The first session of the Spring Meeting was held in the convention room of the Hotel Stevens, Chicago, Illinois, at 2:00 P.M., Monday, April 10, 1944.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PRESENT:


OTHERS PRESENT:

Because of special matters that were to be considered, there were present also the local conference presidents in North America, the union treasurers and auditors, the presidents of senior and junior colleges, members of a committee on financial policies, colored representatives who were members of a large committee appointed to study the question of our colored work, also representatives of the publishing work who had been in attendance at a Publishing Convention, as well as a number of others present by special invitation.

"He Leadeth Me," was sung to open the meeting, and prayer was offered by W.K.Ising.

Elder J L McElhany read a number of extracts from Volume 8 of the Testimonies, on "The Power Promised," among which were the following:
God does not ask us to do in our strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts.

"With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them." Acts 4:33. Under their labors there were added to the church chosen men, who, receiving the word of life, consecrated their lives to the work of giving to others the hope that had filled their hearts with peace and joy.

"To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.

"Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away.

"So it may be now. Let Christians put away all dissension, and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the 'former rain,' and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant.

"The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the presentation of the truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give."

As we take up the work of this council, said Elder McElhany, as we consider the matters that are to come before us, let us make the things of first importance first in our thinking and in our praying. May we be led and guided by the Spirit of God.

DAILY PROGRAM:

The following Daily Program was adopted:

Devotional 8:30 -- 9:30 A M
Committee Session 9:35 --12:00
Session of Subcommittees 2:00 -- 5:00 P M
Session of Subcommittees 7:30 -- 9:30
RADIO COMMISSION, RESIGNATION OF
F.W.DETAMORE AND APPOINTMENT OF H.H.HICKS:

F.W.Detamore having tendered his resignation as a member of the North American Radio Commission, it was

VOTED, That the resignation of F.W.Detamore be accepted, and that H.H.Hicks be appointed to fill this vacancy on the Commission.

COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMERICA:

The large and representative group that was appointed in harmony with the action of the 1943 Autumn Council, to give study to the future of our colored work, and which group met in Chicago prior to this Spring Meeting to do its work, submitted a report, which was adopted as follows:

Advanced School in the North:

We recommend, 1. That a school be established in the North where advanced training can be given our colored youth; and

2. That a commission be appointed to give study to this plan and report to the 1944 Autumn Council.

Sanitarium in the North:

We recommend, That a commission be appointed to give study to providing for the medical and nursing education needs of our colored constituency in the North, this commission to report at the earliest possible date.

Future of Riverside Sanitarium:

We recommend, That the commission on the Riverside Sanitarium be requested to further consider the work and future of that institution and endeavor to report during this Spring Meeting.

Publishing Work:

We recommend, 1. That the Southern Publishing Association secure a colored editor for the Message Magazine.

2. That plans be laid to establish a small periodical for the colored constituency, somewhat comparable to the union conference papers in size and style, which will carry church news and promotion material.
Conference Organization:

WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishment of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

WHEREAS, It appears that a different plan of organization for our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore,

We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the union conference committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.

3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.

4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.

5. That the General Conference Committee appoint three members of a commission to join with other members to be appointed by each union conference committee concerned, for a study of the colored work in the respective unions, these commissions to report to the respective union committees, and that in cases where it is found necessary for any union committee to request additional appropriations, organization of colored conferences be deferred until after the 1944 Autumn Council, in order to ascertain whether or not this will be possible.

6. That the 1930 plan of colored organization for the Southern States be adopted for all territories in North America with sufficient members, but where the constituency is not sufficiently large to warrant the organization of colored conferences.

SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS FOR 1945—COMMITTEE:

VOTED, That the following named persons constitute a committee to suggest the calendar of Special Days and Offerings for 1945:

April 10, 1944

DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR—COMMITTEE:

VOTED, That W.G. Turner, the union conference presidents, the heads of General Conference departments, and H.T. Elliott be a Committee on Distribution of Labor.

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES:

Printed sheets containing the 1943 Statistical Summaries and the Fourth Quarter Report of Seventh-day Adventist Conferences in North America were distributed, and the Statistical Secretary called attention to a few of the interesting items.

Our church membership in the United States and Canada passed the 200,000 mark during the third quarter of 1943. The membership of 201,111 at the end of 1943 was more than twice that of 1921, an increase in twenty-two years of 102,396. The membership gain for 1943 was 3,896. The tithes paid in 1943 of $11,990,838.56 in the United States and Canada, was almost four and one half times the tithes receipts in 1933, over twice as much as in 1940, and $2,902,491.01 -- 31.9% more than in 1942. Since the low of the depression in 1933, foreign mission offerings have increased from $1,692,774.76 to $4,856,280.56 in 1943, a little more than two and three-quarter times. The mission offering increase in 1943 of $4,114,496.67 was 29.8% over 1942. The 1943 mission offerings were almost twice the amount in 1939.

CAMP PASTORS' INSTITUTES:

A request was presented from the War Service Commission for authorization for the holding of a general Camp Pastors' Institute this spring, and a number of regional Camp Pastors' Institutes, in order that plans may be laid for further harmonizing and unifying the work and efforts of these men in the army camps. It was

VOTED, That we authorize the holding of a general Camp Pastors' Institute, beginning at 7:30 P.M., May 15, and closing the night of May 18; it being understood that invitations to this general meeting will be sent to the union conference Commission representatives, General Conference camp pastors, union conference Missionary Volunteer secretaries; and that W.H. Branson C.B. Haynes, C.L. Bond, J.A. Buckwalter, H.M. Walton and J F Cummins shall be requested to attend.

VOTED, That we authorize the holding of three or more regional Camp Pastors' Institutes following the General Camp Pastors' Institute, and that W.H. Branson, C.B. Haynes and the union conference presidents be a committee to designate the dates, places, and attendance for these regional meetings, as well as to name the place where the general Camp Pastors' Institute shall be held.
MANUAL FOR MINISTERS--AMENDMENT:

A question having been raised concerning a statement in the Manual for Ministers with reference to the relationship to the church board of a licensed minister who may have been appointed by a conference committee to act as pastor of a church, it was

VOTED, That the statement on page 32 of the 1942 edition of the Manual for Ministers, following the words "or to preside at business meetings," be amended to read as follows: "unless he has been elected as a local elder, or to serve on the church board unless he has been elected as a member thereof."

Adjourned to 7:30 P.M., with the closing prayer by G.J. Appel, of China.

J.L. McElhany, Chairman.
E.D. Dick, Secretary.
E. Zeidler, Recording Secretary.

THREE HUNDRED NINETY-SEVENTH MEETING
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
April 10, 1944, 7:30 P.M.

Following the opening song for the second session of the Spring Meeting, prayer was offered by G.A. Roberts.

Dr. H.M. Walton was called on to report concerning the arrangements being made for giving the Health Evangelism Course at the Theological Seminary this summer, in harmony with the action of the 1943 Autumn Council. Dr. Walton solicited the interest of conference executives in seeing that as many as possible of their workers are given opportunity to take advantage of this course.

The Chairman called for the report from the Committee on Financial Policies, but inasmuch as certain members of the committee desired opportunity to reconsider some features of the report before its presentation, consideration of the report was deferred, and the session adjourned, allowing the remainder of the evening for subcommittee work.

W.G. Turner, Chairman.
E.D. Dick, Secretary.
E. Zeidler, Recording Secretary.