

S.D.A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN INTERRACIAL RELATIONS - 1934

INDUSTRY HAILS ADVANCED ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN
INTER-RACIAL RELATIONS
(1934)

An outstanding missionary achievement is to be credited to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in their religious efforts among the Negroes of the South, during the past more than half century. The movement started in an unexpected manner by Mr. Silas Osborne, a Kentuckian by birth. He had removed to Iowa in 1851 and there accepted the views of Seventh-day Adventists. His enthusiasm caused him to write letters to his relatives at home in Kentucky and on the occasion of **his** visit to them some twenty years later, or in 1871, his brother had arranged a meeting and had him slated to address the gathering. He was reluctant to do this, laying no claims to the ministry or to the art of public speaking, but his objections were overruled and he took part, as was expected of him, and with undoubted success.

Thus the work was started in the South, first among the white people. Soon many of them from far and near; Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, many other Southern States, even Texas interested in the education and religious life of the Southern Negro, initiated the commendable movement of teaching the faith to them.

Another notable figure in this work was Mr. James E. White of Chicago. He decided to devote his energies to religious gospel effort in some place destitute of proper leadership. On account of having received an appeal from his mother some two years previous, of the need of Christian work among the Southern Negroes he made plans to fill that need. Joined by a young man named W. O. Palmer, Battle Creek, Michigan, they decided upon Vicksburg, Mississippi as their starting point.

A boat suggested itself to them as practicable for both transportation to their destination as well as headquarters for them on arrival. A 72 ft. steamer was built in Michigan for this purpose. They Christened it "The Morning Star". In the Fall of 1894 they started going via Lake Michigan, the Illinois River and the Mississippi reaching Vicksburg early in the year 1895.

In addition to their missionary work Mr. White, who was a printer and publisher of experience, started the publication "Gospel Primer", designed to teaching the rudiments of reading as well as to minister to the religious needs of the people through simple Bible stories. The publication also helped to take care of the financial matters for their group which, with their wives, had grown to ten workers. This group did their work well in the secular and sacred education of the Southern Negro.

Parochial schools are in operation for the benefit of the children of the church. Some churches have ten grade academies and there is Oakwood Jr. College at Huntsville, Alabama. The farm on which this school is located comprises 896 acres.

The first Negro church of Seventh-day Adventists was organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee with a membership of ten. The first Sabbath offering was 24 cents. Now there are in excess of ten thousand believers and last year, 1933, the Negro constituency gave \$122,379.76 in tithes and \$89, 181.70 in mission offerings.

There are more than 200 ministers, teachers, doctors, and nurses regularly employed. There are 146 churches and 49 companies worshipping without church buildings.

The most recent contribution of the North American Negro Department of the Seventh-day Adventists toward the revival of true religion among colored people is the publishing of the book "Hope of the Race", by F. L. Peterson, present head of the General Conference Negro Department and the "Message Magazine, just off the press of the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tennessee.

1934 marks the beginning of a new day along medical missionary lines for the colored people in re-opening of the Oakwood Sanitarium at Huntsville, Alabama, with Dr. L. L. Holness a graduate from the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists, as Superintendent.

Master Copy *Keep*
Note corrections and additions
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1871 One of the first Seventh-day Adventists known to work in the South among the 4,000,000 colored people was Silas Osborn, in Kentucky.
- 1883 The first Seventh-day Adventist colored church in all the world was organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee. The donations on the first Sabbath were 29¢.
- 1889 A. Barry, a former slave who accepted the message through reading the "Review," brought out a company in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1889 C. M. Kinney, today the oldest colored minister in the denomination, was sent to shepherd the Louisville flock. He died August 3, 1951.
- 1892 Fifty colored Seventh-day Adventists in the South paid a tithe of about \$50.00.
- 1895 The missionary boat, "The Morning Star," named by Sister White's son, James Edson White and W. O. Palmer, became the morning star in the lives of hundreds of colored people along the Mississippi River.
- This missionary venture was financed by the sale throughout our denominational ranks of the book, "Gospel Primer," familiar to every Seventh-day Adventist child of the day.
- Sister White issued many testimonies concerning the need of work on behalf of the colored race.
- 1895 The first church building erected for Seventh-day Adventist colored believers was reared at Edgefield, Tennessee at a cost of \$300.00.
- 1895 To train colored workers, the General Conference established, near Huntsville, Alabama, the Oakwood Training School.
- 1901 Anna Knight was sent to India as a missionary.
- 1902 T. H. Branch was sent to Rhodesia in East Africa as a missionary.
- 1909 With ⁹⁰⁰~~2,000~~ Negro believers in North America, the Negro Department of the General Conference was organized.
- 1918 The first Negro to be elected Secretary of the Negro Department was W. H. Green.
- 1931 B. W. Abney was sent as a missionary to Southern Africa.
- 1934 The book, "Hope of the Race" appeared to find its way into thousands of colored homes. Author, F. L. Peterson.

- 1935 The "Message Magazine" was issued for circulation among the colored race.
- 1936 The first sanitarium for Negroes, the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, was opened at Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1940 206 churches in North America had a colored membership of 14,537.
- 1941 G. E. Peters was elected secretary of the Colored Department.
- 1942 Pacific Union Conference organized its first "Colored Department" under the leadership of F. L. Peterson.
- 1943 Oakwood Jr. College name changed to Oakwood College by regular action at the Autumn Council held at Takoma Park, D. C. It is now recognized as a full senior college.
- 1944 Voted to organize colored conferences in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant. These colored conferences to be administered by colored officers and committees. These conferences will sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
- 1945 (January 1) Colored conferences went into effect, as follows:
- Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
J. G. Dasent, President & Religious Liberty Secretary
F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer
Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. & Educational Secretaries
J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and S. S. Dept. Secretaries
Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
L. H. Bland, President and Religious Liberty Secretary
L. O. Irons, Secretary-Treasurer
Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretaries
Louis Preston, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
J. H. Wagner, President & Religious Liberty Secretary
J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager
W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary & S. S. Dept. Secretaries
M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. & Educational Secretaries
H. D. Warner, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- 1946 South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.
H. D. Singleton, President & Religious Liberty Secretary
L. S. Follette, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager
F. H. Jenkins, Educational & Y.P.M.V. Secretaries
N. G. Simons, Home Missionary & S. S. & Temperance Secretaries
Richard Robinson, Publishing Dept. Secretary

1946 South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.
H. R. Murphy, President, Religious Liberty, S. S., H. M. & Temp. Sec.
V. Lindsay, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager
F. B. Slater, Educational & Y.P.M.V. Secretaries
W. E. Adams, Publishing Dept. Secretary

1946 The General Conference sent its first group of colored missionaries to Africa. The group consisted of Elders P. E. Giddings, C. D. Henri, and G. N. Banks and their families. Banks and Giddings families permanently returned in 1952 and 1955 respectively.

1947 Elder D. B. Simons and family sent to Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he served as evangelist. Permanently returned in 1950.

1950 Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventist was organized.
W. W. Fordham, President, Rel. Lib., H. M., Rural Living Secretaries
A. R. Carethers, Secretary-Treasurer, Book & Bible House Manager
C. C. Cunningham, Educational, Y.P.M.V., Temperance, Civil Defense Sec.

1950 G. E. Peters was elected the first Negro Field Secretary at the General Conference session.

1951 C. E. Moseley, Jr. was elected Associate Secretary of the Colored Department.

1951 The first missionary trip to Africa for the Colored Department was made by C. E. Moseley, Jr. from the General Conference.

1952 R. W. Simons and family accepted a call to be the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Liberian Mission.

1952 Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.
F. L. Bland, President
H. T. Saulter, Secretary-Treasurer, Book & Bible House Manager and Press Relations Secretary
J. H. Jones, Jr., Educational, Y.P.M.V., S. S., and War Service Sec.
C. E. Bradford, H. M., Radio and Self-Supporting Institutions Sec.

1953 David Hughes and family joined the mission staff of the Liberian Mission.

1953 It was voted that C. E. Moseley, Jr. become head of the Colored Department and General Field Secretary upon the retirement of G. E. Peters.

1953 General Conference committee action approving integration in institutions of education and health. Voted at the time of pre-Autumn Council meetings.

1954 F. L. Peterson elected first Negro Associate Secretary of the General Conference and Secretary of the North American Colored Department at the General Conference session.

1954 C. E. Moseley, Jr. elected Associate Secretary of the Colored Department at the General Conference session.

1954 Name of department changed from "North American Colored Department" to "North American Regional Department."

1954 Elder E. E. Cleveland elected Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Department.

- W.H. PACE*
- ~~✓~~ 1955 Ruth Faye Smith sent to Gold Coast, Africa as a missionary teacher. Returned July 16, 1957 on extended furlough to continue studies.
 - ✓ 1955 Elder Douglas Tate and family were sent to Liberia as missionaries. Permanently returned January, 1957.
 - ✓ 1955 Elder & Mrs. Theodore W. Cantrell sent to Liberia as missionaries, he as principal-teacher at Konola Training School, she as nurse.
 - ✓ 1956 Elder M. T. Battle and family sent to Liberia where he is to serve as President of the Liberian Mission.
 - ✓ 1956 Elder C. D. Henri appointed conference evangelist for the West African Union.
 - ✓ 1957 Elder L. E. Daniels and family sent to Liberia to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
 - ✓ 1957 Johnny D. Johnson and wife sent to Liberia, both to teach in Konola Training School. *Academy.*
 - ✓ 1957 Elder W. R. Robinson and family sent to East Africa where he is to serve as president of the Uganda Mission in Kampala.
 - ✓ 1957 Gretel Graham sent to East Africa to serve as nurse in Ankole Hospital in Uganda.
 - ✓ 1957 R. W. Simons appointed secretary-treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission in Aba, East Nigeria.
 - ~~1957~~
1958 Gloria Mackson sent to East Africa to teach at Ikizu Training School.
 - 1958 Elder C. D. Henri appointed president of the Ghana Mission in West Africa.
 - 1958 Elder C. E. Moseley, Jr. elected ~~first~~ Negro field secretary of the General Conference at General Conference session in Ohio.
 - ✓ 1959 M. T. Battle elected Home Missionary, Publicity, and Temperance Secretary for the West African Union.
 - ✓ 1959 L. E. Daniels elected president of the Liberian Mission.
 - ✓ 1959 T. W. Cantrell elected Secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.

- ✓1954 September 29 - Ruth Faye Smith left for the Gold Coast, West Africa, as missionary-teacher at the Bekwai Training School.
- ✓1955 March 20 - Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Cantrell left New York to join workers in Liberia. He as principal-teacher at Konola Academy, she as nurse.
- ✓1955 December 9 - Elder and Mrs. Douglas Tate and daughter were sent to Liberia as missionaries.
- ✓1956 Elder C. D. Henri appointed Union Evangelist and Ministerial Secretary for the West African Union.
- ✓1956 July - Elder M. T. Battle and family were sent to Liberia. He to serve as president of the Liberian Mission.
- ✓1957 February - Elder and Mrs. William Robinson and their four children sailed for the mission field in East Africa. He to serve as president of the Uganda Mission.
- ✓1957 July 24 - Elder and Mrs. L. E. Daniels and their two sons sailed for Liberia, West Africa. He to fill the position of secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
- ✓1957 September 4 - Mr. and Mrs. Johnny D. Johnson and nephew, William L. Burns, left for Liberia, West Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson to teach in the Konola Academy.
- ✓1957 R. W. Simons appointed secretary-treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission in Aba, East Nigeria.
- ✓1957 December 1 - Gloria Mackson sailed for East Africa. She has been called to teach homemaking at the Ikizu Training School.
- ✓1957 Gretel Graham sent to East Africa to serve as nurse in Ankole Hospital in Uganda.
- 1958 June - C. E. Moseley, Jr., elected field secretary of the General Conference.
- 1958 August 31 - Open House and dedication of Phillips Memorial Hospital for Negroes in Orlando, Florida.
- 1958 December 4 - Oakwood College accredited.
- 1959 ✓ M. T. Battle elected Home Missionary, Publicity, and Temperance Secretary for the West African Union.

- 1959 July 23 - Miss Celeste V. Lewis left for West Africa to serve as teacher in the Nigerian Training School.
- 1959 L. E. Daniels elected president of the Liberian Mission.
- 1959 T. W. Cantrell elected secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
- 1959 October 5 - Elder and Mrs. L. B. Mitchell left for West Africa. He to serve as director of the Bassa Mission in Liberia.
- 1959 October 22 - O. A. Troy, Sr., elected associate secretary of the Sabbath Department, General Conference.
- 1960 August 31 - Lois Raymond left New York for a teaching appointment at Konola Academy, Liberia, West Africa.
- 1961 J. M. Hammond and wife sent to Ghana, West Africa. He to teach General Science and Biology at Bekwai Training College.
- 1961 Caddie Evelyn Jackson was sent to Ile Ife Hospital, Nigeria, West Africa as a nurse.
- 1961 Dr. Samuel L. DeShay was sent to Ile Ife Hospital, West Nigeria.
- 1962 F. L. Peterson elected first Negro vice-president of the General Conference at the General Conference Session in San Francisco.
- 1962 H. D. Singleton elected secretary of the Regional Department at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 F. L. Bland elected associate secretary of the Regional Department at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 L. B. Reynolds elected associate secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 September 3 - Carol A. Jones left by plane for the Gimbie Mission Hospital in Ethiopia to serve as a nurse.
- 1962 October 23 - Loretta Daniels departed from New York for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to work in our hospital there as an anesthetist.
- 1963 December 5 - Samuel Gooden and family departed for East Nigeria, West Africa. He to teach at the Nigerian Training College.
- 1964 January 23 - Owen A. Troy, Jr., and family left New York for Sierra Leone, West Africa. He to be treasurer of the Sierra Leone Mission.
- 1964 July 18 - P. E. Giddings departed for Ivory Coast, West Africa with family. He to serve as teacher in the Ivory Coast Training College.

