand members at a penny per member, weekly, would give \$104,000 annually.

The children, too, must be educated to *save* and *give* their pennies as well.

With proper instruction and guidance the "little folks" will do half as much as the churches.

Brethren of the Little Rock Conference, this is no vain speculation. God and the millions in heathen lands demand a vigorous and earnest effort on our part.

Let us return to the apostolic rule of giving, and with the blessing of God do our part in the salvation of men and women of every tribe and nation. Respectfully, etc.,

W. S. LANKFORD, *Chairman*.

J. D. JOHNSON,

J. G. THOMPSON.

REPORT ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

To the Bishop and Conference:

Your committee on Church Extension, after a careful examination of the work that is being done by this branch of our church work, would most respectfully submit the following:

1. We are fully convinced that this department is doing a grand work generally, and is giving aid to all, whenever and wherever a spirit of willingness is manifested on the part of the people to help themselves.

We regret to say that, in some instances, our Conference as a whole, and some of our churches in particular, have done too little for the cause of church extension, which may be attributed to the stringency of the times on the one hand, and the want of proper encouragement and information on the part of our leaders, upon the other.

We recommend that our ministers and members be urged to earnest and increased efforts in presenting the claims of the

board in the manner prescribed by our book of discipline, and in this way secure to our needy people such aid as the society will be both willing and able to bestow.

2. We must teach our people to feel that they are no longer to be considered as "overgrown children," and that the time has fully come when we must do our part, as members of the great church of our choice, in pushing forward all the connectional interests, and sharing in all the blessings the church can bestow.

We must not expect to receive all and give none, since it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

Resolved, That all our pastors are requested to take their apportioned collection for church extension within the first, or at farthest within the second quarter of the year.

W. S. LANKFORD.

G. W. GILL.

E. ROBERTS.

PINE BLUFF, ARK., Feb. 13, 1886.

We, the committee appointed in the case of Robert Boon, after a careful investigation, recommend that he be expelled from the minutes and membership of the church, and that he be requested to surrender his parchments.

J. G. THOMPSON, *Chairman*.

THOMAS MASON, *Secretary*.

G. V. TAYLOR.

G. W. GILL.

E. ROBERTS.

W. H. HIGGINS.

W. H. CRAWFORD.

GEO. W. BABER.

G. N. JOHNSON.

H. J. PHILLIPS.

W. S. LANKFORD.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

We, your Committee, would respectfully render the following as our report:

Received from Book Concern, debit on account	- - -	\$47 00
From Chartered Fund	- - -	30 00
Amount received from sundry collections, and paid Rev. G. W. Sams	- - -	56 00
Settled old debt to Book Concern, on account Rev. G. W. Sams,	- - -	\$133 00
Balance paid to widow	- - -	46 00
Respectfully submitted,	- - -	86 62

H. R. PINCKNEY,
E. D. SPENCER,
G. W. BABER,
Committee.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

To the Bishop and Conference:

Your Committee on Temperance could do no better than reiterate the sentiments they expressed last Conference.

WHEREAS, Both science and human experience agree with Holy Scripture in condemning all alcoholic beverages as being neither useful nor safe, and

WHEREAS, The business of manufacturing and vending such liquors is also against the principles of morality, political economy and public welfare; therefore be it

Resolved, That we heartily approve of all lawful and christian efforts to save society from the manifold and greivous evils resulting from intemperance.

Resolved, That we regard voluntary total abstinence from all intoxicants as the true ground of personal temperance, and complete legal prohibition of traffic in alcoholic drinks, as the duty of civil government.

Resolved, That we affectionately urge our preachers and members against the buying, selling or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, signing petitions in favor of granting license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, becoming bondsmen for per-

sons engaged in such traffic, detrimental to the ultimate success of the temperance reform, the family, the church and the State.

Resolved, That we urge strict observance by members of our church to use every legitimate means in the family, and in Sunday-school to promote the cause of temperance, and to enforce temperance by both precept and example.

We are, fraternally, your committee,

E. ROBERTS.

THOS. MASON.

J. G. THOMPSON.

COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

We are glad to know for the most part that the good work of Christ and his Church has been carried on, and the interests of the people cared for by the efforts being put forth by the American Bible Society, in placing a copy of God's Word in the hands of many persons heretofore unsupplied, and in consequence of these efforts much good has been accomplished by this great cause, to the end that the time is not far distant when a copy of His precious work will be placed in every home throughout the world. Therefore,

Resolved, That we indorse the work and pray God's blessings on it, and urge our people to do more in the future than in the past for this great cause.

Resolved, That we, as ministers, take a collection in our several charges during the year for said cause.

WM. H. MORRIS,

T. WALLACE,

Committee.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due to Bishop W. F. Mallalieu, for furnishing for free use a full set of books, for the first three years' course of our Conference study.

Resolved, That the Presiding Elders be instructed to keep these, as far as possible, in the hands of those who need them most, and when they are not in use to see that they are deposited at Philander Smith College, in care of the President, to be kept sacred for its commendable purpose.

O. H. SMITH,
WM. H. MORRIS.

NON-RESIDENT COURSE OF STUDY.

