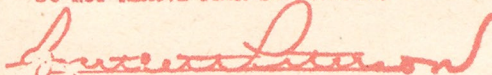


MINUTES
—OF THE—
General Council
—OF THE—
Assemblies of God
—IN THE—

United States of America, Canada
and Foreign Lands

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Bartlett Peterson

General Secretary

HELD AT
BETHEL CHAPEL
St. Louis, Mo.
SEPT. 9th to 14th, 1917

0481-004

GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

2945 Madison Street

St. Louis, Mo.

J. W. Welch, Chairman

To whom all communications should
be addressed.

Press of
Gospel Publishing House
St. Louis, Mo.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Held at St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 9th to 14th, 1917.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION OF CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, God, our Heavenly Father, sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world, Who purchased and redeemed fallen man with His own precious blood, and called out of the world and saved a people, of whom He built and established His Church (Assembly of God. Matt. 16:18), upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Head and Chief Corner-stone (Eph. 2:20), and organized and baptized it with the Holy Spirit, with its government upon His shoulders (Isaiah 9:6-7), said: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18); and

WHEREAS, He gave the Holy Inspired Scriptures, (both old and new covenants, Heb. 8: 6-13) as the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16), as follows: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," we therefore shall not add to nor take from it (Rev. 22:18); and

WHEREAS, He commanded that there should be no schism (division, sectarianism) in His Body, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Church) of the first born, which are written in heaven, Heb. 12:23; and

WHEREAS, We recognize ourselves as members of said GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD, (which is God's organism), and do not believe in identifying ourselves as,

or establishing ourselves into, a sect, that is a human organization that legislates or forms laws and articles of faith and has unscriptural jurisdiction over its members and creates unscriptural lines of fellowship and disfellowship and which separates itself from other members of the General Assembly (Church) of the first born, which is contrary to Christ's prayer in St. John 17, and Paul's teaching in Eph. 4:1-16, which we heartily endorse:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FIRST, That we recognize ourselves as a GENERAL COUNCIL of Pentecostal (Spirit Baptized) saints from local Churches of God in Christ, Assemblies of God, and various Apostolic Faith Missions and Churches, and Full Gospel Pentecostal Missions and Assemblies of like faith in the United States of America, Canada and Foreign Lands, whose purpose is neither to legislate laws of government, nor usurp authority over said various Assemblies of God, nor deprive them of their Scriptural and local rights and privileges, but to recognize Scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work and business for God, and to disapprove of all unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, and approve of all Scriptural truth and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, until we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God. unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, and to walk accordingly, as recorded in Eph. 4:17-32.

RESOLVED, SECOND, That we recognize all the above said Assemblies of various names, and when speaking of them refer to them by the general Scriptural name "Assemblies of God;" and recommend that they all recognize themselves by the same name, that is, "Assembly of God" and adopt it as soon as practicable for the purpose of being more Scriptural and also legal in transacting

business, owning property, and executing missionary work in home and foreign lands, and for general *convenience, unity and fellowship.*

OPENING MEETING.

There was a large attendance at the opening devotional meeting of the Fifth General Council of the Assemblies of God, and Bethel Chapel was filled with the incense of prayer in the Holy Ghost and shouts of praise, as the brethren from many States came together in a blessed spirit of unity. From the first, the conscious manifest power of God the Father, the presence of our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, and the operations of the Holy Spirit, were realized by everyone present.

The opening message was given by Miss Elizabeth Sisson of New London, Conn., on the building of the body of Christ. Pastor D. W. Kerr followed with a most needed word on the importance of recognizing the organic, co-operative and sympathetic relationship of those whom God has placed in the body of Christ.

The afternoon session was given up to praise, and we were made to rejoice in hearing the ringing testimonies of many brothers and sisters joyful in the Lord.

In the evening, we listened to a blessed message on the "Blood of Jesus Christ" from Bro. J. R. Kline of Detroit, Mich., that made our hearts burn within us for joy at the remembrance of the bountiful provision God has made for our every need in the Blood of His only begotten Son.

Monday, September 10th, 1917.