- 1964 August 6 - Lindsay Thomas and wife departed for Ivory Coast, West Africa. He to serve as teacher in the Ivory Coast Training College.
- 1964 October 10 - Eula Gunther departed from New York to serve as teacher in Ghana, West Africa, at the Koforidua Day-Teacher Training College.
- 1966 June - F. L. Bland elected a General Vice-President of the General Conference at the 50th Session in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1966 June - H. D. Singleton elected an associate secretary of the General Conference and also reelected secretary of the Regional Department at the Session held in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1966 June - Detroit, Michigan - W. W. Fordham elected an associate secretary of the North American Regional Department.
- 1966 June - Detroit, Michigan - A. V. Pinkney was elected an associate secretary of the General Conference Temperance Department
- 1966 June - F. W. Hale was chosen president of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, at the 50th Session of the General Conference in Detroit, Michigan
- Allegheny Conference divided to East and West
- 1966 - R. W. Simons elected auditor of Southern California Conference.
- 1966 December -

- 1966 November 20 - Allegheny East Conference was organized with headquarters at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania
W. A. Thompson, President
Edward Dorsey
D. L. Davis, M.V. and Lay Activities Secretary
T. S. Barber, Publishing Secretary
G. L. Anderson, Associate Publishing Secretary
Claude Toombs, Associate Publishing Secretary
C. L. Brooks, Educational and Sabbath School Secretary
Book and Bible House and Stewardship to be filled later by conference committee
- 1966 R. W. Simons elected auditor of Southern California Conference.
- 1966 December - G. R. Earle elected president of Northeastern Conference following the death of R. T. Hudson.
- 1967 April - W. M. Starks was elected secretary of the General Conference Stewardship and Development Department.
- 1967 April 19 - D. B. Simons was elected president of Allegheny West Conference.
- 1967 May 5 - D. C. Keith departed for Sierra Leone to serve as the treasurer of the Sierra Leone Mission.
- 1967 July 17 - Herman Vanderberg and family left New York City for Liberia, West Africa, where he will serve as pastor-evangelist.
- 1967 August 19 - D. S. Williams accepted a call to the Trans-Africa Division. He to serve as secretary to the M.V. and Lay Activities departments.
- 1967 September 24 - J. A. Edgecombe was invited to pastor the Cleveland Temple Church in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
- 1967 L. H. Davis invited to serve as Public Relations, Religious Liberty and Radio-TV Secretary by the Atlantic Union Conference.
- 1968 C. B. Rock elected associate secretary in the Southern Union Ministerial Association.
- 1968 March 5 - Ruby Delories Graves left New York City for West Nigeria to serve as a nurse at the Ile-Ife Hospital.
- 1968 Ted T. Jones was called to a mission assignment in Djakarta, Indonesia.
- 1968 September 19 - Harold L. Lee was called to the Caribbean Union Conference as the Stewardship Secretary.
- 1968 October 24 - Dr. G. N. Benson and family flew from New York City to Benghazi, Libya. He to serve at the Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

- 1968 December 2 - Walton Whaley was invited to Sierra Leone Mission as the Ministerial Association Secretary.
- 1969 January - Lawrence C. Jacobs invited to Southern Union as Assistant Auditor.
- 1969 April 1 - D. A. Walker invited to Columbia Union as Assistant Auditor.
- 1969 November - V. L. Roberts invited to the Southwestern Union on the Officer level, and also as Secretary of Sabbath School and Inner City departments.
- 1969 November 10 - W. J. Cleveland chosen as president of Southwest Region Conference.
- 1970 March 26 - C. D. Henri was elected president of the East African Union.
- 1970 June 4 - C. L. Brooks was elected Sabbath School and Religious Liberty Secretary for the Southern Union.
- 1970 June 12 - W. A. Thompson was elected Executive Secretary for the Columbia Union Conference.
- 1970 June - General Conference Session, Atlantic City, New Jersey. The following were elected to serve five years as General Conferences leaders:
- F. L. Bland - World Vice-president
 - E. E. Cleveland - Associate Secretary, Ministerial Association
 - W. W. Fordham - Associate Secretary of the North American Regional Department.
 - C. E. Moseley - World Field Secretary
 - A. V. Pinkney - Associate Temperance Secretary
 - L. B. Reynolds - Associate Sabbath School Secretary
 - H. D. Singleton - North American Regional Department Secretary
 - W. M. Starks - World Secretary of Stewardship and Church Development Department
- 1970 June - General Conference Session, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- M. T. Battle was elected first black associate secretary of the General Conference Lay Activities Department
 - C. E. Bradford was elected first black full time Associate Secretary of the General Conference
 - G. J. Millet was elected first black associate secretary in the Education Department of the General Conference
- 1970 June 28 - Edward Dorsey was elected president of the Allegheny East Conference.
- 1970 July 6 - J. R. Wagner was elected president of the Lake Region Conference.

1971 Arthur L. Knight elected director of North Central Division of Christian Record Braille Foundation.

Major C. White elected associate secretary of Pacific Union Conference.

A. N. Brogden elected executive secretary of Atlantic Union Conference.

F. L. Jones elected executive secretary of Lake Union Conference.

W. S. Lee elected executive secretary of Central Union Conference.

W. S. Banfield elected associate secretary of Southern Union Conference.

L. H. Grant elected associate MV secretary of Columbia Union Conference, then promoted to secretary when opening was available.

Richard Barron elected Temperance secretary of Lake Union Conference after serving in same capacity in Northern California Conference several years.

Richard W. Simons - associate treasurer of Pacific Union Conference.

H. L. Cleveland elected president of Allegheny West Conference.

R. L. Woodfork elected president of South Atlantic Conference.

Phillip Giddings and family left for East African Union to serve as Educational Secretary.

D. L. Crowder elected president of Central States Conference replacing W. S. Lee.

C. D. Brooks elected field secretary of General Conference replacing C. E. Moseley.

November 17 - Anna Knight presented the Medallion of Merit Award, the highest recognition given by the General Conference for Extraordinary meritorious service to SDA education at Oakwood College.

October 4, the John C. Pitts family left for Masonga Leprosarium - he to serve as business manager.

Byron R. Spears joins Voice of Prophecy team as evangelist.

W. R. Robinson became editor of MESSAGE MAGAZINE succeeding G. J. Millet

1972 January 6 - Victory Lake Nursing Home in Hyde Park, New York, opened its doors, with George Pelote elected administrator

July 1, C. B. Rock assumed presidency of Oakwood College

Joseph P. Winston elected administrator of Riverside Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

Scholarship funds for Black youth set up.

\$187,000 earmarked for inner-city programs.

- ✓1972 Clarence Thomas, III, and family left for Brazil - first Black missionaries to South America.
- C. Dunbar Henri was elected vice-president of General Conference
- R. H. Carter accepted appointment to Uganda, East Africa as president of that field.
- 1973 Eva B. Dykes library at Oakwood College dedicated.
- Natelkka Burrell , guest professor at Andrews University named to Andrews Hall of Fame
- R. W. Nelson elected associate secretary of Southern California Conference.
- 1974 New TV program for Blacks voted "Breath of Life series" under direction of Walter Arties, C. D. Brooks invited to be director-speaker.
- First seminar for Blacks writers at Oakwood College, Sept. 2-6.
- DeWitt S. Williams appointed assistant secretary of General Conference Department of Communication.
- Anita Johnson Mackey received honorary Doctor's degree at Andrews
- Oakwood College enrollment exceeds 1,000 mark.
- Robert L. Handy dormitory for boys at Pine Forge Academy opened its doors on May 19.
- 1975 Malcolm Phipps holds crusade in Vienna, Austria.
- Dr. John R. Ford elected to presidency of California State Board of Education.

NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

OFFICE ADDRESS: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

OFFICERS:

Secretary: G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education: Geneva Bryan

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

General Conference Staff Members:

W. G. Turner

G. E. Peters

Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic Union

F. H. Robbins, Columbia Union

Jay J. Nethery, Lake Union

N. C. Wilson, Central Union

L. K. Dickson, Pacific Union

J. W. Turner, Southwestern Union

E. F. Hackman, Southern Union

Local Conference Presidents:

L. H. Bland, Northeastern Conference

J. G. Dasent, Lake Region Conference

J. H. Wagner, Allegheny Conference

Union Conference Secretaries for the Colored Department:

A. E. Webb, Central Union

H. D. Singleton, Southern Union

T. H. Coopwood, Southwestern Union

F. L. Peterson, Pacific Union

EDITOR, MESSAGE MAGAZINE

L. B. Reynolds

OAKWOOD COLLEGE:

J. L. Moran, President and Business Manager

L. E. Ford, Assistant Business Manager

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

PRE SPRING COUNCIL

April 8, 1944

7:30 P. M.

Prayer: Elder Spicer

J. L. McElhany

Previous to the last autumn council, the General Conference officers met with our Union Conference leaders and gave some preliminary study to the steps to be taken in creating some method or means whereby study could be given to the colored work or phases of its interest. As a result of that preliminary study, the officers and Union Presidents brought to the General Conference Committee the following recommendation:

"WE RECOMMEND to the Autumn Council that a meeting be held prior to, and in the same place as, the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee, for the purpose of studying the future development of our colored work in North America, and that the General Conference Committee be authorized to make all the necessary preparation and arrangements for this meeting, including the naming of those who shall be invited to attend, it being understood that there shall be representatives of our colored work invited. "

Following the Council the General Conference Committee designated the number to be invited from each Union Conference. A little later on it was agreed by the General Conference Committee to suggest to the Union to select a representative layman to sit with us in this session.

If I may be permitted to speak, personally, I am delighted to say that I have reasons for a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of our colored work. I come from an ancestry that for more than 300 years has been closely associated with colored people. For 34 years I have had direct and continuous administrative contacts with our colored churches and believers, and there has developed in my heart a deep interest in their welfare. I have never sensed more keenly, than I have at any time, the great need of our laying wise and adequate plans for the development of the work. I greatly rejoice over what has been accomplished in the growth and development of this work.

There is one thing I want to say to you, tonight, and that is we ought to frankly face it and admit that a Seventh-day Adventist regardless of race and color, face an antagonistic world. We are a very small layity. We can't do what larger and more influential denominations do. We are hated and despised by the world at large. I sometime think we deceive ourselves in thinking that we are popular in the world. Just let some little incident happen and every S.D.A. will be a marked man, hunted and persecuted. We are a small layity; our only help and hope is in God.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

The thing for us to do is to get this work finished just as soon as we can and go to our eternal home where these racial conditions do not exist.

I am thankful in my soul for the council of the Spirit of Prophecy when followed, saves us from a lots of trouble. I pray that God will guide us in this meeting. May God speed the day when this message will be through and the Lord shall come. It will be a glorious thing when we can go to our eternal home. We will forget all the things that have troubled us in this world.

Whether the present plan should still operate or whether the work has grown to the place where something different should be adopted as a means of strengthening our Colored Department I do not know. Every self interest ought to be laid aside. I understand that in certain sections some brethren have already decided the presidents and officers. I think that this is only a rumor.

Should we continue to operate on the status quo? The greatest test of a man to lead is his ability to work with those who disagree. You must make it a rule to allow the brethren to make their opinions if they agree with you or not. We want you brethren to express yourselves. Whether we continue as we are or has the time come when we ought to proceed to organize conferences? If we should decide to organize conferences I do not feel that it could cover every Union in the North American field, as example the Northern Union. We don't want to undertake anything that will make us ashamed. I have known conferences to be organized with only 800 members which proved to be successful.

A. Wellington Clarke

Is there a necessity for a change or are you brethren forcing this upon us? Is it because of the widening extent of our work?

J. L. McElhany

No, this is nothing that has been forced upon the brethren. The General Conference has not come here with cut and dry answers. You might be waiting for us to hand out another sheet. We don't have it. We are anxious that the Lord will lead us in developing a plan that will be for the best interest of developing the work.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

Were we to organize in a Union a colored conference what would be the relationship of that conference to the Union? It would be in the sisterhood of that Union conference. In the Southern Union where this plan is operating would the present plan be continued in addition to the organizing of colored conferences? I don't see how that would be possible. You would have a dual administration. We would not have two forms of organizations operating in the same field.

E. D. Dick

In the event of this organization would the boundaries of a colored conference be exactly the same as the local conference relationship to the Union Conference? Do we have any experience of such an organization?

L. H. Christian /

Yes, we have experienced this organization in Europe. It has worked very well. In Africa it was not as successful because of the scattered churches.

Note: Meeting adjourned

April 9, 1944

T. M. Fountain

I have been studying the Council at Jerusalem. The same situation as far as race is concerned is involved now. I believe that the S. D. A. movement is superior to any organization on the earth Baptist or Methodist. I do not think that we ought to compare this movement with Baptist or Methodist.

