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MINUTES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

FOR THE YEAR 1836.

KINGSTON:

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1836.

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TAKEN AT

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

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BELLEVILLE, June 21st, 1836.

Question 1st.—Who are admitted on trial?

Benson Smith,	Michael Davey,
William E. Norman,	Jesse Owen,
Leonard D. Salsbury,	Francis Bird,
Joseph H. Leonard,	

Question 2nd.—Who are the Deacons?

Those marked thus* were ordained this year.

Joshua Webster,	Caleb Swazey,
George Turner,	Thaddeus Lewis,
Arnon C. Leaver,	Charles Pettys,
Silas Hopkins,	Leonard Haney,
James Bailey,	David Griffin,
George Sills,	David Perry,
Benson Smith,*	Henry Johnson*

Question 3rd.—Who are the Elders?

The one marked thus* was ordained this year.

Daniel Pickett,	David Culp,
Joseph Gatchell,	John H. Huston,
John W. Byam,	John Bailey,
James Powley,	Augustus Shorts,

James McNally.*

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Question 4th.—Who have been expelled this year?—None.

Question 5th.—Who have withdrawn from the connection this year?—None.

Question 6th.—Where all the Preachers characters examined?

This was strictly attended to by calling over their names before the Conference.

Question 7th.—Who are the Local Preachers?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Augustus Shorts, | John Upper, |
| John Grant, | James Bailey, |
| Silas Hopkins, | Jacob Patterson, |
| Joseph Lockwood, | Henry H. Johnson, |
| Albert Taylor, | John Runnels, |
| James Nixon, | Thomas Brown, |
| John Elliot, | James Mitchell, |
| — Rogers, | Andrew Bouhgnart, |
| George Fisher, | Henry Rains, |
| Gilbert Lane, | William Bird, |
| George Sills, | David Perry, |
| John Sills, | Daniel David, |
| John Black, | Robert Wilde. |

Question 8th.—What number are in Society?

Thames,	21	London,	127
		Long Point,	55
Malahide,	60	Nelson & Dum.	220
Niagara,	335	St. Catharines,	24
Young Street,	184	Hallowell,	253
Belleville,	456	Waterloo,	406
Eliz th Town,	209	Ottawa,	40
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1265		1125
			1265
			<hr/>
Total,	- - - - -		2390

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Question 9th.—Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

NIAGARA DISTRICT....David Culp, P. E.

Thames,...John H. Huston.

London,...A. C. Leaver, Caleb Swazey.

Malahide,...Francis Bird.

Long Point,...Leonard, D. Salsbury.

Nelson, Dumfries and } D. Griffin, C. Suther-
Back Townships. } land and one to be supplied.

Niagara,...Hiram Johnson, Jesse Owen.

St. Catharines,...Leonard Haney.

Young St....George Turner, Jas. Cunningham.

BAY QUINTE DISTRICT—Jos. Gutchell, P. E.

Hallowell—Nathan Parks, Jos. Leonard.

Belleville—Benson Smith, Wm. E. Norman.

Bay Quinte—Lehiel Savage.

Waterloo—James Powley, Michael Davy.

Elizabeth Town—Thaddeus Lewis—one to be supplied.

Long Island—John W. Byam.

Conference Missionary—John Bailey, Charles

Pettys, and Henry Gilmore—without appointment at their own request.

Joshua Webster, and Jos. Dailey, do. do. for want of health.

Question 10th.—Where and when shall our next Conference be held?

At Young Street, Cummer's Chapel, about ten miles from the City of Toronto, the third Wednesday in June, 1837, at ten o'clock in the morning.

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A true Copy of an Address from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada to the General Conference of the Methodist E. Church in America, held in Cincinnati, 14th May, 1836, with the Official Report of their Committee appended.

To the Bishops and Ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference Assembled.

REV. FATHERS AND BRETHREN :

Permit us as unworthy fellow-laborers with you in the Kingdom and patience of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to greet you in the name of our common Lord, and to pray that at this time while you are assembled to consult for the prosperity of the Church and the enlargement of her borders, that the spirit of wisdom, and of a sound mind may be given, and that brotherly love and peace may reign among you.