At 9 o'clock there was a blessed season of prayer and praise, and at 10 a. m. the Chairman, Bro. J. W. Welch, opened the first business session. On motion, the Chair appointed a committee on Council Roster as follows: Bro. J. R. Flower, Bro. Fred Vogler and Bro. W. B. Jes-

sup. There was a short recess, during which the Roster was made up.

TEMPORARY OFFICERS.

On motion, the present Chairman and Secretary were requested to act as temporary Chairman and Secretary until their successors were elected.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

It was moved that the chair appoint three brethren as a Committee on Resolutions, and that these three should have the privilege of calling in others when needed to assist them.

The Chairman then appointed to this Committee: Bro. D. W. Kerr, Chairman, Bro. E. N. Bell and Bro. E. N. Richey.

On motion, the Council adjourned until 2 p. m.

In the afternoon session the Roster Committee made their report and the same was accepted. About one hundred delegates were present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman then made his annual report for the past year, and told how God had been with us in a remarkable way, causing the work to prosper in every department; and he praised God for the definite provision that had come from above for every branch of the work. Referring to the beginning of the present administration—the 1915 Council—he reviewed the history of the work during the intervening two years, showing that while there was a deficiency in finances at that time, and that the Council interests were represented almost wholly by the Publishing House, since then God had so prospered the whole Council work that there had been some development along various lines.

GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE.

Referring to the General Council Office, he reported that the office during the past year had been established separate from the Publishing House, according to the plan devised by the 1916 Council; and that the resources derived from the distinctive work of the Council Office, together with the offerings sent in for that purpose, had been sufficient to maintain the office and support the Chairman. In view of present developments the needs of the general office will be increased this coming year, and he recommended a further development of the plan of systematic giving among the ministers and assemblies.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS.

The Chairman's report showed the number of ordained ministers on the list to be five hundred and seventy-three, fifty-six of whom are missionaries. All of these have the new form of credentials and the fellowship certificate which is issued annually. The number is constantly increasing, while unity and true co-operation among the ministers of the Council Fellowship is very gratifying. Some recommendations were made by the Chairman, affecting ordinations, which were acted upon by the council later.

MISSIONARY INTERESTS.

In reviewing the Missionary Activities for the past year, it was shown that there had been a material increase of money given to missions through the General Council Office and Missionary Treasurer. The amount was approximately double the amount given during the previous year. Some recommendations were offered concerning the endorsement and support of missionaries who may yet go to the fields.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

An important feature of the Chairman's report, and one in which all were interested, was the report of the

business and conditions of the Publishing House and the Weekly Evangel. The report contained much to encourage the council and friends of the Evangel. It was shown that God had given another year of signal prosperity to the paper and Publishing House. The business had increased in a very satisfactory way and the friends of the work had contributed liberally to the support of the interests, making it possible to report the Publishing House entirely out of debt and upon a very satisfactory basis. The report revealed the fact again, that the continuance of the paper and the Publishing House depends upon the hearty support of the saints. Expenses cannot possibly be met, except funds be donated for that special purpose. During the year a very generous gift was received from a dear friend of the work, by means of which all incumbent liabilities were met and the season of depression, occasioned by the declaration of war and the naturally dull summer season, was passed without deficit. This gift, together with many smaller ones, had made it possible to continue and to develop a measure of greater efficiency. The future of these interests are a matter for prayer and faith on our part, together with a most hearty co-operation in their maintenance. Unless there are special donations for the Publishing House, it will be difficult to avoid the distressing strain of overwork and anxiety to which the management has been subjected in bringing the business up to its present status.

A feature of interest to all was the report that the Council now has a paper published in Spanish as well as the Evangel in English. This paper, La Luz Apostolica, under the management of Bro. H. C. Ball of Brownsville, Texas, is carrying the Pentecostal message to many Spanish-speaking people. Bro. Ball needs help in a financial way in getting out the paper. Send money for this paper direct to him at Brownsville, Texas.

LEGAL AFFILIATIONS.

During the past six months 137 assemblies have legally lined themselves up with the General Council and have declared themselves an integral part of the same. Several hundreds more are in full spiritual sympathy and co-operation.

Some time was spent in discussing the question of whether the sisters present should be requested to vote, but it was finally decided to leave them on the same basis as in former councils, namely, as advisory members, with the privilege of participating in all discussions.