I was called to represent all the ministers in the City of Nashville to speak at a ministers' association. The chairman of the committee was a Baptist minister that knew something about the early work of our message. He was once interested in this message. He thought he would have been a better man if he had been an Adventist. I asked the church to pray for me. I spoke on better feeling between the races; also the difficulty that first came into the church. I presented the message. After the meeting Dr. Small, the leading Baptist, said "that he was pleased with the message and wanted me to present this message to his church. ~~The Seventh-day Adventist organization is superior to any organization on the face of the earth.~~ The man's message was good, but there was only one thing that I had against him, he ought to be a Baptist."

In regard to the colored conferences; I want to say here that the laymen's movement was born in Washington. Some of these same laymen told me that they were not in favor with colored conferences. Most of the laymen in our churches are not in favor with colored conferences. If there are those in favor with the conferences they are very few. I can't believe that anyone would like to be a president. I don't believe a word of it. None of our churches are in favor of pulling out.

(Referred to the three points on the agenda)

I don't believe anyone is in favor of the colored conferences here in this place. We have three propositions offered here. We don't want colored conferences.

G. E. Peters

What do they want?

T. M. Fountain

That we maintain Status quo. At this point, T. M. Fountain moved that we maintain status quo.

E. S. Dillett

Seconded Fountain's motion.

O. A. Troy

What is the Status quo?

M. A. Burgess

If we continue on Status quo, improvements should be considered.

A. Wellington Clarke

(Asked to read an address prepared by him.)

J. L. McElhany

To me it is wonderful to see that the colored have large churches, efficiently led and directed by colored men. We have some colored churches with more members than we have in some conferences. I think our colored men do a very good job. This gives me confidence in their being leaders. To say that a man could be a pastor of a 1000 members, but he couldn't direct a 1000 members if they were divided into conferences seems to me, to be inconsistent in reasoning.

This message has spread out into all the world and when this present war broke out, we found we had to turn the work over to the natives. We had to call our missionaries from some of these countries. It was for the sake of the believers. A native believer to be seen with a foreign man might be sentenced to death and made a marked man. We have had to turn our management over to the native workers, viz. So. Pacific, China, Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Manchuria. Wherever the native administration has taken over God is helping.

We must help those that are taking over responsibilities.

If I thought anybody was proposing a Conference organization that would drive a wedge between the races I would oppose it. I do feel anxious for us to develop every resource. We ought to develop every source of strength in our leadership and in our ministry. If a man could lead a large congregation, I do not see why he couldn't be a conference leader. We must keep together and maintain the spirit of council and helpfulness. Every great man has been looked upon as being dangerous. When we first organized churches peopled looked upon it as dangerous. Some people felt that it was wrong to have conferences. The same is true when we organized Y.P.M.V.

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourned and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

to a great station. The object in view is to bring more souls in the true.

We thank you for your words again. We want to assure you that we want to give you the assurance of our loyalty.

F. L. Peterson

I think this is one of the most outstanding moves that have ever been made for us. I am not in the habit of criticizing Seventh-day Adventist for all the things they do that I don't like. All that I am and ever accomplished is because I depended on God. I am grateful for what is being done. The thing that has impressed me is the fine spirit in which this organizing of colored conferences has been done. I believe that it is going to have a wholesome affect on all our people throughout North America.

Whenever we used to say colored conferences many people thought we meant separation. I feel that it will be a very fine thing to give an explanation in the Review of this organization, so that our people will know that this is something that has been handed down by the General Conference to us. If this is done it will help us. They will understand that this is a General Conference idea..

I don't hand out many flowers. I would like to say that during the eleven years I was secretary of the department, and at times it seemed that we weren't going to get certain things; I have always felt I could go to Elder McElhaney and he would bring it about.

This organization will bring the young people courage and something to look forward to in the denomination. They can look forward to more than just teaching school.

I think this is a very fine thing that we have come to. I believe that this means we are going to finish the work. I was told never to mention conferences. Don't ever mention them! I am glad I didn't mention them. I am more than glad that it is now here.

M. A. Burgess

I realize through Elder Peters great things have been done for our department. He has also helped me to do what I have accomplished. At this time, I would like to have us show our appreciation for his leadership by rising.

DELEGATES STOOD FOR VOTE OF APPRECIATION

G. E. Peters

I thank you for your vote of appreciation. I have only made accomplishments through God. I do want you to remember, however, that if our people believe that we are divided on this thing, we will bring about a great deal of confusion.

April 12, 1944

Dr. Olsen, of the Home Study Institute, spoke concerning the Bible Home Study Plan.

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Motion: O. A. Troy: "In each church ask the Medical Missionary Secretary, and those who do not have one, to elect a Medical Missionary secretary to represent Riverside each Sabbath in receiving donations.

Seconded: M. A. Burgess

April 13, 1944

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

^{R.}
R. E. Crawford--Circulation Manager of the Message Magazine.

Note: "As far as the single copies are concerned, the "Message Magazine" sells as much as "Life & Health," "Health" and Watchman put together."--R. E. Crawford

Finis

T. H. Coopwood

There is no question that this is God's way and the only way in these last days.

I happen to have in my possession, at least in my pocket, a letter. This person is insisting that we continue with what we have. Two years ago a white brother said, "I don't see why the General Conference doesn't take over the colored work and run it." There are some of our group who look forward to conferences because of exalted places and authority. There may be some of the other group who don't want to be bothered with us. Perhaps this is the reason they would like to have colored conference to get rid of us.

We should come together like the disciples. They realized their trouble. There was strife among them. They put it away and all their difficulties and the HOLY SPIRIT came upon them. (Joel 2:15-17.

The colored conferences is not in my mind what we need. We need to get closer together and have a more cooperative spirit. We have now a form of organization to last until the Lord comes.

Hooper

The laymen think that the head officials are not interested whether the colored receive a higher education. My son made application to P. U. C. They sent him the forms and he filled them out. After received the application at P. U. C., they must have decided the picture had stayed in the oven too long. Perhaps this racial difference is the thing that we are trying to solve. We are not asking for equal social opportunities. We want the same educational opportunities as the white.

I am positive that God will frown on us if we do not do the right thing. I am not here to apostatize. Let us have our colored conferences if we please. Perhaps our preachers haven't gotten a vision. They need a vision. I am helping to pass on to you this vision. Let us have the same success as the white people have in their conferences. There is nothing wrong with a colored brother being over a colored conference. He has the same kind of brain if the opportunity presents itself. I can't do anything unless I have an opportunity.

God loves me just as much as he loves a white person. We should unite together and finish the work. We are living in a time of the judgment and it should be our desire to finish the work quickly. Let us work together and put over this program. It CAN BE DONE. A colored conference can be managed by colored brethren.

G. E. Peters

I am not in favor of maintaining a status quo form of organization. I haven't got wisdom enough to decide while on the floor the kind of organization that we should have. Any one person's ability is not sufficient to decide this matter. I have studied my people. I wrote the General Conference and mentioned that we should come with something definite in mind so that we could avoid confusion. I did this because I know my people from infancy. We ought to decide on a policy that spells progress and give it to our friends. This is a serious matter. I don't believe that this is a time for office seeking. The salvation of the 13,000,000 colored souls in the United States is at stake.

In 1930 I listened to more speeches against the progress of the colored people than we have had today. Fortunately the speakers today are sincere. We have confidence in them. In 1930 several of the men who fought against the advanced step of the colored work are not in the work today. Those same men were not bringing in souls. They were doing a very small work. They were not in touch with the Negro to a great extent. They thought if they would say something to the white folk, they would then be sure of a job for life. Everyone is present today, of those who stood for progress in 1930.

I am not a radical. I am not an agitator. Nothing is accomplished without God. Pardon my personal reference, but I have through the help of God brought in about 3,000 souls. In one meeting I baptized 145 without stopping. At the close of the meeting 250 souls were won to Christ. God has given me the ability to lead. I suppose that I have erected more churches than any of the brethren, but yet I am standing for progress TODAY.

I maintain that it stands out very clearly, if we continue to maintain the Status Quo form of organization, that we need something for the colored people in the Southwestern. This is shown very definitely. It is also quite evident that something new is needed where my good friend, Clarke, is located. For example, in the Southern New England Conference there are only 349 colored Adventists, this shows that something is needed to propell the work to our colored people.

What am I to say that we should have colored conferences? Whatever it is that takes to bring all classes of Negroes into this message, that is the thing that I am after. We must have a greater evangelism. It is not a matter to insure one's bread and butter as the years go by. We should have some organization that will give us a future. It is not a matter of simply pleasing public sentiment. That does not ring with God's people.

God gave Eldar Blunden a vision for his publishing department. LOOK how under this plan our colored men have advanced. This shows that colored people can lead. Today is a high day for our men in the publishing department. We can also look at Oakwood and see what God has done with colored leadership. We are proud of Oakwood.

I remembered how the colored people cried when they were taken out of the white church herein Chicago. Now the colored church is the largest we have in the Lake Union. It shows how God can bless under your own leadership.

G. E. Peters (cont.)

We should decide whether we should have a colored conference. It ought to be very carefully considered. I don't believe that we should try it in the whole field at the same time. I believe our people have leadership. We aren't ashamed of our progress. I don't believe that we should continue under the present plan of the Status Quo.

J. Gershom Dasent

A strong protest arose against the employing of a Negro Secretary for the colored work some years ago. I came to this country just about that time. The denomination decided to let us have a colored leader in the Department. We have had three colored leaders and God has blessed the work under their leadership. Oakwood is managed by a colored president. We have more students there than we have ever had before. We look at the "Message Magazine." God has set His stamp of approval upon it.

We are living in a time when the Negro is seeking for something more and better than political, economical, social and church affairs.

We shouldn't continue the Status Quo. What we should do is to take a stand for something different. We have tried everything save a colored conference. This shows that something should be done. If we have tried everything else why not try a colored conference?

In 1930 I stood against this very thing of a colored conference. I believe the time has come when we need something more than what we have. The greater work is in front of us. May the Lord give us wisdom and guidance that whatever decisions we arrive at, might be for the furtherance of His cause.

J. H. Williams

We have grown too large to be satisfied with so little. The present plan is far from being satisfactory. I am in favor of making a move that we have colored conferences, if we have the men to handle them. If the local Conference is not in favor of it, it would be just an ornament. It is quite true that something is needed where I am located.

E. S. Dillett

If we have twenty conferences it would not take care of the present issue that is confronting us. I am for progress. If you should organize a colored conference at this meeting and the majority ruled, I will be

E. S. Dillett (cont.)

glad to go along with it and sell books and do the janitor work if it is necessary to make the conference set-up a success.

I am not a race man, even though I am in the race. I am against my race if my race is wrong. I love my brethren. Recently at the meeting held in Topeka the white brethren did not let me know that I was a Negro. We had a wonderful meeting. I have eaten dinner with my conference president, and sat between he and his wife. They were most cordial and did not let me know that I was colored. In St. Louis the Young People of my church go to the White church and have programs. We are made to feel at home.

I am anxious for my people.

(Mentioned the conditions and prejudice that exist in our colleges)
We do not have a copy of the paper prepared by him and read at this time.)

J. G. Thomas

I believe we have in the Southern Union the best plan for colored people. We have today a strong leadership among our workers. I don't believe there is a better fellowship anywhere than among the men in the Southern Union. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation that is manifested among us. We are headed to success.

When I came to this meeting I wondered what it was about; but since being here and noticing the sympathetic spirit of our general brethren, and that they do not think we are agitating for a separation, I am seeing this conference idea in a different light. They along with us are looking for a solution to the problem. I do realize one thing and that is there can be some help given to our work. We are not displeased or disgruntled. We are working together.

We do face one thing. In my evangelism, when we are dealing with the better class of colored people, we find that it is not our church doctrines that keep them from accepting this message; it is questions they ask concerning the position our men hold in the denomination. It is hard for us to explain our situation to them along that line. I have been against the colored conferences; but since I see the General Conference brethren, as plainly seen by all of us, in favor of revising and giving more responsible positions to us, and if this calls for organizing colored conferences I don't see anything wrong with it.

Personally, I don't want any administrative work. I don't think the conference idea is a dangerous one. If the conference plan should go through, we should go home and talk the matter over with our members in an enlightening manner. I believe we should help them to see this thing in the correct light.

H. H. Wagner

I think it is a good thing to have opposition. There is opposition in our political government. Our general brethren want me to be honest and sincere. They want me to have enough foresight and vision to enter in any kind of plan that will promote the work among our people. We have some of the finest men working in the Columbia Union. I have done some evangelistic work in many places and God has blessed.

I believe we should adopt a plan that will be an advanced move for our people. In my recent effort held in Washington, D. C., a lady who was a member of one of the chain stores, cornered me and said, "We believe in the Sabbath and that it is the right day. We can't get around that, but you are a minister in your denomination and how far can you go beyond that? What else is offered the colored people?" It was hard for me to answer that. I offered some kind of weak excuse. We must realize that there are certain things that we can do that will make it easier to reach our better class of people. By organizing conferences it will give us a great advantage in reaching this type of people.

Referred to Vol. 9, pages 205, 207, 210.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was received through President Lincoln, it was through God's leadership. When the slave owners told the slaves that they were free, the slaves still wanted to stay with their masters. They didn't realize what the emancipation meant. I don't mean that we are in slavery; this illustrates that because we have a difference of opinion, it doesn't mean that we are not on the right course. We preach of the United States in prophecy and we can see that he came up just at the right time. God ordained the country by raising it up at that time. It was for people who were looking for freedom.