We esteem it at this time, dear Fathers and Brethren, our duty to address you upon a subject in which we, as Ministers in common with those under our charge, believe that a sympathy of feeling will be exercised by you towards us. A subject which awakens in us peculiar sensations, by the remembrance of by-gone days, when the candle of the Lord did shine upon us, and as the honoured instruments of which light, many who are in connection with your reverend body, are called to participate. We wish not to detail the circumstances which have placed us in the furlorn and almost destitute situation in which we are; the remembrance of them is painful to us, we merely advert to the arrangement of a Conference in this Province, which in its relations was to be distinct and unattached to the Conference of the United States, both annual and general, that the understanding was, that the Episcopal form of

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Government in the Church was to be adhered to—that every thing indeed which characterised the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States in its Government and discipline continue here, except in what local civil circumstances warranted a departure, and this was immediately met by a necessary alteration in the 23d Article of Faith. The fostering care of the General Conference was still exercised towards us; books were supplied us, large sums were annually applied by the parent and other Missionary Societies, and every facility rendered, by which private donations might be obtained for the benefit of our Missions in Canada, and indeed nothing was wanting that could in any way tend to continue and cherish the bonds of affection, and the remembrance of that spiritual relationship which had existed since ever we have been a people.

In this way we continued some time, the Lord owning and blessing the work—and though we had to pass through the ordeal of official persecution—our names stigmatised, and motives impugned—still the work was blessed—the Societies continued to increase, and devotedness and zeal marked our every step.

What the ostensible reason was for seeking an alteration in our affairs we are not aware; but it was a sudden and wholly unexpected transaction, commenced, carried on and concluded without the sanction, and we might say almost without the knowledge of the Societies.

We wish not at present to detail the proceedings that led to the consumation of the Union of the Canada Conference with the British Conference, in which all former privileges were guaranteed to our people, but wish to impress upon the minds of our dear Fathers and Brethren, that we, as Ministers, and those under our charge, after long and prayerful deliberations, chose rather to

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adhere to our original standing as Episcopal Methodists, though by this we should be incurring the anathama's of our changing Brethren, and our circumstances thereby much straitened, for it soon appeared the understanding respecting privileges was forgotten—regulations and forms introduced, altogether new, and no way to our view, congenial to the extension of the work in this Province.

Placed in a situation in which we could not conscientiously unite ourselves with the Canada Conference in its new relation, we availed ourselves of the provisions made in the fourth section of the Discipline, in which, cases of emergency were provided for. We have among us a sufficient number of Elders to compose a general Conference, and duly elect and consecrate a Bishop, according to the order of Methodism; we have succeeded in organizing an annual Conference, and as far as possible to supply the wants of the members scattered in almost every part of the Province.

We now address ourselves to you, Brethren, as Ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church; we recognize you as our Fathers in the Gospel, and in our low estate crave your consideration of us. We send the Rev. James Powley, and the Rev. John Bailey, two Brethren highly esteemed by us, who will make known to you more particularly our circumstances; we shall be rejoiced to find upon their return that we, through them, have been recognized as your children, that they bring to us good tidings of your disposition to assist us with your advice, and that the favors formerly bestowed and gratefully received will be perpetuated.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. C. SEAVER,
Secretary.

Trafalgar, June 29th, 1836.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

CINCINNATI, OHIO, MAY 14, 1836.

The Committee to whom was referred the address of sundry persons in Upper Canada, claiming to be the M. E. Church in that Province, beg leave to report--

That they have had an interview with the individuals appointed by those persons, and who were the bearers of the address, and have availed themselves of such other sources of information as was within their reach. And they find that in June, 1835, certain persons to the number of five, only one of whom was a travelling preacher, the others being

Local Elders, met and resolved themselves in to what they called a general Conference, and elected one of their number to the office of a Bishop, and the remaining four proceeded to ordain and set him apart for that office, and immediately held an annual Conference, from the Minutes of which, it appears that they then numbered 21 stationed or travelling Preachers; 20 Local Preachers, and 1243 Members of Society. It appears there have been additions since, both of Preachers and Members. In view of all the circumstances, as far as your committee has been able to ascertain and understand them, they are unanimously of opinion the case requires no interference of this general Conference, all which is respectfully submitted.

D. OSTRANDER,

Chairman.

Cincinnati, May 14th, 1836.

