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GENERAL MINUTES

MADE

AT THE FIRST

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONNEXION.

CANADA WEST.

HELD AT BRAMPTON, CHINGUACOUSY, APRIL 27,
AND THE FOUR FOLLOWING DAYS.

HAMILTON, C. W.:

PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BY ORDER OF THE
CONFERENCE.

1854.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the year 1829, the first Primitive Methodist Society in Canada was formed, in (the Town of York, now) the City of Toronto; in 1830, the English Conference sent out their first Minister, who took the above Society into connexion with the said Conference. From this period up to 1842, the Canadian part of the Connexion, like its parent in England, continued to enlarge and extend, and at the above time was composed of four prosperous Circuits, whose connexional business was transacted by the several Quarter day Boards of the respective Circuits. At our English Conference, held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June, 1842, the Canadian part of the Connexion was set off into a separate District, since that period we have had our regular Annual District Meetings.— At our District Meeting of 1853, in consequence of the greatly enlarged state of our body, it was judged necessary to divide the work into two Districts, and an Annual Conference; this arrangement was confirmed by our English Conference, held at the City of York, June, 1853, when the Canadian part of the Connexion was set off into a separate Conference, possessing the power of Local self-government,

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at the same time remaining in union with our British Conference. Our first Canadian Annual Conference was held (according to prior appointment) at Brampton, in the County of Peel, commencing April 27th, and closing May 1st, 1854, at which the following, among other Regulations, were adopted and ordered to be published.

OF

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OF WHOM THE CONFERENCE IS COMPOSED.

1. Who compose the Conference? Ans. John Davison, General Committee Delegate; Robert Walker, General Treasurer; William Lawson, Corresponding Secretary, and Delegates from the following Districts, viz.: *Toronto*, John Lacey, William Lyle, Matthew Nichols, Charles D. Magine, William Mason, George Brunt, John Elliott, Thomas Burgess, and John Sherwood; *Hamilton*, Thomas Adams, Robert Boyle, Robert Parsons, Alfred Thurlow, Lancelot Walker, William Gilchrist, Walter P. Lacey, Robert C. Smith, and John Masters.

Several Travelling Preachers and Laymen were admitted as hearers, but without voice or vote.

ANNUAL LIST.

2. What Preachers are taken into the Annual List? Ans. Robert Parsons, Joseph Simpson, Thomas Lawson, William Lomas.

PLEDGES.

2. What Preachers are pledged, and by what Stations?—
Ans.

<i>Preachers.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>
Joseph Markham, - - - - -	Toronto.
Richard Condie, - - - - -	Gen. Miss. Com.
Jonathan Milner, - - - - -	Do.
James Haldershaw, - - - - -	Do.

4. What Preachers have died during the year? Ans.—
None.

5. How are the Preachers stationed by the Conference?—
Ans.

TORONTO DISTRICT.

1. *Toronto.*

E. Barrass.

J. Natrass.

2. *Scarborough Branch.*

S. Driffield.

3. *Etobicoke.*

J. Garner.

W. Gledhill.

W. Jolley, Sup.

4. *Markham.*

J. Lacey.

R. Cade.

5. *Laskey Branch.*

T. Foster.

6. *Darlington.*

J. Edgar.

R. Paul.

7. *Albion.*

J. Simpson.

J. Markham.

8. *Reach and Scott Missions.*

W. Lyle.

D. Gustolow.

J. G. Montgomery.

9. *Kingston and Portland Missions.*

M. Nichols.

J. Clarke.

J. Milner.

J. Haldershaw.

HAMILTON DISTRICT.