Bro. F. F. Bosworth of Dallas, Texas, preached at the evening evangelistic meeting and there were quite a number of seekers at the altar.

Tuesday, September 11th.

From 9 to 10 was given to devotional exercises. At 10 a. m. the Chairman called the Council to order for business.

NOMINATIONS TO BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR.

On motion the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that nominations for Chairman and Secretary, for Executive Presbyters as well as for General Presbyters, shall be made on the floor of the house; and thereafter, before any name for a general officer or for a General Presbyter or an Executive Presbyter be voted upon, the entire list shall be referred to a committee of seven brethren chosen by the Council, and this committee shall review the list and report back as many as they deem best qualified and best situated on the field to be voted upon for Presbyters and other offices; and that all objections to any nomination be made to said committee, so that there be no public criticism, on the floor, of any brother.

On motion it was agreed that the names proposed

should be voted upon one at a time and each nomination should require a two-third's majority to insure election.

THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed as the Nomination Committee: Brothers S. A. Jamieson, Robert Brown, D. W. Kerr, J. R. Flower, T. K. Leonard, A. L. Fraser and Fred Lohmann.

There were forty-nine nominations made, many missionaries on the foreign field being named. The Nomination Committee brought in the following resolutions which were adopted:

RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO MISSION WORK AND FIELDS.

1. Resolved, that it would be unwise for this Council, with its inadequate knowledge of foreign conditions at the present time, to elect Presbyters on the different foreign fields. Instead, we recommend that the Pentecostal missionaries themselves come together in the several distinct foreign districts—come together in co-operation according to our liberal constitution and appoint their own representatives to act as Presbyters of this Council in said districts, and that such appointments be referred to this Council if in session, and if not, to the Executive Presbytery for ratification. After approval they shall be the accredited Presbyters of this General Council until their successors are appointed as above. Such Presbyters must be in full sympathy with the Fundamental Truths for which this Council stands.

2. Resolved, that for the more efficient conduct of our foreign mission work that there be a Foreign Missions Committee appointed on the home field by this Council.

3. Resolved, that the Corresponding Secretary of this Foreign Missions Committee be instructed to enter into correspondence with the missionaries on foreign fields

with a view to appointing representatives for their respective districts as indicated in section I hereof.

GENERAL PRESBYTERS.

The Committee then recommended the following brethren for General Presbyters on the home field, all of whom were elected: S. A. Jamieson of Tulsa, Okla., R. A. Brown of New York City, J. R. Kline of Detroit, Mich., John Coxe of Wilmington, Del., W. B. Jessup of Mobile, Ala., Joseph Tunmore of Pittsburg, Pa., E. R. Fitzgerald of Russellville, Ark., D. H. McDowell of Scranton, Pa., Andrew L. Fraser of Chicago, Ill., A. P. Collins of Fort Worth, Texas, T. K. Leonard of Findlay, O., W. H. Pope of Frostburg, Md., J. T. Boddy of Youngstown, O., G. N. Eldridge of Los Angeles, Cal., E. N. Richey of Houston, Texas and E. N. Bell of Joplin, Mo. Later, John Goben of Lucas, Iowa, F. F. Bosworth of Dallas, Texas, F. A. Hale of Kingsville, Texas and S. H. Frodsham of St. Louis, Mo., were also elected as General Presbyters. These were in addition to the Executive Presbyters, whose terms of office had not yet expired, who are: J. W. Welch, St. Louis, Mo., D. W. Kerr, Cleveland, Ohio and J. R. Flower, Stanton, Mo.

.... CIRCULATION OF GOOD LITERATURE.

On motion the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, in view of the great need of spreading the Gospel to all men everywhere, that Pentecostal preachers and laymen distribute freely in all depots, jails and public places our Weekly Evangel and other good Pentecostal literature; and that the various assemblies be recommended to subscribe for the Weekly Evangel to go into the Public Libraries in their cities, and all other places where permitted.

CONSULTING THE GENERAL PRESBYTERY.

The election of the Executive Presbytery came before the house in the afternoon, and the danger of centraliza-

tion was discussed; and, in order to avoid such centralization, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that in all matters of great importance, the Executive Presbytery communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before any final decision is reached, or final action is taken by the Executive Presbytery.

A LARGER EXECUTIVE.