Whether we have conferences or not, the work will not advance as much until something new is started.

S. O. Cherry

I believe that we should give more power to the present plan that we have now. The Southern Union Plan is the best plan we have, but it is void of power. If our leaders had more executive power they would be happy.

T. M. Rowe

I believe that we have outgrown the Southern Union Plan. I believe the time has come for something different.

H. D. Dobbins

There is a motion before the house. I believe that we should form a committee to study which plan of organization we should operate under. Since we do not seem to want to remain under the status quo, I wonder if Elder Fountain will withdraw his motion.

T. M. Fountain:

I believe in progress, but our very attitude showed that we believed in the Status quo because we didn't do anything about the others. Whatever organization is selected, I assure you, that I will cooperate with it one hundred per cent. We have come here at great expense to the cause of God. We should get something started. If it will help any, I will withdraw that motion.

E. S. Dillett:

Withdrew the seconded.

H. D. Dobbins

I move that we appoint a committee to study the conference plan and bring back recommendations.

J. G. Desent

Seconded the motion.

W. A. Spicer

I hope that this body will set its approval on the Conference plan.

J. J. Nethery

I believe that we should appoint a body that will look with favor on giving additional strength to the organization of our colored work and possibilities of local conferences. I believe in Local Conferences for our colored people. I believe in progress. I believe in a good strong organization which is not anything else, but good cooperation.

J. J. Nethery (cont.)

I am serious about how we are getting along in this denomination. I think a number of things should be looked into and helped. We need a closer organization.

We organized into conferences when there were only 15,000 members. This was less than we have colored members now. It has worked. In 1880 we had 640 churches with 15,000. That meant an average of 24 members to a church. In those days we had 15,000 members and had 24 conferences. That was an average of 648 in each conference.

I don't think that we should thing of 17,000 colored members and making 30 conferences. You can take your 17,000 members, or at least the membership in a few conferences, you could build a good conference with these members. If we take the membership in twenty churches, we probably would have about 2,200, and this little territory could be organized into a colored conference. A good man that knows how to manage a church with a large group, should make a good leader for a conference. A territory where there are three or four colored pastors we can use one as a President. We might have to pick another man from another field. By having a colored President, they will be able to save more souls in their territory.

I haven't any prejudice in my soul against the colored man. They accuse me of being a colored man. My wife knows I like to go to colored churches. We are all a related family. I believe this talk, of the organization trying to get rid of the colored people, ought to be stopped. This is not the truth. The Union brethren should be in favor of a colored conference under this arrangement. If we tried and failed, YOU WILL FORGIVE.

It may be that we cannot organize a colored conference in every Union. Why not start with one or two and with the help and council of the brethren we can see how it works and later on we can start in another Union.

I hope you will think kind of us for we believe in this proposition.

H. M. Blunden

We have had a great expansion in the Publishing Department. We have multiplied our leadership under this new plan. At Oakwood recently an institute was held, since it was a colored institute we turned the entire program over to the colored men. They assigned the program to the others. The General men and Union men took no part in the Council. Speaking frankly, it was a fine institute and fine instructions on salesmanship was given. It was just about the finest institute I have ever been to.

I don't see why this new conference set up couldn't work. The colored men in the Publishing Department are progressing. Of course, at first problems will be created but we can work it out.

The Committee was appointed to bring back the recommendations to the large body of delegates.

J. H. Wagner

Moved that the agenda be referred to this committee.

April 10, 1944

The Special Committee appointed for the Colored work brought back the following recommendations:

1. Advanced School in the North:

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

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

2. Sanitarium in the North:

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

3. Future of Riverside Sanitarium:

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

4. Publishing Work:

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

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

5. Conference Organization:

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

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

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

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.
3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.
4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
5. That the General Conference Committee appoint three members of a commission to join with other members to be appointed by each Union Conference committee concerned, for a study of the colored work in the respective unions; these commissions to report to the respective union committees, and that in cases where it is found necessary for any union committee to request additional appropriations, organization of colored conferences be deferred until after the 1944 Autumn Council, in order to ascertain whether or not this will be possible.
6. That the 1930 plan of colored organization for the Southern States be adopted for all territories in North America with sufficient members, but where the constituency is not sufficiently large to warrant the organization of colored conferences.

N.B. These recommendations were submitted to the delegation at the April Spring Council, 1944, and were unanimously adopted.

Finis

The Meeting adjourned.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.

*Spring Council
April 1944*

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE WAYS AND MEANS
OF STRENGTHENING THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMERICA

Organization

1. Status quo
2. Extend Southern plan to whole field
3. Organize conferences where the location and membership would make this possible.

Educational

1. Establish school in North of academic grade capable of development into a junior college
2. Foster development of primary schools

Medical

1. Establish medical institution in North with a view to training colored nurses
2. Continue to develop the medical work in the South

Literature

1. Colored editor
2. Church paper for colored churches

Departmental

1. Continue to train and develop field missionary secretaries to train colporteurs
2. Departmental leadership

(Stratified organization)

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

**G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

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This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work were when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

. DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

The fundamental reason for the advance step in the organization of colored conferences is rightfully set forth in the preamble of the recommendation that was adopted at the Spring Meeting held in Chicago, April 10, 1944:

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

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

"We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

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

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

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

Following the Spring Meeting several Union Conferences invited a commission from the officers of the General Conference to give study to the plan of going forward with the proposed organization. The Lake Union was first to lead out in this direction.

September 26, 1944, the colored churches of the Lake Union comprising 2,260 believers were organized into a conference taking the name, "Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". This new conference embraces the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. The officers of the conference

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

This new conference which began its functions January 1 has a colored population of 800,000 souls, which must be warned with the message of a soon coming Saviour.

October 3 another colored conference was organized. This conference comprises the Atlantic Union territory (except Bermuda) and has taken the name "North Eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". In the new conference is the Ephesus Church of New York City with more than 1,000 members. There is a total of 15 churches with a membership of 2,200. L. H. Bland was elected President and Religious Liberty Secretary. He will also carry the Home Missionary Department for the present. L. O. Irons was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and Louis Preston, Publishing Department Secretary.

The colored population of this conference numbers 1,106,000.

December 17 the Columbia Union Conference went forward with its new organization. This conference has 40 churches with some 3,800 believers and a colored population of 2,340,832. The conference includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The name adopted was the "Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Officers of the conference are: J. H. Wagner, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager; W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and H. D. Warner, Publishing Department Secretary.

These three conferences have been organized to meet present day conditions and to help in the speedy finishing of God's work on earth. Our colored workers and believers in North America are loyal and true to this Message. The tithe paid by our colored churches during the year 1943, amounted to \$686,853.11 and offering to missions, including Ingathering, was \$279,755.09. The report for 1944 will show a substantial increase in both tithe and offerings, which will prove helpful to the operation of our work both at home and abroad.

We must not neglect to state that the Southern Union Conference with a colored membership of 5,000 believers plan to go forward in the near future with an organization of two conferences in the eight states included in that territory, which has a colored population of 6,000,000.

We realize that the organizing of these conferences will not be without trials and difficulties. But with God at the helm, as the Omnipotent Captain these newly launched ships will sail on to victory.

The progress of the Message Magazine, now about nine years old, is another cause for much gratitude. This magazine is a monthly, full-message journal, the only periodical of its kind in the world. Its psychology is especially adapted to meet the spiritual needs of the 13,000,000 colored people of the United States. At present it is going to all colored Universities, Colleges, Academies, and newspaper editors. It is the ideal medium for making the primal contact with the wealthy families of our cities.

It is amazing to learn that by the end of November its circulation had reached 1,297,133 for the year; a gain of 500,000 over the previous year, which was also a record year. Since its origin nearly all the articles have been prepared by our colored ministers and workers.

At a recent meeting of the Southern Publishing Association Board, L. B. Reynolds, one of our colored ministers, was elected as Editor. In selecting this brother, the leaders of the Southern Publishing Association felt assured

of his qualification for this responsibility. Elder Reynolds entered upon his new duties January 1. It is also understood that he will give some time to the Riverside Sanitarium as Chaplain.

We are thankful to report that our work in North America is growing fast in membership. Figures for the first ten months of 1944 reveal that there have been more than 1,500 baptisms.

May we pledge ourselves to be faithful and true; and with all seriousness and assiduity address ourselves to the task before us this New Year. The task of being ready ourselves and that of making "ready a people prepared for the Lord."

George E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED ~~SEPT.~~

(Article for the Review and Herald)
1945

March 27, 1946

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A. J. Haysmer	1910-1913
C. B. Stephenson	1914-1918
W. H. Green - First Colored Secretary	1918-1928
G. E. Peters	1929-1930
F. L. Peterson	1930-1941
G. E. Peters	1941-June 30, 1953
C. E. Moseley, Jr.	July 1, 1953-1954
F. L. Peterson	1954-1962
<i>H. D. Singleton</i>	1962-1975

Historical Data

Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and	
M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight	1912
New Organization of Colored Department	1929
Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic)	1929
Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences)	1929
Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney	1930
First colored president of Oakwood College	
J. L. Moran	1934
Message Magazine (first publication)	1934
National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College	1934
<u>Hope of the Race</u> (published)	1934
Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over	
by the General Conference	1935
Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college	
status	1942
Reorganization of Colored Department	1944
First colored editor of the Message Magazine	
L. B. Reynolds	1944
First Regional Conference organized <i>began operating 11/</i>	1945
A colored mission superintendent and two missionary	
families sent to Liberia, West Africa	1945
North American Informant (published)	1946
General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters	1950
An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>- F. L. Peterson</i>	1954
An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept.	
E. E. Cleveland	1954

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Accredited by churches of:
Potomac Conference:

ALEXANDRIA

Elder S. J. Barbour
Wilton Whilholt

DANVILLE

Elder Joseph Cunningham
Ida Jeffres

NEWPORT NEWS

Mr. C. L. Braxton
Mrs. Margaret Clark
Mrs. Sarah Lester
Mrs. Signora Medley

NORFOLK, VA.

Mr. Willie Parks
Mr. George Mason
Mrs. D. Gardner
Mr. William Battle

PETERSBURG

Miss Bessie Norman
Mrs. Hortense Robinson

RICHMOND

Mrs. Rebecca James

STAUNTON

No delegates present

WASHINGTON EPHEBUS

Mrs. Ethel Peters
Mr. T. J. Delaney
Mr. M. L. Fields
Mrs. Mildred Fountain
Mrs. Jessie Wagner
Mrs. Bessie Booker
Mr. Joseph Davidson
Mrs. Estelle Turner
Mrs. Caldie Desmukes
Mr. Benjamin Desmukes
Mr. James Montgomery
Mr. Shelton Kilby
Miss Lucille Anderson

MINUTES OF THE COLORED CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MEETING
For the Columbia Union Conference
Held in the Ebenezer Church, 15th and Christian Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
December 17, 18, 1944

The first meeting was called to order at 9 A. M. December 17, 1944 by Elder F. H. Robbins, President of the Columbia Union Conference.

OPENING SONG: "Know Not the Time that He Cometh" No. 542 in the Church Hymnal, was sung by the congregation, and verses 1-16 of chapter 2 of Paul's epistle to the Philippian church was read by Elder E. D. Dick, Secretary of the General Conference.

Prayer was offered by Elder G. E. Peters.

Appropriate opening remarks were made by the Chairman.

ORGANIZATION:

By unanimous affirmative vote, Elder F. H. Robbins was chosen as chairman, and C. H. Kelly was chosen as secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called on the secretary to read the call for this meeting as published in the Columbia Union VISITOR of December 7.

The Secretary also read the actions of the Spring Council in April 1944.

At the request of Elder F. H. Robbins, Elder E. D. Dick made a statement outlining the purpose of the meeting and discussing in detail the action of the General Conference calling for the organization of the Colored Conferences.

Remarks dealing with this subject were made by Elder G. E. Peters, and Elder H. T. Elliott of the General Conference.

SEATING OF DELEGATES:

Upon call of the roll of delegates, the following named persons were seated as delegates and the meeting was declared open for business:

Members of the General Conference Committee:

E. D. Dick
H. T. Elliott
G. E. Peters

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Committee:

F. H. Robbins
C. H. Kelly
C. P. Sorensen
S. L. Clark
J. C. Holland
L. H. King
H. J. Detwiler
C. V. Leach

Columbia Union Conference Committee (Cont.)

M. E. Loewen
W. B. Hill
W. M. Robbins
M. G. Conger
J. P. Neff

Ordained and Licensed Colored Ministers Holding Credentials and Licenses:

Chesapeake Conference: L. H. Bland, W. L. Cheatham, Juanita Jones,
Julia Cooper.

East Penna. Conference: F. L. Bland, R. L. Bradford, Paul Winley

New Jersey Conference: M. S. Banfield, J. R. Britt, E. I. Watson,
Miss E. Mason.

Ohio Conference: J. H. Lawrence, F. C. Phipps, U. S. Willis,
Alan Anderson, D. J. Dixon, Louis Brantley

Potomac Conference: I. A. Christian, T. M. Fountain, E. S. Dillett,
W. R. Robinson, J. H. Lester, H. D. Warner,
Mrs. Nell, Mrs. McDonald.

West Penna. Conference: Monroe A. Burgess, R. Buffin, Columbus McChristian,
Miss L. Cherry.