10. *Brampton.*

W. Newton.

W. J. Dean.

6. W
Ans. In
at 10 o'

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Meeting

11. *Hamilton.*
R. Boyle.
12. *Walpole and Grand River.*
T. Adams. J. R. Stephenson.
13. *Blenhiem.*
R. Poulter.
14. *Galt and Guelph Missions.*
J. Davison. T. Dudley.
15. *Orangeville and Brant Missions.*
W. Lomas. R. Stephenson.
R. Condle.
16. *Peel and Wellesley Missions.*
J. Ryder. T. Fox.
J. Towler, Sup. }
17. *Woodstock Mission.*
R. Parsons.
18. *London Mission.*
W. Stephenson.
19. *Paris and Brantford Missions.*
T. Lawson.

6. Where, and when shall the next CONFERENCE be held?
Ans. In TORONTO, on Friday, April 19th, 1855, to commence
at 10 o'clock A. M. John Davison, General Com. Del.

7. Where and when shall the next District Meetings be held?
and by which of the General Committee Delegates shall each
Meeting be attended? Ans.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Where to be held.</i>	<i>When.</i>	<i>Gen. C. Del.</i>
Toronto,	T'waddells Ch'l, Scarborough	Ap'l 3rd,	John Lacey.
Hamilton,	Hamilton,	Do.	John Davison.

8. What is the state of the Connexion numerically? Ans.

The number of deaths is.....	30
“ of Travelling Preachers.....	35
“ of Local Preachers.....	151
“ of Class Leaders.....	122
“ of Connexional Chapels.....	59
“ of other places, &c.,.....	134
“ of Sabbath Schools.....	35
“ of Sabbath Scholars.....	1641
“ of Gratuitous Teachers.....	284
“ of Members in connection with the Canadian Conference.....	2671

Being a net increase of 345 during the Conference year.

COMMITTEES.

9. Who compose the Committees? Ans.

GENERAL OR CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE.

John Davison, John Lacey, Thomas Adams, Edward Barrass, William Lawson, Robert Walker, William Nason, Joseph Simpson, Robert Boyle, Thomas Windott, John Masters, Joseph Lawson, Robert Smith. W. Lawson, J. Lawson, R. Walker, and R. Boyle, shall be the Executive of the said Committee, which shall meet at Hamilton on the second Thursday in July, and at Toronto, the second Thursday in October, 1854; at

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Hamilton, second Thursday in January, 1855, and at Toronto, the day preceding the Conference of 1855. William Lawson and John Davison, shall be the Secretaries for this Committee and for the Missionary Committee, and Robert Walker, shall be the Treasurer.

10. The General MISSIONARY COMMITTEE shall be composed of the members of the Connexional Committee. This Committee shall meet at the same time and place as the General Committee. Missionaries are hereby reminded that they must send their Quarterly Reports to Mr. W. Lawson, Hamilton, one week before the time of each Quarterly Missionary Committee Meeting. Three members of these Committees being present at the time of meeting are competent to act.

11. DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

(1.) *Toronto.*—J. Lacey, R. Walker, W. Daniels and E. Barrass.

(2.) *Hamilton.*—L. Walker, W. Marshall, R. C. Smith, and W. Newton.

12. PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

This Committee shall be composed of J. Davison, E. Barrass, R. Boyle, R. Walker, W. Lawson, and J. Edgar.

N. B.—The last-named person of each Committee shall be the Secretary unless otherwise specified.

13. What are the further Regulations of Conference? Ans.

(1.) That Rule 6, "Society Rules," be expunged, and the

following be inserted in its place: "That each member of the Society is affectionately requested, at the renewal of the Quarterly Tickets, to give according to their ability, to aid in supporting the Ministers stationed among them.

(2.) That in future the General and Missionary Committees shall be composed of one Delegate from each Circuit, the General Treasurers and Secretaries, the Missions to send their Quarterly Reports by Post to the General Secretary, one week at least, prior to the Quarterly Meeting of the said Committee, the Missions, however, to have the privilege of sending a Delegate when it is the opinion of the Mission Qr. day that their circumstances require it.

(3.) That J. Davison, W. Lawson, R. Walker, and E. Barrass, be a Committee to digest and mature a plan for establishing a Connexional Book Room, and that they report to the General Committee Meeting 6 months hence.