The matter of increasing the membership of the Executive Presbytery for a similar purpose was also discussed, and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the section on page five of the Combined Minutes of the General Council dealing with the General Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery be made to read: "That this Council select as many representative men in various sections of the home and foreign fields as it deems advisable as *General Presbyters*, to represent this Council in all the phases of its work and interests on their respective fields; and that five of these, together with the Chairman and Secretary of the General Council, constitute the *Executive Presbytery*."

ELECTION OF PERMANENT CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

There was only one nomination for Chairman, and that was for the retiring Chairman, J. W. Welch. He was unanimously re-elected, all the brethren and sisters rising to their feet.

Bro. S. H. Frodsham, the retiring Secretary, was nominated for re-election. But, as he could not give his entire time to this General Office work, owing to the fact that his time was taken in the Publishing House, on motion, the election of a secretary was postponed. However, he was later elected as Secretary, also as Missionary Treasurer.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE PRESBY- TERS.

Nominations were made on the floor for Executive Presbyters. On motion, it was resolved that the rest of the General Presbytery who had not been nominated for executives should act as a committee to deal with these nominations, and to select those best situated in relation to headquarters, for the house finally to pass on.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY.

Brothers A. P. Collins and E. N. Bell were elected to serve three years each, and Brothers J. T. Boddy and S. A. Jamieson were elected to serve two years. Later Bro. Collins resigned to give place to some one more convenient as he could not move to St. Louis as was expected, and Bro. S. H. Frodsham was elected in his place for two years. The terms of Bro. Welch and Bro. Flower and Bro. Kerr not having expired, the complete Executive Presbytery now stands: J. W. Welch, D. W. Kerr, S. H. Frodsham, J. R. Flower, J. T. Boddy, E. N. Bell and S. A. Jamieson.

The evening meeting was given up to evangelistic services, Bro M. M. Pinson preaching a good sermon.

Wednesday, September 12th, 1917.

The whole morning session and part of the afternoon was given up to the question of providing support for the General Office. The Chairman pointed out that the increasing volume of business would require two men in the General Office during this next year, instead of one as during the past year, and in consequence the cost of running it would be doubled. It was suggested from the floor that offerings should be taken in all assemblies, where it was practical and agreeable, for this purpose. On motion the following resolution was adopted:

SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE.

Whereas the maintenance of the General Council Office during the coming year will require an increased expenditure of funds, therefore be it

Resolved, that every minister in the fellowship be requested to contribute from his tithes or as an offering, if possible, the sum of one dollar per month, or a minimum of 50 cents per month. And further, looking toward the increased efficiency of the General Council throughout the entire field, all who can contribute more, personally or through their assemblies, than the suggested amount, are hereby strongly urged to do so.

PREREQUISITES TO ORDINATIONS.

On motion, the following resolutions on the question of ordinations were adopted:

1. Resolved, that the General Council recommend that all candidates for ordination be first proved as licentiates, and only such as stand true and prove efficient, be ordained to the full ministry by any District Council or by a mature local assembly through a council of ministers.

2. Resolved, that the Credential Committee provide for the issuing of annual licenses to worthy candidates where this matter cannot be attended to by a District Council or by a mature and well accredited assembly.

3. Resolved, that we recommend no persons be ordained as foreign missionaries. Persons *qualified* for the full ministry, whether called to the home work or the foreign field, should be ordained to the ministry. Those not qualified for the ministry should not be ordained, even though endorsed for the foreign field as workers.

4. Resolved, that all outgoing missionaries, whether ordained or not, who expect support from the General Council, must be endorsed by the Missionary Committee of this Council, and shall receive a certificate of appointment under seal of the General Council.

EXAMINATIONS AND TIME FOR ORDINATIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. Resolved that this Council advises all District Councils to have published a regular set time and place once or more each year at which, as a rule, ordinations shall be performed in said districts.

2. Resolved that each district is advised to have a committee of three or more which, with a General Presbyter, shall carefully examine into the candidate's character, life, soundness of doctrine, Christian experience, ministerial ability and previous success; and that these should be found satisfactory before the District Council proceed with the ordination. Provided that this shall in no wise limit the privileges of a mature local church in the matter of ordaining such qualified candidates.