West Va. Conference: W. A. Thompson.

Accredited by Churches of:
Chesapeake Conference:

BALTIMORE BEREA

J. T. Buchanan
J. Z. Cooper
J. E. Roache
Elizabeth Tillman
Thelma Mainon
Eunice Canady
Hettie Jackson
Blanche Russell
Marcelena Johnson
Venus Harris
W. J. Ridley
Lillie Peakes
Many Waller
Addison Pinkney
Leslie Jones
Blanche Williams
Virgil Montgomery
Mamie Swann
Auman Beatty
J. S. Green

Dayton
Ephesus
Alexandria
Norfolk
Newport News
Danville
Richmond
Petersburg
First Church Washington
Pittsburgh 42
Uniontown
West Va. Conference

E. U. Carter
T. M. Fountain
D. J. Barbor
Henry Parks
J. H. Lester
Joseph Cunningham
John T. Scott
W. R. Robinson
Elder Dillett
R. Ruffin
M. A. Burgess
J. L. Hague

At this time the meeting recessed to allow time for the large committee to meet for the nomination of the standing committees.

At 2:45 P. M. the meeting was called to order and the Committee on Nomination of the Standing Committees submitted its report as follows:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

F. H. Robbins
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dillett
Dr. Kimbrough
M. S. Banfield
M. A. Burgess
Addison Pinkney
W. R. Robinson
Mrs. J. E. Barnett

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Chairman

J. P. Neff
E. U. Carter
Ernest Williams
C. H. Kelly
J. H. Wagner

CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES

Chairman

H. T. Elliott
F. H. Robbins
President-Elect

PLANS

Chairman

G. E. Peters
Charles Stewart
L. H. Bland
Titus Duncan
F. L. Bland
Joseph Parley
A. A. Anderson
Mrs. A. Bethel

Since "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers, " and

Whereas the supreme objective of the Allegheny Conference is to give the "Everlasting Gospel" to every colored person in the territory of the conference, and

Whereas, "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work in order to reach our objective and complete the task."

We recommend that the Conference Committee develop such plans and inaugurate a type program based on the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, which will train and assign every member to some line of soul-winning service suitable to his talents.

EVENING SESSION 7:45 P. M.

The third meeting was called to order by the chairman, Elder F. H. Robbins at 7:45 P. M. and we were led by Prayer by Elder Leach, who invoked God's blessing on the newly organized conference and its officers in this tremendous task of Evangelism in the populous cities of the Columbia Union.

We sang one stanza of "Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb."

The Committee on Credentials rendered a full report as follows through its secretary, J. H. Wagner, which was accepted by vote.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES:

Your committee on Credentials and Licenses made the following recommendations:

For Ministerial Credentials:

M. S. Banfield
F. L. Bland
R. L. Bradford
Monroe A. Burgess
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dillett
F. M. Fountain
J. H. Lawrence
J. L. Moran (subject to his acceptance of call)
F. C. Phipps
W. R. Robinson
W. A. Thompson
J. H. Wanger
U. S. Willis

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

North American Colored
Department

Organized 1909

Office address: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

Officers

Secretary, G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education:

Geneva Bryan

Advisory Council

General Conference Staff Members: L. K. Dickson
G. E. Peters, Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic
W. C. Wilson, Central
F. H. Robbins, Columbia
Jay J. Nethery, Lake
W. B. Ochs, Pacific
E. F. Hackman, Southern
J. W. Turner, Southwestern.

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L. E. Ford, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

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J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

. DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

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Washington Ephesus (Cont.)

Mr. Benjamin Pyndell
Mrs. Willis Dodson
Mr. Joseph Dodson
Miss Celeste Joy
Mrs. Jeannette Anderson

WASHINGTON FIRST CHURCH

Mr. Laertes Gillis
Mr. William Ingram
Mr. J. M. Harris
Mr. J. W. Saunders
Mrs. Esther Hamilton
Mrs. Lucille Lewis
Mrs. Queen Adams
Mrs. Amelia Fitzgerald
Mrs. Carolyn B. Connelly
Mrs. Dora West
Mrs. Dearae Allen
Miss Vivian Burbanks
Mrs. Tessa Warner
Mrs. Alma J. Scott
Mrs. Margaret B. Smith
Mrs. Bessie Winston

Accredited by Churches of:
West Pennsylvania Conference:

PITTSBURGH #2

Mrs. Sallie Brown
Mrs. E. Watson
Mrs. R. Shelby
Mrs. C. Saucier
T. Duncan
Jerry Holmes
Mrs. Mabel Stevens

UNIONTOWN

No delegates present

Accredited by Churches of:
West Virginia Conference:

CHARLESTOWN BEREA

Mr. James L. Hague

STATISTICS OF COLORED DEPARTMENT - March, 1946

March 27, 1946

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Historical Data

Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and	
M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight	1912
New Organization of Colored Department	1929
Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic)	1929
Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences)	1929
Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney	1930
First colored president of Oakwood College	
J. L. Moran	1934
Message Magazine (first publication)	1934
National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College	1934
<u>Hope of the Race</u> (published)	1934
Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over	
by the General Conference	1935
Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college	
status	1942
Reorganization of Colored Department	1944
First colored editor of the Message Magazine	
L. B. Reynolds	1944
First Regional Conference organized <i>began operating //</i>	1945
A colored mission superintendent and two missionary	
families sent to Liberia, West Africa	1945
North American Informant (published)	1946
General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters	1950
An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>- F. L. Peterson</i>	1954
An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept.	
E. E. Cleveland	1954

THE NEGRO DEPARTMENT

Previous to the creating of the North American Negro Department by the General Conference in 1909, an aggressive work was carried on by the denomination in the field of evangelization and education for the colored people.

Faith, courage, and intelligent optimism in the face of almost insurmountable barriers urged the pioneers of this work forward, until today as we note the achievements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the colored race, we say with the psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3

This department occupies a very distinct place in the program of the church, and renders both measurable and immeasurable service. There are still millions from among the colored people who are yet to be warned of the coming of the Lord and of the preparation that must be made in order to meet Him.

During the five years that have passed since the last General Conference session this department has experienced many difficulties, but God has blessed us with such exceptional opportunities for service that today we find our hearts united with the leadership of this movement for the finishing of the work of God in all the world, and we bring you a message of hope and courage.

When the apostle Paul stood on the flinty platform of Mars' Hill and delivered his challenging appeal to the Areopagites, an epoch

was turned in the history of Greece. Among the startling propositions of the sermon that caused the change of attitude of Dionysius and Demaris was the statement, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that ne is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;.....and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Acts 17:24-26.

The grand old story of slavation is still being preached, and many thousands out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people are being changed until today the prophecy of Zephaniah is being fulfilled: "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My suppliants, event the daughters of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering." Zeph. 3:10/

The presence of the Negro upon American soil is the result of the cupidity of commerce. His coming was against his will. Since the landing of that little Dutch trading vessel in 1619 at Jamestown, Virginia, with its small cargo of African slaves, the descendants of these bondsmen have become free American citizens. They have contributed much to American progress and have helped to lay the material foundations of our civilization. Their labor, their songs, and their record of patriotism are evidences of their loyalty and their self-sacrificing spirit.

The leaders of the advent movement, early in the history of its organization, recognized the Negro as an integral element in American life. About the year 1890 definite steps were taken to

carry the third angel's message to the people. It is interesting to note that seven years previous to this, or in 1883, a colored church had been organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, which had been raised up by a colored brother who had received the truth through reading the Signs. Our present church work in Nashville, Tennessee, is the outgrowth of this first church organization.

Since that time evangelistic meetings have been held in almost all the large cities of North America. The colporteur, true to his task, has scattered our truth-filled books and papers in both rural and urban centers, and we are happy to report at this conference that we had 236 churches, with a combined membership of 14,537, at the close of 1940.

Our colored believers are loyal to this movement, and out of there poverty they have given during the last five years with impressive liberality. From the year 1936 to December 31, 1940, the total tithe receipts were \$1,112,189.52. During the same five-year period there was sent on to foreign missions \$703,347.40. The grand total in tithes and mission offerings was \$1,815,536.92. The colored believers have also contributed many thousands of dollars for their own local church needs and home missionary enterprises.

In this department we have fifty ordained ministers, fifteen licentiates, five Bible workers, five assistant field missionary secretaries, one union home missionary and educational secretary, eight interns, one hundred church school and academy teachers, and a small army of colporteur evangelists.

There are approximately 12,000,000 Negroes in North America. The last available figures of the census reveal the astounding fact that more than six million of them are without church membership. Although our race is reputed to be a religious group, for more than a generation there has been a drift away from religion. Here at the home base the Adventist Church should view this situation with serious concern and do all that is within her power to win these people for Christ.

Since we last met in General Conference session three of our workers have been laid to rest--A. J. Evelyn, A Gaynes Thompson, and H. E. Ford.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian school has become a virile, positive force in this denomination. What Christian education has meant to our colored boys and girls, and the overwhelming importance of the church school in Negro education, cannot be adequately described within the limits of this report. It is the aim and purpose of the working force in this department to follow the blueprint in education as has been given to this people by the messenger of God. We believe that "Our children should be removed from the evil influences of the public school, and placed where thoroughly converted teachers may educate them in the Holy Scriptures."

--"Counsels to Teachers," p.204.

There are 100 teachers now engaged in giving Christian instruction to our church-school children, who are attending the 66 church school that are being conducted.

Oakwood Junior College, our advanced training school is doing an excellent work for our young people. There is a strong faculty of fifteen members. Each year the school is being improved, and a large number of students can now be accommodated there. During the last three years, approximately \$45,000 has been spent in the erection of new buildings and the purchasing of additional equipment. For the last five years 153 young people have been graduated from the junior college courses, and 73 from the academy. Some of these now in conference employ are graduates of Oakwood. The school enjoys the best financial standing it has experienced in many years. There is, however, a great need for enriching the courses of study that are offered, so that a larger number of our youth will be attracted to the school and so that they may receive a full college training.

LITERATURE MINISTRY

We have a small army of colporteurs who have set themselves to the task of taking our truth-filled literature to the homes of the people. Many thousands of copies of our large and small books and magazines are being sold by these literature ministers. The Message Magazine is filling a longfelt need in our work. It has grown from a quarterly magazine to ten issues a year. More than thirty thousand of the November-December issue for 1940 were sold. Our books and magazines are finding their way into the best homes of our people. There is a determined effort on the part of our workers to increase the circulation of the Message Magazine, and of our other magazines and books as well. It was the message that was published in the Signs that had to do with the organizing of our first colored church in 1883, and who knows but it might be

MINUTES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

PRAYER

T. M. Rowe opened the meeting with prayer.

RIVERSIDE SANI- TARIUM

1

After much discussion, it was moved and seconded to appoint a committee to work out plans for the Riverside Sanitarium goals.

The chairman with the help of council members appointed the following committee to wait upon the group: E. F. Hackman, C. O. Franz, G. E. Peters, J. J. Nethery, T. M. Rowe, L. H. Bland, H. D. Singleton, H. R. Murphy, J. H. Wagner, W. W. Fordham, J. G. Dasent. Committee members met immediately after the adjournment of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT CHANGE

2

Following an open and candid discussion, it was moved and seconded by committee members to refer the consideration of the re-naming and re-organizing of the North American Colored Department to the General Conference Committee for study and action.

NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT

3

It was generally agreed by committee members that the NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT is serving its purpose. A wider circulation for the periodical was heartily suggested by T. M. Rowe.

LOMA LINDA QUOTA

4

The quota problem for the Loma Linda Hospital was cleared up by Dr. Macpherson of the medical college. He stated positively that no quota exists and that applicants are chosen solely on their scholastic rating, preparation, and recommendations.

RESIGNATION OF MISS GENEVA BRYAN

5

G. E. Peters brought before the council members the cause of Miss Bryan's resignation and highly commended her services in the department.

PROMOTION OF HEALTH EDUCATION

6

Whether the department should continue to promote health education was discussed pro and con by committee members, and it was finally moved and seconded that the matter of the health education office in the department be referred to the General Conference Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by L. H. Bland.

N. C. Wilson, Chairman
G. E. Peters, Associate Chairman
Mercedes Moran, Recording Secretary

MEETING OF AVAILABLE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Held in Pantlind Hotel, 1:00 p. m., Nov. 17, 1947

PRESENT

G E Peters, L. B. Reynolds, H. D. Dobbins, J. H. Wagner, F. L. Peterson, H. D. Singleton, W. W. Fordham, H. R. Murphy, J. G. Dasent, O. A. Troy, L. E. Ford. Others present were R. E. Crawford, T. M. Fountain, H. W. Kibble.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by J. H. Wagner.

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

The MESSAGE MAGAZINE was presented by Elder Reynolds. In discussing its progression, its problems, the feasibility of increasing the magazine's subscription list, which would place it on a sounder financial basis, was presented. Elder Reynolds reported that some of our churches were sponsoring large subscription lists, among them the Chicago Shiloh church taking 740 subscriptions and the New Orleans church 550 copies. Conference presidents and other present leaders were requested to urge all their churches to cooperate in this matter.

INCREASING SIZE AND PRICE

Elder Reynolds asked the group to consider the advisability of increasing the size of the magazine to make it more attractive. Such an increase in size as contemplated would require the magazine to sell for twenty-five cents per copy (retail). No vote was taken, but the consensus of opinion seemed to favor the increase in size to 36 pages and the consequent increase in price.