(4.) That J. Davison, J. Lacey, R. Boyle, and E. Barrass be a Committee to issue a Prospectus for a Weekly Journal in connection with the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada.— The last named to be the Secretary.

(5.) That R. Walker, E. Barrass, and W. Lawson, be a Committee to draw up a Deed Poll, if they find it necessary after consulting the Chancellor of Western Canada, in order to secure the Connexional property belonging to the Canadian Conference.

(6.) That in order to induce Missions sooner to become Circuits, it is resolved, that on their becoming such, they be allowed to retain *two-thirds* of Missionary Money raised by them the first year, for general purposes, and *one-third* the second year,

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paying the balance into the Missionary Fund, and the *third*, and succeeding years, the whole of their Missionary Monies shall be paid into the said Fund, providing, that the rules in the Consolidated Minutes on making "New Circuits," have, in every other respect, been complied with.

(7.) That in future years, no application shall be received from any junior Preacher for admission into the Annual List, unless they comply fully with the *Rules* in such cases. +

(8.) That every Preacher and Layman present in Conference, pledge themselves to do their utmost to sustain a Weekly Journal, should such a one be issued in connection with our Church.

(9.) That this Conference records its unqualified approval of the New Hymn Book, Edited by Bro. J. Fisher, believing it to be well adapted for the use, and to promote the benefit, of the Primitive Methodist Societies and Congregations, throughout the entire Connexion.

(10.) That one Travelling Preacher and *two* Lay Delegates, from each Circuit, and one Travelling Preacher and one Lay Delegate, from each Branch, and Mission, shall be elected to attend the next District Meetings.

(11.) That four Travelling Preachers, and eight Lay Delegates, shall be elected by each District meeting, to attend the next Annual Conference.

(12.) That this Conference is of opinion that the Clergy Reserves ought at once to be secularized, adding them to the Territorial Domains, and their proceeds to go into the Consolidated Revenue Funds of the Province for general purposes ;

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the Conference further unanimously resolves to petition the Legislature to carry out this Resolution.

[13.] That a Petition be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly, praying them to enact a Prohibitory Liquor Law, at their next Session of Parliament.

[14.] That a Juvenile Missionary Association be formed, whose object shall be to raise funds for the support of the juvenile Mission, formed by this Conference at Portland.

[15.] That E. Barrass be the Secretary of the above-named Association, and that he be instructed to correspond with the Superintendents of the various stations on this important subject.

[16.] That all our Societies in Canada which have not yet taken up collections in aid of the "Jubilee Fund" of the British and Foreign Bible Society, be recommended to do so immediately, and forward the same to the Treasurer of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

[17.] That the following articles of Furniture shall be allowed to each married Travelling Preacher by the Station at which he may be stationed, viz.: 2 Kitchen Tables, 1 Parlour Table, 1 Table and Washstand for each Bed Room, 1 Cooking Stove, 1 Parlour Stove, 1 Bed Room Stove, 1 Beaureau, 1 Book Case, 1 dozen of common Chairs, a dozen of Parlour Chairs, 1 Sofa, 1 Arm Chair, 2 Bedsteads, or more if required, Bed Mattresses, Pails and Washtubs.

[18.] That Bros. R. Sargent, and E. Barrass, shall be the Auditors of the Treasurer's accounts.

[19.] That we record our thanks to Almighty God for the

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success with which He has been pleased to favour the Connexion in Canada during the past year, in that, there is a net increase of 345 members.

[20.] That the Conference records its thanks to the friends at Brampton for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Delegates, at this, the first Canadian Primitive Methodist Annual Conference.

[21.] That the Conference records its thanks to Bros. W. Lawson and J. Davison, the General Secretaries, and to R. Walker, the General Treasurer and Book Steward, for their services during the past year, and that they be re-appointed to their respective offices.

[22.] That this Conference thanks the English Conference of 1853, for its resolution to send *five* more Missionaries to Canada.