Resolved, That as a Conference we commend the Faculty for the organization of the "non-resident course of study," and hope that soon we may have a complete theological course for our preachers.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to visit and report the condition of the same.

Committee—W. R. R. Duncan, G. N. Johnson, W. H. Crawford, W. O. Emory and E. Roberts.

O. H. SMITH.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

We, the committee appointed to audit the Presiding Elders' accounts, have carefully examined the same and find them correct.

T. MASON,
W. H. CRAWFORD.

FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

To the Bishop and Conference:

We, your Committee on Freedmen's Aid, would submit the following statement:

We recognize the Freedmen's Aid Society as one of the great agencies in the church by which our mental interest is advanced. The facilities offered through Freedmen's Aid Schools for education to our struggling young men and women are of inestimable value to us, because without such aid many

young people of our race, who have been educated, and are now successful workers in school and church, would otherwise have remained in ignorance. We would therefore urge upon our pastors the importance of increasing Freedmen's Aid collections, and in every possible way stimulate interest in the work of the Freedmen's Aid Society. We would further remark that the times in which we live are fraught with the greatest interest to the Christian and philanthropist in view of the fact that the world of mankind in the past has never evinced such a spirit of inquiry after truth as is now being manifested. In order to arrive at definite conclusions as to what truth is, we must educate, and thus develop a higher manhood in moulding and shaping character. We take pride in commending to the notice of this Conference Philander Smith College at Little Rock, our Conference institution, as worthy of your confidence, and also the recent establishment known as the Industrial Home, for the special training of the girls of our race, as worthy of encouragement.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

To the Bishop and Conference:

Your Committee on Periodicals would respectfully submit the following report:

That in the interest of the individuals, the family, society and the State, the church should encourage and sanction none but the best publications among the masses; that the distribution of tracts and periodicals everywhere is in the highest degree essential to the spreading of gospel truths, and to accomplish such a purpose we earnestly recommend this cause to the attention of our ministers as worthy of faithful presentation to the people, that the annual offering may be increased for this class of literature. We take occasion also to make special reference to the Southwestern, edited by Dr. Taylor, as a medium through which the race has been greatly benefited, and would especially commend this church organ as

RECAPITULATION BY DISTRICTS.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

RECAPITULATION.

	\$ 2413	\$ 1380	\$ 1088	\$259	\$208	\$ 6	\$ 2	\$ 34	\$ 25
Little Rock District.....	2836	1583	1760	336	232	8	8	80	37
Van Buren District.....	1853	1039	1014	173	128	2	1	8	...
Pine Bluff District.....									
Total.....	\$ 7102	\$ 4002	\$ 3862	\$758	\$568	\$ 16	\$ 11	\$122	\$ 62

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.																
NAMES OF CHARGES.	No. of Schools.	No. of Officers and Teachers.	No. of Scholars of all ages.	No. of Scholars under 15, except Infant Class.	No. of Scholars 15 years old and over.	No. of Scholars in Infant Class.	Average Attendance of Teachers and Scholars.	No. of Library Books.	Total Expenses of Schools this year.	Sunday School Advocates taken	Sunday School Classmates taken	No. of Conversions in Sunday School this year.	Scholars who are Church Members or Probationers.	Officers and Teachers who are Church Members or Probationers.	Sunday School Journals taken	
Center Point.	4	15	204	60	35	109	130	85	6							
Fulton Circuit.	2	12	120	20	8	9	3	12	22	10			12	80	6	
Garland City.	2	12	120	38	13	10	12	22	10							
Lewisville.	6	25	300	300	150	75	75	200	24	25			4	5	1	
Locksburg.	1	12	120	12	5	7	4	10	8				4	23		
Monticello.	2	12	120	12	5	7	4	10	8				4	23		
New Edinburg.	2	12	120	50	38	7	5	30	166				21	75		
Peytonville.													11	36	6	
Pine Bluff.	1	12	125	35	50	40	100	200	56				10	90	2	
Pine Bluff Circuit.																
Prescott.																
Red Fork.																
Texarkana, 1st Church.	1	4	20	6	14		18	75	5							
Texarkana, 2d Church.													5	6		
Texarkana Circuit.	3	8	137	50	45	32	75	75	2				7	15		
Washington.																
Total.	22	85	906	367	255	278	605	847	112				41	75	329	15

Little Rock District.....	13	86	610	241	171	103	352	617	49	200	41	69	162	26
Van Buren District.....	25	109	987	301	385	301	599	655	120	30	20	11	84	323	27
Pine Bluff District.....	22	85	906	367	255	278	605	847	112	41	75	329	15
Total	60	280	2503	909	811	682	1556	1272	281	30	220	93	228	814	68

		MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.									
NAME OF CHARGE.	NAME OF PASTOR.	PASTORS.			PRESIDING ELDERS		BISHOPS		CONF. CLAIMANTS.		
		Delicencies.	Receipts, including House Rent, Rental Value of Parsonages.	Claims, including House Rent, or Rental Value of Parsonages.	Appointed	Paid	Appointed	Paid	Appointed	Paid	
Bledsoe	Seth Neal	\$ 300	\$ 175	\$ 135	\$ 30	\$ 24	\$ 1	\$ 8	\$ 4		
Carlisle	J. W. Jackson	120	56	64	30	30	1	8	4		
Forrest City	G. N. Johnson		60		30	15					
Forrest City Circuit.	J. E. Toombs		55	380	30	17	1				
Helena.	W. H. Morris	450	587	53	40	42	1	8	13		
Hot Springs	W. O. Emory	640	328	322	35	2	2	8	8		
Little Rock.	W. S. Lankford.	650	328	114	22	1					
Lonoke.	Jonas Simpson	160	46								
Mariana.					28	15					
Marvel.	S. J. Brown										
Palestine.	A. L. Tate	93	73	20	19	19					
Saulsburg	J. R. Frazier										
Total		\$ 2413	\$ 1380	\$ 1088	\$ 259	\$ 208	\$ 6	\$ 2	\$ 34	\$ 25	

		\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 8	\$ 5
Alma.....	Foster Wallace.....	500	139	361	18	12	1	1	8	5
Argenta.....	H. C. Dunlap.....									
Batesville.....										
Beebe.....		96	114		20	19	1	1	8	
Conway.....	Allen Akridge.....	325	150	170	20	20	1	1	8	
Fayetteville Circuit.....	Henry Moore.....	400	400		40	40	1	1	8	6
Fayetteville Charge.....	H. J. Phillips.....	200	20	180	20	5			8	
Fort Smith.....	W. H. Crawford.....	450	190	260	40	40	1	1	8	1
Jacksonport.....	W. H. Higgins.....									
Little Rock Circuit.....		200	20	161	30				8	
Morrilton.....	N. S. Kitchen.....	105	20	198	35	20	1	1	8	
Russellville.....	N. S. Kitchen.....	350	120	230	45	32	1	1	8	13
Sweet Home.....	E. Roberts.....	510	350	160	40	31	1	1	8	6
Van Buren.....	W. H. Crawford.....									
Total.....		\$ 2836	\$ 1583	\$ 1760	\$ 326	\$ 232	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 80	

STATISTICS NO. III. LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE FOR 1886.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Names of Churches.	No. of Schools.	No. of Officers and Teachers.	No. of Scholars of all ages.	No. of Scholars 15 years old and over.	No. of Scholars under 15, except Infant Class.	No. of Scholars in Infant Class.	Average Attendance of Teachers and Scholars.	No. of Library Books.	Total Expenses of Schools this year.	Sunday School Advocates taken.	Sunday School Classmates taken.	Sunday School Journals taken.	Officers and Teachers who are Church Members or Probationers.	Scholars who are Church Members or Probationers.	No. of Conversions in Sunday School this year.
Bledsoe	3	12	120	25	95	4	65	8	6	1	1	1	9	35	6
Castile	2	14	66	34	28	4	36	45	6	1	1	1	12	15	7
Forest City	1	6	74	32	28	13	35	100	15	4	9	4	4	1	1
Forest City Circuit	1	4	30	15	8	7	20	100	6	1	1	1	4	15	1
Helena	1	2	45	20	15	5	66	50	6	1	1	1	4	15	1
Hot Springs	1	14	107	40	15	25	64	80	30	200	14	12	31	26	9
Little Rock	1	1	20	123	40	30	33	80	20	10	10	10	4	20	2
Lonoke	1	7	35	15	15	5	25	12	3	3	3	3	4	15	6
Maranna	2	3	70	45	15	10	40	30	26	11	11	11	4	20	2
Marvel	1	5	60	40	20	30	30	26	3	3	3	3	4	15	6
Palestine	2	3	70	45	15	10	40	30	26	11	11	11	4	20	2
Saulsbury	1	3	60	40	20	30	30	26	3	3	3	3	4	15	6
Little Rock Mission and Argenta	16	98	730	266	274	103	417	625	40	47	74	132	25	27	27

VAN BUREN DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE FOR 1886.

REFERENCE FOR 1886.															
Jacksonport & Newport Little Rock Circuit	4	15	110	45	35	30	75	275	35	10	10	58	4		
Morrilton	3	22	175	50	50	75	100	100	6	1	1	1	1		
Russellville	1	2	30	11	12	7	20	100	8	2	2	2	2		
Sweet Home	5	21	175	50	50	75	90	100	8	21	75	25	13		
Van Buren	1	11	80	30	20	30	30	50	44	20	15	11	40		
Argenta	3	72	30	30	30	12	66	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Batesville	3	12	100	20	60	20	75	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Beebe	1	10	30	15	45	30	60	110	15	4	9	4	1		
Conway	3	10	130	40	75	15	63	20	7	7	7	7	7		
Fayetteville Station	1	3	25	10	8	7	20	20	7	7	7	7	7		
Fayetteville Circuit	25	109	987	301	385	301	599	655	120	30	20	11	84	323	27
Fort Smith	1	3	25	10	8	7	20	20	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Total	25	109	987	301	385	301	599	655	120	30	20	11	84	323	27

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