Elder Crawford spoke glowingly of the accomplishments of the MESSAGE under the efficient editorship of Elder Reynolds. He mentioned particularly the wide acceptance of the special temperance issue.

TEMPERANCE NUMBER

The problem of supplying copies of the temperance number to the colleges making requests was presented to the group. There were commitments by the presidents of conferences and other field representatives. These were turned over to Editor Reynolds.

G. E. Peters, Chairman
O. A. Troy, Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF THE COLORED CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MEETING
For the Columbia Union Conference
Held in the Ebenezer Church, 15th and Christian Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
December 17, 18, 1944

The first meeting was called to order at 9 A. M. December 17, 1944 by Elder F. H. Robbins, President of the Columbia Union Conference.

OPENING SONG: "Know Not the Time that He Cometh" No. 542 in the Church Hymnal, was sung by the congregation, and verses 1-16 of chapter 2 of Paul's epistle to the Philippian church was read by Elder E. D. Dick, Secretary of the General Conference.

Prayer was offered by Elder G. E. Peters.

Appropriate opening remarks were made by the Chairman.

ORGANIZATION:

By unanimous affirmative vote, Elder F. H. Robbins was chosen as chairman, and C. H. Kelly was chosen as secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called on the secretary to read the call for this meeting as published in the Columbia Union VISITOR of December 7.

The Secretary also read the actions of the Spring Council in April 1944.

At the request of Elder F. H. Robbins, Elder E. D. Dick made a statement outlining the purpose of the meeting and discussing in detail the action of the General Conference calling for the organization of the Colored Conferences.

Remarks dealing with this subject were made by Elder G. E. Peters, and Elder H. T. Elliott of the General Conference.

SEATING OF DELEGATES:

Upon call of the roll of delegates, the following named persons were seated as delegates and the meeting was declared open for business;

Members of the General Conference Committee:

E. D. Dick
H. T. Elliott
G. E. Peters

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Committee:

F. H. Robbins
C. H. Kelly
C. P. Sorensen
S. L. Clark
J. C. Holland
L. H. King
H. J. Detwiler
C. V. Leach

Columbia Union Conference Committee (Cont.)

M. E. Loewen
W. B. Hill
W. M. Robbins
M. G. Conger
J. P. Neff

Ordained and Licensed Colored Ministers Holding Credentials and Licenses:

Chesapeake Conference: L. H. Bland, W. L. Cheatham, Juanita Jones,
Julia Cooper.

East Penna. Conference: F. L. Bland, R. L. Bradford, Paul Winley

New Jersey Conference: M. S. Banfield, J. R. Britt, E. I. Watson,
Miss E. Mason.

Ohio Conference: J. H. Lawrence, F. C. Phipps, U. S. Willis,
Alan Anderson, D. J. Dixon, Louis Brantley

Potomac Conference: I. A. Christian, T. M. Fountain, E. S. Dillett,
W. R. Robinson, J. H. Lester, H. D. Warner,
Mrs. Nell, Mrs. McDonald.

West Penna. Conference: Monroe A. Burgess, R. Ruffin, Columbus McChristian,
Miss L. Cherry.

West Va. Conference: W. A. Thompson.

Accredited by Churches of:

Chesapeake Conference:

BALTIMORE BEHEA

J. T. Buchanan
J. Z. Cooper
J. E. Roache
Elizabeth Tillman
Thelma Mainon
Eunice Canady
Hettie Jackson
Blanche Russell
Marcelena Johnson
Venus Harris
W. J. Ridley
Lillie Peakes
Many Waller
Addison Pinkney
Leslie Jones
Blanche Williams
Virgil Montgomery
Mamie Swann
Auman Beatty
J. S. Green

ARTICLE XI

SESSIONS: Section 1. This Conference shall hold regular sessions at intervals of two years at such time and place as the Conference Committee shall designate by a notice published in the "Columbia Union Visitor" at least three weeks before the date of the session.

Section 2. The Conference Committee may call extra sessions at such times and places as it deems proper by notice as provided for in Section I of this Article, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

ARTICLE XII

BY-LAWS: The delegates of this Conference may enact by-laws or amend or repeal them at any session thereof, and such by laws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the constitution.

ARTICLE XIII

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds' vote of the delegates present and voting at the session, provided that if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

After a full and free discussion of Agenda item No. 5. "To Organize or not to organize a Colored Conference which would comprise the entire territory of the Columbia Union Conference, " it was voted to organize a Colored Conference for the believers in the Columbia Union, the vote being 265 affirmative; 18 opposed.

The morning meeting of the session closed by singing hymn No. 647. "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done," and we were dismissed with prayer by Elder L. H. Bland.

Meeting adjourned until 2 P. M.

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 P. M.

Meeting opened by singing "O, How Sweet to Trust in Jesus," and we were led in prayer by Elder M. S. Banfield.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE STANDING COMMITTEES:

In harmony with customary procedures, the churches represented in the meeting appointed members of a committee to serve with the president of the Columbia Union Conference as Chairman, to nominate standing committees for the session as follows:

Wilmington #2
Berea Temple
Milford
Millsboro
Dover #2
Harrisburg
Ebenezer
Elmwood
Norristown
Camden
Bridgeton #2
Jericho
Atlantic City
Asbury Park
Englewood
Jersey City
Montclair
Newark
Cincinnati
Columbus
Oberlin
Springfield
Akron, Youngstown
Cleveland
Toledo

W. L. Cheatham
L. H. Bland
G. Moseley
E. Norwood
Mrs. W. Waters
J. Washington
F. D. Bland
Miss Alice Ruffin
James Street
G. Clarke
M. C. Higgs
Letha Brockenbrough
M. S. Banfield
Mrs. Anna Moore
J. R. Britt
John Craig
Miss Elizabeth Bronner
E. I. Wateon
Fred D. Frazier
S. F. Underdew
Bonnie Stewart
G. L. Henry
D. J. Dixon
H. W. Laurence
David Washington

Dayton
Ephesus
Alexandria
Norfolk
Newport News
Danville
Richmond
Petersburg
First Church Washington
Pittsburgh #2
Uniontown
West Va. Conference

E. U. Carter
T. M. Fountain
D. J. Barbor
Henry Parks
J. H. Lester
Joseph Cunningham
John T. Scott
W. R. Robinson
Elder Dillett
R. Ruffin
M. A. Burgess
J. L. Hague

At this time the meeting recessed to allow time for the large committee to meet for the nomination of the standing committees.

At 2:45 P. M. the meeting was called to order and the Committee on Nomination of the Standing Committees submitted its report as follows:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Chairman

F. H. Robbins
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dillett
Dr. Kimbrough
M. S. Banfield
M. A. Burgess
Addison Pinkney
W. R. Robinson
Mrs. J. E. Barnett

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
Chairman

J. P. Neff
E. U. Carter
Ernest Williams
C. H. Kelly
J. H. Wagner

CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES
Chairman

H. T. Elliott
F. H. Robbins
President-Elect

PLANS
Chairman

G. E. Peters
Charles Stewart
L. H. Bland
Titus Duncan
F. L. Bland
Joseph Parley
A. A. Anderson
Mrs. A. Bethel

Plans (continued)

Mrs. A. J. Scott
Elder J. H. Laurence
M. G. Higgs
Joseph Dodson
E. D. Watson
J. H. Lester
Members of the Columbia
Union Conference Committee

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
J. W. Lawrence, Secretary

After a recess of the second meeting we came together for a report from the various standing committees:

First report was from the nominating committee whose report was as follows:

President
Secretary-Treasurer and
Book & Bible House Mgr.
Publishing Dept. Sec'y.
Home Missionary and
Sabbath School Secretary
Religious Liberty Secretary
Temperance & Radio Sec'y.

J. H. Wagner

J. L. Moran
H. D. Warner

W. R. Robinson
J. H. Wagner
W. R. Robinson

Conference Committee

J. H. Wagner
J. L. Moran
U. S. Willis
Addison Pinkney
M. S. Banfield
F. L. Bland
Incoming pastor of Pittsburgh
E. S. Dillett
C. A. Morgan

All others referred to the Conference Committee.

Upon motion this report was accepted unanimously.

We next had the report of the committee on Constitution and By-Laws: which was read as follows: (Waive reading)

We next listened to the report on the committee on Plans who rendered a partial report, which was acted upon item by item as read by the secretary.

Adjourned was taken until 7:30 P. M. and we were dismissed with prayer by Elder H. T. Elliott.

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

Since "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers, " and

Whereas the supreme objective of the Allegheny Conference is to give the "Everlasting Gospel" to every colored person in the territory of the conference, and

Whereas, "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work in order to reach our objective and complete the task."

We recommend that the Conference Committee develop such plans and inaugurate a type program based on the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, which will train and assign every member to some line of soul-winning service suitable to his talents.

EVENING SESSION 7:45 P. M.

The third meeting was called to order by the chairman, Elder F. H. Robbins at 7:45 P. M. and we were led by Prayer by Elder Leach, who invoked God's blessing on the newly organized conference and its officers in this tremendous task of Evangelism in the populous cities of the Columbia Union.

We sang one stanza of "Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb."

The Committee on Credentials rendered a full report as follows through its secretary, J. H. Wagner, which was accepted by vote.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES:

Your committee on Credentials and Licenses made the following recommendations:

For Ministerial Credentials:

M. S. Banfield
F. L. Bland
R. L. Bradford
Monroe A. Burgess
W. L. Cheatham
E. S. Dilleat
F. M. Fountain
J. H. Lawrence
J. L. Moran (subject to his acceptance of call)
F. C. Phipps
W. R. Robinson
W. A. Thompson
J. H. Wanger
U. S. Willis

For Ministerial License:

Alan Anderson
L. W. Brantley
J. R. Britt
Columbus McChristian
D. J. Dixon
J. H. Lester
R. Ruffin
H. D. Warner
E. J. Watson
Paul Winley

For Bible Instructor Credentials:

Louise Cherry
Julia Cooper
Elvira Mason
Mrs. Geneva McDonald
Mrs. Ethel Nell

For Missionary Credentials:

Juanita Jones

That all other names be referred to the Conference Committee, in counsel with the Union Conference officers.

One more resolution from the Committee on Plans was presented by Elder J. C. Holland which was accepted by a unanimous vote of the delegates present.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PLANS:

I

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS: The Spirit of Prophecy states that, "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the scriptures," and further that, "In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory." Vol. 7:140

AND WHEREAS: The vigorous promotion of our colored colporteur work in the past has undoubtedly been a major factor in building our colored constituency to its present splendid proportions.

Therefore we recommend: that the newly formed Allegheny Conference give diligent study to the organization of its local publishing department keeping in mind that adequate personnel be provided for the promotion of the publishing work so that the present splendid program be carried forward with ever increasing success.

II

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In order to save our children, unite them to our church membership, and prepare them to have a part in giving the Third Angel's Message to the world, we recommend that the Conference Committee encourage, promote and support the sacred course of Christian Education to the end that all of our children be educated in our schools.

III

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER

Realizing that the children and the youth of the church are its greatest resource and if saved constitute the church of tomorrow, and

Whereas we will have failed if the home, the school and the church fails to hold its youth even after bringing them to a decision,

We recommend:

1. That our churches and the Conference give the best possible leadership to our Missionary Volunteer organization.
2. That we organize and maintain societies in all our churches and church schools, and
3. That these societies maintain a strong program of devotional, educational, missionary, and social activities.

IV

GRATITUDE TO GOD

Recognizing that our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and the constituency in developing the work among the colored people of the Columbia Union,

WHEREAS, The time has come when our general and union brethren have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference in order that our work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

RESOLVED, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all out program of evangelism, loyalty in tithes, and liberality in offerings for foreign missions and home work.

V
CONFERENCE LOCATION

We recommend, That the location of the Allegheny Conference headquarters be referred to the Conference Committee in council with the Union Committee.

VI
PLANS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, This newly formed conference is a part of the Columbia Union Conference, and a sister conference to the other seven conferences of the Columbia Union,

We recommend, That the newly formed conference place itself on record as in harmony with all the plans and policies now in operation within the other conference of the Union.

VII
ACTIVITIES

Believing the true purpose of this conference to be expressed in Article III of our constitution, namely "The object of this conference is to teach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,"

We recommend, That the new conference Committee lay large progressive plans for the furtherance of all phases of evangelism, carefully fostering all our departmental and pastoral work in our churches and among our isolated believers and all denominational endeavor.

VIII
BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

We recommend, The establishment of a Book and Bible House at the conference headquarters at such a time as may seem advisable to the conference committee in council with the Union Committee.

IX
MESSAGE MAGAZINE

WHEREAS, The Message Magazine has become a strong factor in the spreading of the everlasting gospel to the colored people,

We recommend, That a renewed effort be put forth to greatly increase its circulation both in subscription and in single copy sales.

X

That any church school comeback funds received by the Allegheny Conference from the General Conference through the Columbia Union conference be held as a separate fund and disbursed by action of the Educational Committee of

the conference for the support of its church schools in harmony with the provisions and regulations governing the use of such funds.

XI

That the Allegheny Conference assume its proportionate share of contributions toward the support of the "Voice of Prophecy," Columbia Union Conference VISITOR," etc., the division of these costs among the conferences of the Union to be determined by the Columbia Union Conference Committee, it being understood that general provision will be made for a share of these expenses in the financing budget.