[23.] That we thank the General Missionary Committee in England for having sent us Bros. W. J. Dean, W. Stephenson, and J. R. Stephenson, as Missionaries to Canada, and thank the giver of all good for their safe arrival on our shores, and we further request the Committee to send us out, as soon as possible, the remaining *two* promised by the last Conference.

[24.] That the Conference, though well aware of the good supply of Missionaries that have been sent from England from time to time, still, we beg to assure our fathers and brethren at home, that we have many pressing demands which we are unable to meet, and therefore, we beg the coming English Conference, to direct the General Missionary Committee, to send us during the present year, at least *five* more efficient men, for even with these, we shall not be able to supply *one* half of the

calls that are made for help.

[25.] That the various stations are hereby recommended to hold Missionary Prayer Meetings once a month at every place where convenient.

[26.] That the contributions to the Relief Fund and Conference Fund, from the various stations shall be 4d. per member.

14. What is the state of the CIRCUIT BRANCH, and MISSION Reports for the last Connexional year? Ans.

STATIONS.	No. in Soc.	Conference and Relief Fund.	STATIONS.	No. in Soc.	Conference and Relief Fund.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Toronto.....	169	2 16 0	Brampton.....	212	3 1 0
Scarborough Brance..	144	1 17 9	Hamilton.....	60	1 3 0
Etobicoke.....	285	4 15 0	Guelph.....	51	0 16 4
Markham.....	417	5 9 8	Walpole & G. Riv'r	177	2 15 4
Darlington.....	183	2 11 8	Galt & Blenheim..	210	2 19 4
Albion.....	187	3 2 4	Orangeville.....	105	1 15 0
Reach.....	142	2 4 5	Peel and Wellesley	120	1 12 8
Kingston.....	200	2 10 0		944	14 2 6
	1727	25 16 1			

15. What is the state of the RELIEF FUND, commencing with the Treasurer's Accounts, January 1st, 1853, and closing April 7, 1854?

Balance in hand last year....	£14 15 0
John Lacey, for Toronto Dis..	12 18 0½
John Davison, for Hamilton District.....	7 1 4
Balance on hand.....	£34 14 4½

DISBURSEMENTS.

No Claims.

16. What is the state of the CONFERENCE FUND, closing May 1st, 1854. Ans.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
From Toronto District....	12 18 0½
“ Hamilton District....	7 1 4
	£19 19 4½
Balance on hand, May 1, '54.	£7 18 2½

DISBURSEMENTS.

	£ s. d.
Travelling Expenses of Delegates to & from Conference	10 2 8
By Postage and Printing....	1 0 6
By Conference Journal....	1 0 0
Balance.....	7 16 2
	£19 19 4½

17. What amount of MISSIONARY MONEY has been raised during the past year? Ans.

To Balance in hand, January, 1853,.....	£210 8 8
From the Sale of Connexional Books, &c.....	234 0 10
To Amount Received from the Stations.....	498 4 6
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Amount of Mission Expenditure	942 14 1
May 1st, 1854, Balance on hand.....	655 18 9
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	£289 15 4

N. B.—For particulars, see the Missionary Report for 1853.

18. What are the Addresses of the Stations, &c., for the ensuing year? Ans.

Missionary Secretary, Mr. W. Lawson, Merchant, Hamilton, C. W.

Missionary Treasurer, Mr. R. Walker, Merchant, Toronto, C. W.

- Toronto, E. Barras, Agnes Street, Toronto, C. W.
 Scarborough, S. Driffield, Parsonage, Scarborough, C. W.
 Etobicoke, J. Garner, Humber Post Office, C. W.
 Markham, J. Lacey, Victoria Square Post Office, C. W.
 Darlington, J. Edgar, Bowmanville, C. W.
 Albion, J. Simpson, Albion Post Office, Bolton's Village, C. W.
 Reach, W. Lyle, Epsom Post Office, Ontario County, C. W.
 Kingston, M. Nichols, Kingston P. O., C. W.
 Brampton, W. Newton, Parsonage, Chinguacousy, C. W.
 Hamilton, R. Boyle, Parsonage, John Street, C. W.
 Walpole and Grand River, T. Adams, Parsonage, Williams-ville, Walpole, C. W.
 Blenheim, R. Poulter, Parsonage, Blenheim P. O., C. W.