3. Resolved, that in states and territories where there are no district councils, nor a strong mature assembly near them, that candidates may take the matter up with the Credential Committee of this Council, which shall satisfy itself as to the candidate's fitness, and co-operate with approved candidates for a satisfactory ordination.

On motion the following resolution was adopted:

RECOGNITION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IN THE BODY.

Whereas the Scriptures teach that we are all in one Spirit baptized into one body; and whereas, because of this fact, we are already organically, co-operatively, and sympathetically related one to another; and whereas there seems to be everywhere a prevailing lack in the understanding of these principles, therefore be it

Resolved, that the General Council hereby recommends to all our ministers that they give definite and repeated instructions on the necessity of *recognizing* these already existing principles as set forth in Paul's teaching

in 1 Cor.* 12:12-27, etc., and urge them to a faithful adherence to the same in all their relations one to another in the body of Christ.

MISSIONARY NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

A motion that the chair appoint a committee to canvass the missionary situation and to nominate a permanent Missionary Committee having been adopted, the following were appointed: Bro. Andrew L. Fraser, Sister Laura Radford, and Bro. Joseph Tunmore. This committee did faithful work and the results of its labors appear under the head of the Conduct of Missionary Work.

WORK AMONGST THE SOLDIERS.

Bro. Raymond Richey was asked to speak about the work the Lord has laid upon his heart among the soldier boys, and in a very enthusiastic way he told how wonderfully the Lord had opened up the way for him, giving him favor in the eyes of the authorities, and how signally his efforts had been blessed so far.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas there is an imperative urgency upon us as to the welfare of our soldiers in the various training camps, and the doors now open will soon close forever; and whereas President Wilson has urged the Y. M. C. A. to look after the spiritual welfare of all the soldiers; and whereas all we do in the camps must be done under the supervision of the Y. M. C. A.; therefore be it resolved that we adopt every available means consistent with Scriptural teaching and example to co-operate with every approved agency for revivals among the soldiers. To this end it is recommended that the saints everywhere determine, like the apostle Paul, to become all things to all men that by all means we may save some.

In keeping with the foregoing resolution we recommend the United Prayer and Workers' League, repre-

sented by Brother Raymond Richey of Houston, Texas, as worthy of hearty support.

Bro. A. P. Collins remarked that he believed the Lord was opening the way for us to get into the camps as wonderfully as He enabled Nehemiah to secure the favor of the king in his return to Jerusalem. Sister Elizabeth Sisson pointed out that this is a day of marvellous opportunity everywhere, because God is preaching a mighty sermon in the march of events. Bro. T. K. Leonard spoke on the power of prayer, and the importance of our "weeping with those who weep" in these days of sorrow when mothers' boys are going to the great world war.

On motion, the Council adjourned until morning.

Bro. H. H. Cox of Zion City gave a powerful sermon at the night meeting.

Thursday, September 13th, 1917.

The Council came together for business at 10 a. m. after a season of prayer. The following resolution was adopted:

AGAINST SETTING A TIME FOR THE LORD'S RETURN.

Resolved, that it is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing; and also, that it is unwise to give out from the platform, or publish visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

Some had understood a correspondent to do this through the Evangel; but the management of the Evangel had never meant to set a date for His coming again. So we were all agreed on this.

LOYALTY TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Bro. E. L. Banta spoke on the importance of our loyalty to the powers that be, since they are ordained of God; and told of some so-called Pentecostal preachers who thought they were doing honor to God by insulting the flag and of the humiliation to them that followed. Bro.

A. P. Collins followed and said we were on Bible grounds in honoring the government, and said that the flag stood not only for civil freedom but also for religious liberty; and that at the Texas District Council they had purposed to cancel the credentials of any preacher who spoke against the government. This body also agreed that such radicals do not represent this General Council.

RESOLUTIONS ON PUBLISHING REPORTS AND SELLING BOOKS.

The following resolution was adopted:

In view of the subtle and grave dangers now confronting us on account of the persistent spread of the leaven of serious doctrinal error embodied in the teaching of the so-called "new issue," therefore, be it

Resolved, in the interests of solidified co-operation between the Gospel Publishing House and the world-field, that the Executive Presbytery hereafter knowingly publish no article, tract, report or letters coming from persons who are known and shown to be opposed to our Statement of Fundamental Truths; and that we recommend that the same course be pursued by all publishers who hold credentials from the Assemblies of God.

