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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN CANADA,  
FOR THE YEAR 1837.

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# MINUTES

TAKEN

## AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

YONGE STREET, 28th June, 1837.

*Question 1st.*—What preachers are admitted on trial?

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 William Bird,         | 5 Andrew P. Shorts, |
| 2 Christopher Thompson, | 6 John H. Sills,    |
| 3 David Perry,          | 7 Henry Johnson.    |
| 4 Barnabas Brown,       |                     |

*Question 2nd.*—Who remain on trial?

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| William E. Norman, | Leonard D. Salsbury, |
| Joseph H. Leonard, | Michael Davey,       |
| Francis Bird,      | Hiram Johnson.       |

*Question 3rd.*—Who have been received into full connexion?

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Carrol Sutherland, | Jehiel Savage, |
| Benson Smith,      | Nathan Parks,  |
| Jesse Owen,        | Joseph Daily.  |
| Henry Gilmore,     |                |

*Question 4th.*—Who are the Deacons?

Those marked thus \* have been ordained this year.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Caleb Sweazy,       | Nathan Parks,*  |
| Carrol Sutherland,* | Jehiel Savage,* |
| Henry Gilmore,*     | Joseph Daily,*  |
| Joshua Webster,     |                 |

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*Question 5th.*—Who are the Elders?

Those with this mark \* were ordained this year?

Joseph Gatchel,  
John W. Byham,  
James Powley,  
David Culp,  
John H. Huston,  
Charles Pettys,\*  
Benson Smith,\*  
Thaddeus Lewis,\*

John Bailey,  
James McNally,  
James Richardson,  
Philander Smith,  
David Griffin,\*  
Jesse Owen,\*  
George Turner,\*  
David Perry.\*

*Question 6th.*—Who is the General Superintendent?

John Reynolds.

*Question 7th.*—Who have located this year?

Leonard Haney, James Cunningham.

*Question 8th.*—Who are the Supernumeraries?

There are none.

*Question 9th.*—Who are the Superannuated Preachers?

Daniel Picket.

*Question 10th.*—Who have been expelled from connexion?

None.

*Question 11th.*—Who have withdrawn from the connexion?

None.

*Question 12th.*—Were all the Preachers' characters examined?

This was strictly attended to.

*Question 13th.*—Who have died this year?

Arnon C. Seaver.

*Question 4th.*—What are the numbers in Society ?

Thames Circuit.....	31
Malahide do.....	80
Niagara do.....	273
Yonge Street, do.....	223
Belleville do.....	541
Elizabethtown do.....	347
London do.....	127
Long Point do.....	109
Nelson do.....	330
St. Catharines do.....	88
Hallowell do.....	448
Waterloo do.....	378
Ottawa do.....	40
Bay Quinte do.....	507

Total.....3522

Total last year.....2390

Increase this year,....1132

*Question 15th.*—Where are the preachers stationed this year ?

NIAGARA DISTRICT—DAVID CULP, P. E.

*Yonge Street Circuit*—George Turner ; Carrol Sutherland.

*Nelson*—William Bird ; Leonard Salsbury.

*St. Catharines*—David Griffin.

*Dumfries*—Barnabas Brown.

*Niagara*—Jesse Owen ; Henry Gilmore.

LONDON DISTRICT—JOHN BAILEY, P. E.

*Long Point Circuit*—Francis Bird.

*Malahide*—Hiram Johnson.

*London*—John H. Huston.

*Thames and Gosfield*—Charles Pettys ; Caleb Swayzy.

*Toronto City*—James Richardson.

BAY QUINTE DISTRICT—JOSEPH GATCHEL, P. E.

*Elizabeth Town Circuit*—James Powley ; Henry H. Johnson.

*Augusta*—Joseph H. Leonard ; Christopher Thompson.

*Ottawa*—James M'Nally.

*Waterloo*—John W. Byham ; Andrew Short.

*Bay Quinte*—David Perry ; Jehiel Savage.