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		Conference and Relief Fund.		
		£	s.	d.
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1		1	3	0
1		0	16	4
7		2	15	4
0		2	19	4
5		1	15	0
0		1	12	8
4		14	2	8

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		£	s.	d.
Dele-	erence	10	2	8
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		£19	19	4

Galt and Guelph, J. Davison, Galt P. O., C. W.
 Orangeville, W. Lomas, Orangeville P. O. *via* Toronto, C. W.
 Peel and Wellesley, J. Ryder, Elora, Wellington County, C. W.
 Woodstock, R. Parsons, Woodstock P. O., C. W.
 Paris and Brantford, T. Lawson, Paris, C. W.
 London, W. Stephenson, London, C. W.

JOHN LACEY, PRESIDENT.
 WILLIAM LAWSON, SECRETARY.

THE CONFERENCE PASTORAL ADDRESS.

To the Members of the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada West :

BELoved AND DEAR BRETHREN,—Grace and peace be multiplied unto you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is with feelings of affectionate sympathy, and unfeigned gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, that we embrace the present as a fitting opportunity to address you on subjects, that concern your social comfort, your Spiritual enjoyment, and your Eternal welfare. You are aware that we are assembled in our first Canadian Annual Conference, as your representatives and Brethren in one common Lord, we beg to assure you that we have felt the weight of the interests you intrusted to our care, and we have endeavored in the fear of God to make such appointments, and frame such measures, as we trust will conduce to the Glory of God, and the wider spread of truth and righteousness; and at the same time have your cheerful concurrence and approval.

We rejoice to inform you that our Conferenae has been one of unbroken peace and harmony, and in departing to our abodes,

and different fields of labor, we carry with us a stronger love for each other, a more ardent attachment, to the cause of God, and a deeper determination of soul, to extend it more and more in our country.

We rejoice to inform you that during the past year, God has graciously crowned our labors with marked success, that though we have lost by deaths, removals, &c., five hundred and twenty-two, we have in the same time received an accession of eight hundred and sixty-seven to our ranks, leaving a nett increase of three hundred and forty-five members for the year.

The allowances of the Preachers who labor among us, have been paid, as also the increase recommended by our General Committee, which increase has been confirmed by this Conference. A much larger amount of Missionary contributions have been received than in any former year—several new Mission Stations have been taken up. Three Ministers from England have recently arrived, and we have called out from among ourselves four young men to travel, who are well recommended by their respective Circuits, and we do in humility, and with gratitude to Almighty God, assure you that our Church was never in such a prosperous condition, nor were our prospects ever so encouraging.

And now, Dear Brethren, suffer the word of exhortation.—That while you rejoice in the Spiritual comforts of pure and undefiled religion, and are happy in your union with a branch of the visible Church of Christ, delighting in assisting and beholding its rapid progress, a progress like that which distinguished the Parent Connexion in Britain, which nobly assists us in our onward march with means and Ministers. Devote yourselves with us, more and more to the service of God, and labor for the salvation of souls.

Remember your position, beloved friends, you are called with a high, a holy calling—you are the professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, of the Great Teacher, who went about doing good, who died for you, who has left you an example, that you might follow his steps.

It is, then, expected of you that you should be truly devoted to God, and in your life and conversation live as becometh the Gospel of Christ.

Let the precious word of God be the rule of your faith and practice, let it dwell in you richly in all wisdom, enabling you to excel in all the fruits and graces of the Holy Spirit. Never live without the sensible witness of God's Spirit in your hearts, this is your glorious privilege, this is the testimony you are called to bear, and this will form that inner Spring of action in your souls, which will give energy, direction and success to duty, keep up this constant flame of inward life by prayer and holy communion with God, humble, faithful, constant and believing prayer.