XII

That in the operation of the Allegheny Conference and its building plans the "no debt" policy be followed and that operating and building and improvement budgets be approved in the regular ways provided in the working policies of the General Conference and of the Columbia Union Conference before commitments are made.

XIII

That the Ingathering basic goals for the Allegheny Conference be set annually by the Columbia Union Conference Committee and that any comeback or reversion funds received from the Union Conference to be held as a separate fund in the conference treasury and disbursed by action of the Conference committee of the Conference.

XIV

That the amounts of operating funds and reserves on hand at the close of the year 1944 in the several conferences of the Columbia Union be shared with the Allegheny Conference in proportion as it has contributed in building up these reserves during the past five years, determined by the records of the conferences, taking into consideration existing liabilities, obligations and commitments.

XV

That a detailed operating budget be adopted annually by the Conference Committee approved by the Columbia Union Conference Commission, and that a reasonable operating capital be held in the conference treasury in harmony with the General Conference working policies.

Voted that a vote of thanks be recorded for the hospitality and service of the Ebenezer Church.

The minutes of the previous meeting and this meeting were read and approved, after which we adjourned. Sine - Die

F. H. Robbins, Chairman
C. H. Kelly, Secretary

REPORT SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

The special committee was called by Elder J. J. Nethery, chairman, to discuss the matter of raising the balance of funds needed for furnishings and equipment for the Riverside Sanitarium.

There was much deliberation concerning ways and means of raising the required conference goals. It was pointed out by the chair that the only way to get anything done is to get right after it and do it.

G. E. Peters reported that the churches had already raised \$47,000, but the total amount now needed is \$120,000.

It was voted to request our colored churches to raise the balance of \$37,000 by February 14, 1948. It was also discussed that the offering that would be taken in all of our churches, including our white congregations, would apply on the over-all goal allotted to our churches.

J. J. Nethery, Chairman

G. E. Peters, Secretary

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

In 1947 when the Central States Mission was organized, the membership stood at 789. This represented all of the colored members of the Central Union territory. The financial strength of this membership in 1946 was in tithe \$39,608.77. Missions offerings \$14,040.22. Just three years later after the organization of the Central States Mission we notice quite a change. The membership has now reached 1,142, a net gain of 333 for the three year period. The tithe for the year 1949 was \$66,758.03. Missions offerings \$24,957.86. Comparing the year 1946 with 1949 in combined tithe and offerings, we see that in 1946 the combined tithe and offerings amounted to \$53,648.99. In 1949 the combined tithes and offerings amounted to \$91,715.89, a net gain of \$38,065.90.

Now let us look at the comparison between the three years prior to the organization of the Central States. The combined tithes and offerings for the three year period prior to the organizing of the Central States was \$128,261.00. The combined tithes and offerings for the three year period since the organization of the Central States was \$243,366.00, a net gain for the three year period of \$115,105.00. They have organized to strongly promote evangelism during this year 1950. We feel that God has great blessings in store for the work of the Central States Mission.

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT - HISTORICAL DATA

Heads of the Regional Department since it was organized in 1909

J. W. Christian	1909-1910
A. J. Haysmer	1910-1913
C. B. Stephenson	1914-1918
W. H. Green - First Colored Secretary	1918-1928
G. E. Peters	1929-1930
F. L. Peterson	1930-1941
G. E. Peters	1941-June 30, 1953
C. E. Moseley, Jr.	July 1, 1953-1954
F. L. Peterson	1954-1962
<i>H. D. Singleton</i>	1962-1975

Historical Data

Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and	
M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight	1912
New Organization of Colored Department	1929
Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic)	1929
Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences)	1929
Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney	1930
First colored president of Oakwood College	
J. L. Moran	1934
Message Magazine (first publication)	1934
National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College	1934
<u>Hope of the Race</u> (published)	1934
Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over	
by the General Conference	1935
Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college	
status	1942
Reorganization of Colored Department	1944
First colored editor of the Message Magazine	
L. B. Reynolds	1944
First Regional Conference ^s organized <i>began operating 1/1</i>	1945
A colored mission superintendent and two missionary	
families sent to Liberia, West Africa	1945
North American Informant (published)	1946
General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters	1950
An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>- F. L. Peterson</i>	1954
An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept.	
E. E. Cleveland	1954

OFFICERS - NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1944

NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

OFFICE ADDRESS: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

OFFICERS:

Secretary: G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education: Geneva Bryan

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

General Conference Staff Members:

W. G. Turner

G. E. Peters

Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic Union

F. H. Robbins, Columbia Union

Jay J. Nethery, Lake Union

N. C. Wilson, Central Union

L. K. Dickson, Pacific Union

J. W. Turner, Southwestern Union

E. F. Hackman, Southern Union

Local Conference Presidents:

L. H. Bland, Northeastern Conference

J. G. Dasent, Lake Region Conference

J. H. Wagner, Allegheny Conference

Union Conference Secretaries for the Colored Department:

A. E. Webb, Central Union

H. D. Singleton, Southern Union

T. H. Coopwood, Southwestern Union

F. L. Peterson, Pacific Union

EDITOR, MESSAGE MAGAZINE

L. B. Reynolds

OAKWOOD COLLEGE:

J. L. Moran, President and Business Manager

L. E. Ford, Assistant Business Manager

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager

PRE-SPRING COUNCIL - APRIL 8, 1944

PRE SPRING COUNCIL

April 8, 1944

7:30 P. M.

Prayer: Elder Spicer

J. L. McElhany

Previous to the last autumn council, the General Conference officers met with our Union Conference leaders and gave some preliminary study to the steps to be taken in creating some method or means whereby study could be given to the colored work or phases of its interest. As a result of that preliminary study, the officers and Union Presidents brought to the General Conference Committee the following recommendation:

"WE RECOMMEND to the Autumn Council that a meeting be held prior to, and in the same place as, the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee, for the purpose of studying the future development of our colored work in North America, and that the General Conference Committee be authorized to make all the necessary preparation and arrangements for this meeting, including the naming of those who shall be invited to attend, it being understood that there shall be representatives of our colored work invited. "

Following the Council the General Conference Committee designated the number to be invited from each Union Conference. A little later on it was agreed by the General Conference Committee to suggest to the Union to select a representative layman to sit with us in this session.

If I may be permitted to speak, personally, I am delighted to say that I have reasons for a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of our colored work. I come from an ancestry that for more than 300 years has been closely associated with colored people. For 34 years I have had direct and continuous administrative contacts with our colored churches and believers, and there has developed in my heart a deep interest in their welfare. I have never sensed more keenly, than I have at any time, the great need of our laying wise and adequate plans for the development of the work. I greatly rejoice over what has been accomplished in the growth and development of this work.

There is one thing I want to say to you, tonight, and that is we ought to frankly face it and admit that a Seventh-day Adventist regardless of race and color, face an antagonistic world. We are a very small layity. We can't do what larger and more influential denominations do. We are hated and despised by the world at large. I sometime think we deceive ourselves in thinking that we are popular in the world. Just let some little incident happen and every S.D.A. will be a marked man, hunted and persecuted. We are a small layity; our only help and hope is in God.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

The thing for us to do is to get this work finished just as soon as we can and go to our eternal home where these racial conditions do not exist.

I am thankful in my soul for the council of the Spirit of Prophecy when followed, saves us from a lots of trouble. I pray that God will guide us in this meeting. May God speed the day when this message will be through and the Lord shall come. It will be a glorious thing when we can go to our eternal home. We will forget all the things that have troubled us in this world.

Whether the present plan should still operate or whether the work has grown to the place where something different should be adopted as a means of strengthening our Colored Department I do not know. Every self interest ought to be laid aside. I understand that in certain sections some brethren have already decided the presidents and officers. I think that this is only a rumor.

Should we continue to operate on the status quo? The greatest test of a man to lead is his ability to work with those who disagree. You must make it a rule to allow the brethren to make their opinions if they agree with you or not. We want you brethren to express yourselves; Whether we continue as we are or has the time come when we ought to proceed to organize conferences? If we should decide to organize conferences I do not feel that it could cover every Union in the North American field, as example the Northern Union. We don't want to undertake anything that will make us ashamed, I have known conferences to be organized with only 800 members which proved to be successful.

A. Wellington Clarke

Is there a necessity for a change or are you brethren forcing this upon us? Is it because of the widening extent of our work?

J. L. McElhany

No, this is nothing that has been forced upon the brethren. The General Conference has not come here with cut and dry answers. You might be waiting for us to hand out another sheet. We don't have it. We are anxious that the Lord will lead us in developing a plan that will be for the best interest of developing the work.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

Were we to organize in a Union a colored conference what would be the relationship of that conference to the Union? It would be in the sisterhood of that Union conference. In the Southern Union where this plan is operating would the present plan be continued in addition to the organizing of colored conferences? I don't see how that would be possible. You would have a dual administration. We would not have two forms of organizations operating in the same field.

E. D. Dick

In the event of this organization would the boundaries of a colored conference be exactly the same as the local conference relationship to the Union Conference? Do we have any experience of such an organization?

L. H. Christian /

Yes, we have experienced this organization in Europe. It has worked very well. In Africa it was not as successful because of the scattered churches.

Note: Meeting adjourned

April 9, 1944

T. M. Fountain

I have been studying the Council at Jerusalem. The same situation as far as race is concerned is involved now. I believe that the S. D. A. movement is superior to any organization on the earth Baptist or Methodist. I do not think that we ought to compare this movement with Baptist or Methodist.

I was called to represent all the ministers in the City of Nashville to speak at a ministers' association. The chairman of the committee was a Baptist minister that knew something about the early work of our message. He was once interested in this message. He thought he would have been a better man if he had been an Adventist. I asked the church to pray for me. I spoke on better feeling between the races; also the difficulty that first came into the church. I presented the message. After the meeting Dr. Small, the leading Baptist, said "that he was pleased with the message and wanted me to present this message to his church. ~~The Seventh-day Adventist organization is superior to any organization on the face of the earth.~~ The man's message was good, but there was only one thing that I had against him, he ought to be a Baptist."

In regard to the colored conferences; I want to say here that the laymen's movement was born in Washington. Some of these same laymen told me that they were not in favor with colored conferences. Most of the laymen in our churches are not in favor with colored conferences. If there are those in favor with the conferences they are very few. I can't believe that anyone would like to be a president. I don't believe a word of it. None of our churches are in favor of pulling out.

(Referred to the three points on the agenda)

I don't believe anyone is in favor of the colored conferences here in this place. We have three propositions offered here. We don't want colored conferences.

G. E. Peters

What do they want?

T. M. Fountain

That we maintain Status quo. At this point, T. M. Fountain moved that we maintain status quo.

E. S. Dillett

Seconded Fountain's motion.

O. A. Troy

What is the Status quo?

M. A. Burgess

If we continue on Status quo, improvements should be considered.

A. Wellington Clarke

(Asked to read an address prepared by him.)

J. L. McElhany

To me it is wonderful to see that the colored have large churches, efficiently led and directed by colored men. We have some colored churches with more members than we have in some conferences. I think our colored men do a very good job. This gives me confidence in their being leaders. To say that a man could be a pastor of a 1000 members, but he couldn't direct a 1000 members if they were divided into conferences seems to me, to be inconsistent in reasoning.

This message has spread out into all the world and when this present war broke out, we found we had to turn the work over to the natives. We had to call our missionaries from some of these countries. It was for the sake of the believers. A native believer to be seen with a foreign man might be sentenced to death and made a marked man. We have had to turn our management over to the native workers, viz. So. Pacific, China, Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Manchuria. Wherever the native administration has taken over God is helping.

We must help those that are taking over responsibilities.

If I thought anybody was proposing a Conference organization that would drive a wedge between the races I would oppose it. I do feel anxious for us to develop every resource. We ought to develop every source of strength in our leadership and in our ministry. If a man could lead a large congregation, I do not see why he couldn't be a conference leader. We must keep together and maintain the spirit of council and helpfulness. Every great man has been looked upon as being dangerous. When we first organized churches people looked upon it as dangerous. Some people felt that it was wrong to have conferences. The same is true when we organized Y.P.M.V.

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work were when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

to a great station. The object in view is to bring more souls in the true.

We thank you for your words again. We want to assure you that we want to give you the assurance of our loyalty.

F. L. Peterson

I think this is one of the most outstanding moves that have ever been made for us. I am not in the habit of criticizing Seventh-day Adventist for all the things they do that I don't like. All that I am and ever accomplished is because I depended on God. I am grateful for what is being done. The thing that has impressed me is the fine spirit in which this organizing of colored conferences has been done. I believe that it is going to have a wholesome affect on all our people throughout North America.

Whenever we used to say colored conferences many people thought we meant separation. I feel that it will be a very fine thing to give an explanation in the Review of this organization, so that our people will know that this is something that has been handed down by the General Conference to us. If this is done it will help us. They will understand that this is a General Conference idea..

I don't hand out many flowers. I would like to say that during the eleven years I was secretary of the department, and at times it seemed that we weren't going to get certain things; I have always felt I could go to Elder McElhaney and he would bring it about.

This organization will bring the young people courage and something to look forward to in the denomination. They can look forward to more than just teaching school.

I think this is a very fine thing that we have come to. I believe that this means we are going to finish the work. I was told never to mention conferences. Don't ever mention them! I am glad I didn't mention them. I am more than glad that it is now here.