*Hallowell*—Thaddeus Lewis ; John Sills ; Joseph Daily.

*Brighton*—Nathan Parks ; Wm. E. Norman.

*Belleville*—Benson Smith ; Michael Davy.

Conference Missionary, Philander Smith.

**OBITUARY.**

The Rev. ARNON C. SEAVER, died May the 1st, 1837, in Westminster, North-street, in the County of Middlesex, in the Province of Upper Canada. He was born in or near the place where the City of Buffalo now stands, in the State of New York, about the year 1805. While young he with his parents removed into the Province of Upper Canada, and there remained until his death. While but a youth, he often felt remorse of conscience on account of his sins. In the year 1828, being about 22 years of age, under the Preaching of the Methodists, he was brought to see his lost and ruined condition, and also the need of religion to escape the bitter pains of eternal death, and to prepare him for the World of Glory. He sought the Lord with all his heart, and found him to the joy of his soul. Some time after his conversion, the Spirit of God constrained him to call sinners to repentance, and to seek the lost sheep of the House of Israel ; which he did successfully—the Lord owning and blessing his labours as an exhorter. About the year 1832, being approved

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by the Church, he received license as a local Preacher. In June, 1835, at a Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was held in Trifalgar, he was ordained to the office of a Deacon, and received his appointment on the Niagara Circuit, where he laboured with success; being highly esteemed by his brethren and those who heard him Preach the Word of Life.

In the year 1836, at the Conference held at Belleville, he received his appointment to the London Circuit, where he laboured with success and acceptability until his sickness. While sick, several of his friends visited him at different times, and to their great joy, always found him perfectly tranquil and at times greatly rejoicing in prospect of a blessed eternity. When Death was about to lay his cold hand upon him, he exclaimed to one near him, "O brother, my grave cloths are nearly prepared, and I have nothing to do but close my eyes & draw up my feet in death and pass triumphantly to the world above." Brother Sutherland attended his funeral and addressed the Congregation from the following text, (selected by our deceased brother,) Job, xix chap. 25th and 26th verses. He died on the first day of May, 1837. In conclusion, let us say, our brother is gone, but he has left a delightful fragrance behind—grateful to his surviving friends and encouraging to every disciple of Jesus. He was a member of the Methodist Church about 10 years. His departure is severely felt, and has caused a vacuum not soon to be filled. While our Church mourns the absence of one of its best Ministers, his family the bereavement of an affectionate husband, and an indulgent father, it is consoling to believe that he is now in Abraham's bosom; united to the High and Glorious company of Angels and the General Assembly and Church of the First-born in Heaven. He is waiting to renew the connexion Death has dissolved.

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA.**

**BELoved BRETHREN:**

Another year has rolled round and we are again permitted in the good providence of God to meet together to attend to the duties of our annual conference, under circumstances of no ordinary interest. Having therefore the op-

portunity in a Conference capacity, we present you our congratulations on the present condition and future prospects of that branch of the Church of Christ with which we are more immediately connected.

“ What trials have we seen,  
 What conflicts have we past;  
 Fightings without, and fears within,  
 Since we assembled last.”

But, out of them all, the Good Lord, in whom we put our trust, has graciously and safely delivered us. With the exception of one of our number, the cold hand of Death has not been permitted to invade our ranks, and our strength has been equal to our day, and even in this exception we see much cause to admire the wisdom, goodness and care of our Heavenly Father—Yes, in the triumphant death of our late highly esteemed brother Seaver, an obituary notice of whom you will find in our minutes, we are again certified of the real blessedness of those “ who die in the Lord,” have our own faith strengthened, and are stimulated to greater zeal and further sacrifices in the arduous duties of our high and holy calling.

The events of the past year serve to settle the minds of all as to the propriety of the denominative title by which as a church we are, and long have been, distinguished from our fellow christians of other denominations, as well as the legality of our claims to those houses erected by our fathers and brethren in past time for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The highest judicial authorities of our country having decided the question, and it affords us no small measure of gratification to have this additional proof of the inviolable integrity



and impartiality of those to whom the important decision was committed. Under such an administration of the laws of our land we are truly secure in worshipping the God of our Fathers "under our vine and fig-tree, none daring to molest or make us afraid." "When the righteous bear rule, the city rejoiceth."