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ADDRESS

To the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN :

Influenced by a deep interest for your welfare, we take the liberty of addressing you on those subjects which we conceive to be inseparably connected with the interests of that branch of the Church of Christ with which you are associated. We cheerfully congratulate you on the increasing prosperity of Zion, within the bounds of our labors, as well as elsewhere. God has been graciously pleased to pour out his spirit upon us, and many precious souls have been added to the number of the flock of Christ. But notwithstanding much has been done among us, there remains much more to be effected or thousands will perish forever. We are aware that with regard to the salvation of men much depends on the ministry ; and we most humbly trust, that we feel no disposition to relax in any degree in our efforts to discharge the numerous and highly responsible duties of our calling. At the same time, we are sensible we shall not be able to effect all that is needful to be done in this great and glorious enterprise, without the especial aid and unremitting co-operation of our brethren.

We would therefore most earnestly and affectionately entreat you to become more than ever co-workers together with us, helping to build up and advance the kingdom of our blessed Redeemer. To insure success in this extensive and noble enterprise, let our entire dependence be on the Great Head of the Church, and to secure his divine aid, let us live near him, let our daily walk be close with him, our communion deep, our union

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strong. Let us in a word content ourselves with nothing short of that "perfect love that casteth out all fear," with these exalted attainments what shall we not be able to accomplish! Our examples, our exhortations, our prayers could not fail to have an irresistible influence, and we might expect to see the fire of reformation spreading itself in every direction, and sinners by thousands flocking to the standard of Christ. We would now say to you, dear brethren, help in this great work.

We would at the present time especially remind you of the great importance of contending earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Let us walk by the same rule and mind the same things, and not only inquire for the good old paths, but walk therein. We would take the liberty still further to remind you of the great necessity of looking after the temporal concerns of the Church with increasing assiduity.

Your preachers, whilst they devote their time and talents of youth and manhood to the service of the Church and your best interests, are in many instances but partially provided for. Brethren, ought this to be the case? Is it not sufficient that they abandon every prospect of providing for themselves and families, against the times of infirmity and age, without being exposed to the most distressing embarrassments, while unreservedly employed in the service of the Church? We feel confident that if this subject were properly understood, and its importance duly realized, the proper remedy would be applied.

We would now call your attention to another important subject, which we think worthy of your special notice. The want of suitable accommodations for your preachers and their families is found to be an evil of no small magnitude amongst us, not only felt by those who have no houses of their

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own, but others will seriously embarrass the operations of the Church. The want of parsonages will induce many of the preachers to procure situations of their own, in view of something like a permanent settlement for their families. That being done, though they should travel for many years, they must either be accommodated with appointments convenient to their families, by which their usefulness is greatly diminished, if not wholly destroyed, in travelling the same ground over and over, or else occupy the time that should be spent in visiting from house to house, and in the discharge of other pastoral duties, in travelling to and from their circuits. The preachers mind will be with his family, if at a distance, and more especially if he have a few acres of land that depend on him for improvement. To remedy this, let a suitable dwelling be provided and furnished in every circuit wherever it is practicable, to the end that those preachers who have no houses of their own may be accommodated, and leave such as have not without sufficient excuse for not removing into the midst of those with whom they are appointed to labour.

The prosperity with which our operations have been attended during the past year, stimulates us to "go forward," and the increase of numbers has exceeded our most sanguine expectations, being nearly doubled since our last Conference.

The accessions that have been made to the ministry will enable us to extend our operations much farther and more fully to supply the increasing demands that have been made for our labours, all of which will appear from the accompanying minutes, and at the same time would remind you, brethren, that we have not lost sight of the obligation under which we are to our brethren in the United States, for the disposition manifested towards us in the cordial reception of our delegates,

by the General Conference; as also in the Report of their Committee, relative to our affairs, which, accompanied by our Address to them, we have ordered also to be enclosed.

In conclusion, brethren, we would exhort you to aim in all your actions at the general good, and guard most effectually against that which has been indulged at the expense of thousands—party spirit. Cultivate a spirit of meekness and forbearance, keep the unity of the spirit, and live in the bonds of peace; remember the time is short, the Lord is at hand, whatever therefore we have to do for God and his Church, must be done without delay.—And now dearly beloved, pray for us that we may be preserved blameless.—We commend you to God and the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance with all the sanctified that is incorruptible and that fadeth not away.

JOHN REYNOLDS, *President.*

A. C. SEAVER, *Secretary.*

Belleville, 21st June, 1836.

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S, President

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