The following resolution was also adopted:

Whereas, it is becoming more and more necessary to safeguard our people against the subtle power of opposition against our distinctive testimony as it is represented by writers of periodicals, tracts and books not otherwise objectionable: therefore,

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this General Council that we refrain, as far as practicable, from advertising, or selling such literature, and that where such literature is disposed of by any of us, that a statement be made as to the attitude of its authors toward "Pentecost."

BIBLE SCHOOLS.

On motion, the matter of Bible Schools was referred

to the General Presbytery, who brought forth the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas there is a great famine in the land for the Word of God and a great need that the people of God should be fed with knowledge and understanding of the Scripture by those who are placed over them in the Lord; therefore,

Resolved, that we encourage our people as a whole, and our young people especially, to attend faithfully to a diligent search of the Scriptures, and if possible to attend some properly and scripturally accredited Bible Training School; and further

Resolved, that in all our public gatherings, camp meetings, and conventions, we give to the Bible its due place, and that provision be made by those in charge, for the fullest exercise of the gift of teaching by those who are specially called and qualified thereto; and be it further

Resolved, that we encourage "Ten Day Bible Conferences," or "Itinerary Bible Schools," to be held in different sections of a given district, in which due attention shall be given to evangelistic work for the unsaved, and solid scriptural teaching for the saints.

MOUNT TABOR BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL.

Bro. A. L. Fraser, president of this school, presented the interests of said school to the Council, and the following resolution endorsing the same was adopted:

Resolved, that the General Council of the Assemblies of God hereby recognize the Mount Tabor Bible Training School at Chicago, Illinois, and that we heartily cooperate with it.

ADJUSTMENTS LEFT WITH THE PRESBYTERY.

No proper secretary who could give all his time to secretarial work having been found, the following resolution passed:

Resolved, that the General Presbytery be hereby au-

thorized to select a secretary for this Council who shall also be the corresponding secretary for the Foreign Missions Committee; and that they shall also adjust the secretaryship and the number of the Executive Presbytery in harmony with the resolution already passed, which enlarged the Executive Presbytery and made the secretary one of said executive.

See results of this adjustment as arranged under head of the New Executive Presbytery.

DISTRIBUTION OF MISSIONARY FUNDS.

On motion the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the undesignated funds sent to the Missionary Treasurer of the General Council should not be sent to those who are opposed to the Fundamentals for which this Council stands.

The General Presbytery further recommended that money should not be sent out to inefficient missionaries merely out of human sympathy; rather that undesignated funds be sent to approved missionaries where they will accomplish most for the glory of Christ. This, of course, applies only to undesignated funds entrusted to the Council to distribute to best advantage. All funds assigned to particular persons will be forwarded by the treasurer exactly as directed.

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD.

In an interval when there was no business proceeding, Bro. A. P. Collins gave a very sweet talk on the subject of the imminence of the Lord's return, and said that he was constantly reminded of the fact that He might come even whilst we were assembled together. Sister Sisson remarked that she had left a letter at home directing what to do in case she should be caught up whilst away on her present trip. Bro. James and Sister Ralph also followed on the same theme, and the presence and power of the Spirit was very manifest as the theme of this glorious hope was being discussed.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

A resolution also passed recommending to the Executive Presbytery that they do their best to make provision for, and stimulate interest in Sunday Schools for the children and young people in our midst.

INITIAL PHYSICAL SIGN OF THE BAPTISM.

By an oversight last year the word "physical" got left out before the word "sign" in reference to tongues as the initial physical sign of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost. Therefore this section in the Fundamentals was corrected by resolution to read as follows:

"The full consummation of the baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is indicated by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance, Acts 2:4. This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth, Acts 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9. It is also distinct from the gift of tongues, 1 Cor. 12:4-10, 28."

The above was passed with only three or four dissenting votes.

A very blessed and helpful missionary address was given by Bro. C. H. Schoonmaker, who emphasized the importance of the assemblies standing back of the missionaries, and told how he found out from his own experience that God honored and blessed a church that put the matter of foreign missions to the forefront.