But important as this decision is to the peace and security of our Church, it affords but a small part of the ground of our congratulations, when compared with the signal manifestations of the favor and approbation of the Great Head of the Church, in graciously crowning with signal success our feeble efforts for the salvation of our fellow men. During the year just passed, not less than 1132 precious souls have been given as the seals of our ministry to the membership of the church, besides we are fully convinced that many others have been born into the Kingdom of our Common Lord and added to other branches of the Church of Christ through the instrumentality of "your servants for Christ's sake." "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name alone be the glory."

By the returns of the members which have just been handed in from the several circuits within the bounds of our labours, we find 3,522 now under our charge. Precious immortals, to whom we are bound by no ordinary ties of feelings, interests and fellowship, to devote our time, our talents and our labors; and we flatter ourselves a reciprocity of similar feelings, interests and fellowship, is not wanting among those whom we now address.

From the success of the past, the harmony and unity of sentiment existing at the present, and the

accessions to our ministry, we feel fully warranted to hope the most favourable and glorious progress in the future. But as we would ever have deeply impressed upon our minds and hearts the sentiment of an inspired Apostle, that all "our sufficiency is of God," so we would say, "Brethren pray for us," that the work of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.

And now, dear brethren, suffer the word of exhortation to "walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith ye are called; with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of spirit in the bond of peace."—"Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice; & be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Avoid as fire every spirit and thing not congenial to the above heavenly and holy admonitions of inspiration: our heart's desire is that the plain, simple, serious and self-denying practice and living, which so eminently distinguished the fathers and matrons of the Methodist people, may be revived and preserved by us their children; and handed down to our latest generations. Then the glory will never depart—Ichabod will not then be written upon the institutions of Methodism.

Before we close this brief epistle, we would remind you of the vast importance of bearing up our hands in enforcing the excellent discipline of our church. Upon this depends, in a great measure, the efficiency of the ministry and purity of the body.

We trust our brethren need not now be informed that the success of our ministry, as well as the support of ourselves and families, depend mainly on the liberality and contributions of our beloved brethren; that we have not, nor do we desire to have, any resources from which we can draw aid independent of you. The *voluntary* principle of support to the Ministry is the only one which we can countenance; and we trust you are fully sensible of its importance, and will not be backward to support it by your practice, in promptly affording what may be necessary for the comfortable food and raiment of ourselves and families. The ordinance of God is, that they who preach the gospel shall live of the gospel.

The efforts making for the suppression of intemperance, by means of Temperance Societies, has not escaped our attention; in reference to which, the following Resolution has passed the Conference:

*Resolved*—That this Conference cordially approve of the efforts which have been, and are being made, to abolish, and prevent the use of, as a beverage, all alcoholic drinks throughout the Province, and they will use their utmost efforts to induce all with whom they have intercourse, to form and extend temperance societies on the pledge of total abstinence from all such drink; and will, as far as practicable, set the example by becoming themselves members of such societies; and we heartily recommend the cause to your zealous support and co-operation.

We have received several memorials on subjects of importance relative to the modification of our Church Government, which well deserve our attention, and which shall be favourably considered and

acted upon as soon as practicable. We are decidedly in favour of guarding sufficiently every point, both in the formation and administration of the government of the Church, from which any danger to the peace and privileges of any portion of the Church may be apprehended; and especially such as have afforded means formerly to make innovations, and intrude upon the rights of the membership.

And now, beloved, we conclude with our earnest prayers to the Great Head of the Church, that He would vouchsafe to have you and us in His holy care and keeping. And may "the God of peace sanctify you wholly, and preserve you blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Amen."

Signed in behalf of the Conference,

GEORGE TURNER, *Secretary.*

Conference Room, Yonge Street,  
28th June, 1837.

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