Remember, Beloved Brethren, your duties are various, and in the punctual discharge of each, you are expected to be found faithful. Consider then the end of your calling, your great business in this life is to save your own souls, and the souls of others—not only to gather worldly riches, but to lay up treasure in Heaven—not to seek the honor of man but the honor of God—not to live in inglorious ease, but to devote the powers of soul and body to the high and noble purpose of human happiness. Many of you, since God saved your souls, and brought you among his people, have risen in the scale of respectability, religion has formed you to habits of order and economy, and you have enough and to spare, be liberal then in your support

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of the Ministry, and generous in your contributions to the Missionary work—give as God hath prospered you. Freely ye have received, freely give. Your Ministers have devoted themselves to God and you—they are pledged afresh to the cause, they have resolved to spend and be spent for God and his Church on earth—they have detached themselves from secular and worldly callings, that their undivided attention and energy may be devoted exclusively to the Church of God. Let then their temporal wants be liberally supplied, that unembarrassed and untroubled with worldly care, they may devote their all with undamped zeal, to the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

We would affectionately press upon your attention the precious Sabbath day, with its duties, its privileges and blessings—hold up the hands of your preachers by constant attention to the means of grace with your households, never be absent unless necessity compels. Pray earnestly for the Preacher, that God may bless his own word in the conversion of sinners.—Hear with candour and in faith, be cautious in expressing your opinion of Preachers, in your family or among the unconverted. Remember the Prayer Meetings, and especially the Class Meetings, which form the strength and sinews of our Churches. If you be either Leader or Member, be punctual in your attendance at your Class Meeting. Be zealous, lively and pointed and short in all your public exercises, interest yourselves in all that concerns the prosperity of your little band—the poor, the afflicted, the absent, and especially those who have declined in the ways of the Lord.

And let us urge upon you the importance of family prayer, and reading the Holy Scriptures in your households, this practice, enjoined by your holy religion, will produce the happiest

results in your domestic circles. The blessing of High Heaven will rest on the family of the just—you will, as parents, maintain a proper control, and your children will give a cheerful obedience and regard. In the various means of grace pay the necessary attention. In the Love Feast bear your humble testimony to the goodness of God in saving your soul. Never omit the Lord's Supper, this holy sacrament receive to your comfort, remembering who it is that hath said, "This do in remembrance of me."

Let each special effort for the extension of Christ's Kingdom made by the Church, have your hearty co-operation and attendance, and on your part, let faith be in lively exercise, that the influence of God's Holy Spirit may descend in rich abundance. There are many other subjects which, as members of the Church of Christ, demands your sympathy. The Bible Society is a noble monument of philanthropy, and this year that Society is doing wonders for China, and the World. The Sabbath School is a glorious Institution, in connexion with, and a nursery to the Church—let it have your best attention, your patronage and prayers. In reference to the Temperance movement, give it your cordial support—we have yearly to mourn over the fall of many who have been struck down by the demon of intemperance, many by tampering with strong drink, have been shorn of their strength and finally prostrated in disgrace. Standing on the principles of abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, you will be more able to expostulate with the tippler, and reclaim the drunkard. And you will be preserved yourself from this snare, into which many professing christians fall. O flee the appearance of evil. The brevity and uncertainty of our present life is presented for our contemplation by the solemn fact, that numbers of our Fathers and Brethren have been taken to the spirit world during the

past year, and though we have cause to be thankful that death hath not made any inroad upon our Ministerial ranks in Canada, yet thirty of our members have fallen by his shafts during the last year. We trust they sleep in Jesus, may we be also ready, having our loins girt, our lamps burning like them that wait for their Lord.

And, Dear Brethren, we commend you to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Brethren beloved in the Lord, farewell, be perfect, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Amen.

On behalf of the Conference.

JOHN LACEY, PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM LAWSON, SECRETARY.