Thursday Afternoon and Friday Morning, Sept. 14th.

Bro. Andrew L. Fraser then brought in the recommendations in behalf of the committee on Missionary interests, which formed the principal theme of discussion on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. On motion, each resolution was adopted as follows:

THE CONDUCT OF MISSIONARY WORK.

1. Resolved: That all missionaries who desire the endorsement of the General Council should make application for a fellowship certificate, provided they already

hold credentials from the General Council; and that those not holding credentials should make application for the same and for fellowship certificate.

2. Resolved: That all missionaries making application for credentials and fellowship certificates should be required to subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. (See Minutes for 1916, page 16.)

3. Resolved: That each missionary be required to file with the Foreign Missions Committee a full statement regarding their work, e. g., concerning their families and accommodations, period of service, language qualifications, nature of the work engaged in, prospects of the field, present number of recognized adherents—Christian and non-Christian—etc., etc.

4. Resolved: That the Foreign Missions Committee be advised to recognize mission centers at various points and ports of entry as receiving homes.

5. Resolved: That it be urged upon the Foreign Missions Committee the necessity of insisting upon two full years of language study, if necessary, before taking up the full active work; and that courses of study with examinations be arranged for by the Advisory Committee on each field.

6. Resolved: In order to facilitate an equitable distribution of funds, be it resolved that each missionary be required to furnish a quarterly financial statement of all monies received and on hand to the Foreign Missions Committee.

7. Resolved: That the Advisory Committees of the respective fields shall determine and report to the Foreign Missions Committee what in their estimation constitutes a proper term of service.

8. Resolved: That an advisory committee of three be appointed in every large district of the foreign mission field where our missionaries are now at work; and that

this committee be appointed in conference by the missionaries themselves.

9. Resolved: That all missionary property purchased with missionary funds be transferred to the General Council; and that the General Council through its Executive Presbytery appoint the Advisory Committees on each field as trustees, to devise with the Foreign Missions Committee some plan of holding and to hold said property in trust for God and the General Council.

10. In order to the increased efficiency of our work abroad, closer co-operation with the home field, and that the zeal of our home constituency be according to knowledge, be it resolved that the Foreign Missions Committee take under consideration at an early date the advisability of appointing a visiting missionary representative. (The purpose of this motion is to secure through a practical missionary representative, an unbiased report of conditions and opportunities, to set missionary centers in order where needed, give instruction, and to encourage and support the ministry and constituency abroad.)

11. For mutual protection and for the conservation of missionary funds, it is strongly urged that visiting missionaries consult with the Foreign Missions Committee in regard to their itinerary in the homeland.

12. Resolved that missionaries at home keep the Foreign Missions Committee informed as to all monies received and all monies forwarded by them to the foreign field.

13. Be it resolved that in case of a vacancy on the Foreign Missions Committee the Executive Presbytery shall have the power to fill said vacancy.

FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

The Nominating Committee presented the following nominations for the Foreign Missions Committee: J. W. Welch, A. P. Collins, E. N. Bell, S. H. Frodsham, G. N. Eldredge, W. W. Simpson, Miss S. C. Easton

These were elected and at the same time were empowered to enlist such advisory help as might seem desirable and necessary.

Friday Afternoon, Sept. 14, 1917.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. The time for the great Missionary Conference which met following the Council meeting had come, and the Chairman urged the closing of the Council to give the auditorium to the use of the missionaries.

MINUTES TO BE EDITED.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that we hereby authorize the Executive Presbytery to edit, correct and revise the minutes of this session of the Council so as to make them readable and consistent, without changing the meaning of matters, and that after so corrected and approved they shall become the authorized minutes of the Council. Further, that they shall be printed; then the essentials be added to the next edition of the Combined Minutes of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The Executive Presbytery is also hereby authorized to complete in behalf of the Council all unfinished business that may have been overlooked.

EVANGEL HOME THANKED.

The following resolution was also adopted:

Resolved, that this Council extend a vote of thanks to the Evangel Home for its hospitality, and also give thanks to all others who have served God by aiding in the work and comfort of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion, the Council adjourned until called to meet again by the Chairman, Chicago to have favorable consideration, if at the time practicable, as the next place of meeting.