M. A. Burgess

I realize through Elder Peters great things have been done for our department. He has also helped me to do what I have accomplished. At this time, I would like to have us show our appreciation for his leadership by rising.

DELEGATES STOOD FOR VOTE OF APPRECIATION

G. E. Peters

I thank you for your vote of appreciation. I have only made accomplishments through God. I do want you to remember, however, that if our people believe that we are divided on this thing, we will bring about a great deal of confusion.

April 12, 1944

Dr. Olsen, of the Home Study Institute, spoke concerning the Bible Home Study Plan.

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Motion: O. A. Troy: "In each church ask the Medical Missionary Secretary, and those who do not have one, to elect a Medical Missionary secretary to represent Riverside each Sabbath in receiving donations.

Seconded: M. A. Burgess

April 13, 1944

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

^{R.}
R. E. Crawford--Circulation Manager of the Message Magazine.

Note: "As far as the single copies are concerned, the "Message Magazine" sells as much as "Life & Health," "Health" and Watchman put together."--R. E. Crawford

Finis

T. H. Coopwood

There is no question that this is God's way and the only way in these last days.

I happen to have in my possession, at least in my pocket, a letter. This person is insisting that we continue with what we have. Two years ago a white brother said, "I don't see why the General Conference doesn't take over the colored work and run it." There are some of our group who look forward to conferences because of exalted places and authority. There may be some of the other group who don't want to be bothered with us. Perhaps this is the reason they would like to have colored conference to get rid of us.

We should come together like the disciples. They realized their trouble. There was strife among them. They put it away and all their difficulties and the HOLY SPIRIT came upon them. (Joel 2:15-17).

The colored conferences is not in my mind what we need. We need to get closer together and have a more cooperative spirit. We have now a form of organization to last until the Lord comes.

Hooper

The laymen think that the head officials are not interested whether the colored receive a higher education. My son made application to P. U. C. They sent him the forms and he filled them out. After received the application at P. U. C., they must have decided the picture had stayed in the oven too long. Perhaps this racial difference is the thing that we are trying to solve. We are not asking for equal social opportunities. We want the same educational opportunities as the white.

I am positive that God will frown on us if we do not do the right thing. I am not here to apostatize. Let us have our colored conferences if we please. Perhaps our preachers haven't gotten a vision. They need a vision. I am helping to pass on to you this vision. Let us have the same success as the white people have in their conferences. There is nothing wrong with a colored brother being over a colored conference. He has the same kind of brain if the opportunity presents itself. I can't do anything unless I have an opportunity.

God loves me just as much as he loves a white person. We should unite together and finish the work. We are living in a time of the judgment and it should be our desire to finish the work quickly. Let us work together and put over this program. It CAN BE DONE. A colored conference can be managed by colored brethren.

G. E. Peters

I am not in favor of maintaining a status quo form of organization. I haven't got wisdom enough to decide while on the floor the kind of organization that we should have. Any one person's ability is not sufficient to decide this matter. I have studied my people. I wrote the General Conference and mentioned that we should come with something definite in mind so that we could avoid confusion. I did this because I know my people from infancy. We ought to decide on a policy that spells progress and give it to our friends. This is a serious matter. I don't believe that this is a time for office seeking. The salvation of the 13,000,000 colored souls in the United States is at stake.

In 1930 I listened to more speeches against the progress of the colored people than we have had today. Fortunately the speakers today are sincere. We have confidence in them. In 1930 several of the men who fought against the advanced step of the colored work are not in the work today. Those same men were not bringing in souls. They were doing a very small work. They were not in touch with the Negro to a great extent. They thought if they would say something to the white folk, they would then be sure of a job for life. Everyone is present today, of those who stood for progress in 1930.

I am not a radical. I am not an agitator. Nothing is accomplished without God. Pardon my personal reference, but I have through the help of God brought in about 3,000 souls. In one meeting I baptized 145 without stopping. At the close of the meeting 250 souls were won to Christ. God has given me the ability to lead. I suppose that I have erected more churches than any of the brethren, but yet I am standing for progress TODAY.

I maintain that it stands out very clearly, if we continue to maintain the Status Quo form of organization, that we need something for the colored people in the Southwestern. This is shown very definitely. It is also quite evident that something new is needed where my good friend, Clarke, is located. For example, in the Southern New England Conference there are only 349 colored Adventists, this shows that something is needed to propell the work to our colored people.

Whom am I to say that we should have colored conferences? Whatever it is that takes to bring all classes of Negroes into this message, that is the thing that I am after. We must have a greater evangelism. It is not a matter to insure one's bread and butter as the years go by. We should have some organization that will give us a future. It is not a matter of simply pleasing public sentiment. That does not ring with God's people.

God gave Eldar Blunden a vision for his publishing department. LOOK how under this plan our colored men have advanced. This shows that colored people can lead. Today is a high day for our men in the publishing department. We can also look at Oakwood and see what God has done with colored leadership. We are proud of Oakwood.

I remembered how the colored people cried when they were taken out of the white church herein Chicago. Now the colored church is the largest we have in the Lake Union. It shows how God can bless under your own leadership.

G. E. Peters (cont.)

We should decide whether we should have a colored conference. It ought to be very carefully considered. I don't believe that we should try it in the whole field at the same time. I believe our people have leadership. We aren't ashamed of our progress. I don't believe that we should continue under the present plan of the Status Quo.

J. Gershom Dasent

A strong protest arose against the employing of a Negro Secretary for the colored work some years ago. I came to this country just about that time. The denomination decided to let us have a colored leader in the Department. We have had three colored leaders and God has blessed the work under their leadership. Oakwood is managed by a colored president. We have more students there than we have ever had before. We look at the "Message Magazine." God has set His stamp of approval upon it.

We are living in a time when the Negro is seeking for something more and better than political, economical, social and church affairs.

We shouldn't continue the Status Quo. What we should do is to take a stand for something different. We have tried everything save a colored conference. This shows that something should be done. If we have tried everything else why not try a colored conference?

In 1930 I stood against this very thing of a colored conference. I believe the time has come when we need something more than what we have. The greater work is in front of us. May the Lord give us wisdom and guidance that whatever decisions we arrive at, might be for the furtherance of His cause.

J. H. Williams

We have grown too large to be satisfied with so little. The present plan is far from being satisfactory. I am in favor of making a move that we have colored conferences, if we have the men to handle them. If the local Conference is not in favor of it, it would be just an ornament. It is quite true that something is needed where I am located.

E. S. Dillett

If we have twenty conferences it would not take care of the present issue that is confronting us. I am for progress. If you should organize a colored conference at this meeting and the majority ruled, I will be

E. S. Dillett (cont.)

glad to go along with it and sell books and do the janitor work if it is necessary to make the conference set-up a success.

I am not a race man, even though I am in the race. I am against my race if my race is wrong. I love my brethren. Recently at the meeting held in Topeka the white brethren did not let me know that I was a Negro. We had a wonderful meeting. I have eaten dinner with my conference president, and sat between he and his wife. They were most cordial and did not let me know that I was colored. In St. Louis the Young People of my church go to the White church and have programs. We are made to feel at home.

I am anxious for my people.

(Mentioned the conditions and prejudice that exist in our colleges)
We do not have a copy of the paper prepared by him and read at this time.)

J. G. Thomas

I believe we have in the Southern Union the best plan for colored people. We have today a strong leadership among our workers. I don't believe there is a better fellowship anywhere than among the men in the Southern Union. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation that is manifested among us. We are headed to success.

When I came to this meeting I wondered what it was about; but since being here and noticing the sympathetic spirit of our general brethren, and that they do not think we are agitating for a separation, I am seeing this conference idea in a different light. They along with us are looking for a solution to the problem. I do realize one thing and that is there can be some help given to our work. We are not displeased or disgruntled. We are working together.

We do face one thing. In my evangelism, when we are dealing with the better class of colored people, we find that it is not our church doctrines that keep them from accepting this message; it is questions they ask concerning the position our men hold in the denomination. It is hard for us to explain our situation to them along that line. I have been against the colored conferences; but since I see the General Conference brethren, as plainly seen by all of us, in favor of revising and giving more responsible positions to us, and if this calls for organizing colored conferences I don't see anything wrong with it.

Personally, I don't want any administrative work. I don't think the conference idea is a dangerous one. If the conference plan should go through, we should go home and talk the matter over with our members in an enlightening manner. I believe we should help them to see this thing in the correct light.

H. H. Wagner

I think it is a good thing to have opposition. There is opposition in our political government. Our general brethren want me to be honest and sincere. They want me to have enough foresight and vision to enter in any kind of plan that will promote the work among our people. We have some of the finest men working in the Columbia Union. I have done some evangelistic work in many places and God has blessed.

I believe we should adopt a plan that will be an advanced move for our people. In my recent effort held in Washington, D. C., a lady who was a member of one of the chain stores, cornered me and said, "We believe the Sabbath and that it is the right day. We can't get around that, but you are a minister in your denomination and how far can you go beyond that? What else is offered the colored people?" It was hard for me to answer that. I offered some kind of weak excuse. We must realize that there are certain things that we can do that will make it easier to reach our better class of people. By organizing conferences it will give us a great advantage in reaching this type of people.

Referred to Vol. 9, pages 205, 207, 210.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was received through President Lincoln, it was through God's leadership. When the slave owners told the slaves that they were free, the slaves still wanted to stay with their masters. They didn't realize what the emancipation meant. I don't mean that we are in slavery; this illustrates that because we have a difference of opinion, it doesn't mean that we are not on the right course. We preach of the United States in prophecy and we can see that he came up just at the right time. God ordained the country by raising it up at that time. It was for people who were looking for freedom.

Whether we have conferences or not, the work will not advance as much until something new is started.

S. O. Cherry

I believe that we should give more power to the present plan that we have now. The Southern Union Plan is the best plan we have, but it is void of power. If our leaders had more executive power they would be happy.

T. M. Rowe

I believe that we have outgrown the Southern Union Plan. I believe the time has come for something different.

H. D. Dobbins

There is a motion before the house. I believe that we should form a committee to study which plan of organization we should operate under. Since we do not seem to want to remain under the status quo, I wonder if Elder Fountain will withdraw his motion.

T. M. Fountain:

I believe in progress, but our very attitude showed that we believed in the Status quo because we didn't do anything about the others. Whatever organization is selected, I assure you, that I will cooperate with it one hundred per cent. We have come here at great expense to the cause of God. We should get something started. If it will help any, I will withdraw that motion.

E. S. Dillett:

Withdrew the seconded.

H. D. Dobbins

I move that we appoint a committee to study the conference plan and bring back recommendations.

J. G. Dasent

Seconded the motion.

W. A. Spicer

I hope that this body will set its approval on the Conference plan.

J. J. Nethery

I believe that we should appoint a body that will look with favor on giving additional strength to the organization of our colored work and possibilities of local conferences. I believe in Local Conferences for our colored people. I believe in progress. I believe in a good strong organization which is not anything else, but good cooperation.

J. J. Nethery (cont.)

I am serious about how we are getting along in this denomination. I think a number of things should be looked into and helped. We need a closer organization.

We organized into conferences when there were only 15,000 members. This was less than we have colored members now. It has worked. In 1880 we had 640 churches with 15,000. That meant an average of 24 members to a church. In those days we had 15,000 members and had 24 conferences. That was an average of 648 in each conference.

I don't think that we should think of 17,000 colored members and making 30 conferences. You can take your 17,000 members, or at least the membership in a few conferences, you could build a good conference with these members. If we take the membership in twenty churches, we probably would have about 2,200, and this little territory could be organized into a colored conference. A good man that knows how to manage a church with a large group, should make a good leader for a conference. A territory where there are three or four colored pastors we can use one as a President. We might have to pick another man from another field. By having a colored President, they will be able to save more souls in their territory.

I haven't any prejudice in my soul against the colored man. They accuse me of being a colored man. My wife knows I like to go to colored churches. We are all a related family. I believe this talk, of the organization trying to get rid of the colored people, ought to be stopped. This is not the truth. The Union brethren should be in favor of a colored conference under this arrangement. If we tried and failed, YOU WILL FORGIVE.

It may be that we cannot organize a colored conference in every Union. Why not start with one or two and with the help and council of the brethren we can see how it works and later on we can start in another Union.

I hope you will think kind of us for we believe in this proposition.

H. M. Blunden

We have had a great expansion in the Publishing Department. We have multiplied our leadership under this new plan. At Oakwood recently an institute was held, since it was a colored institute we turned the entire program over to the colored men. They assigned the program to the others. The General men and Union men took no part in the Council. Speaking frankly, it was a fine institute and fine instructions on salesmanship was given. It was just about the finest institute I have ever been to.

I don't see why this new conference set up couldn't work. The colored men in the Publishing Department are progressing. Of course, at first problems will be created but we can work it out.

The Committee was appointed to bring back the recommendations to the large body of delegates.

J. H. Wagner

Moved that the agenda be referred to this committee.

April 10, 1944

The Special Committee appointed for the Colored work brought back the following recommendations:

1. Advanced School in the North:

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

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

2. Sanitarium in the North:

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

3. Future of Riverside Sanitarium:

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

4. Publishing Work:

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

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

5. Conference Organization:

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

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

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

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.
3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.
4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
5. That the General Conference Committee appoint three members of a commission to join with other members to be appointed by each Union Conference committee concerned, for a study of the colored work in the respective unions; these commissions to report to the respective union committees, and that in cases where it is found necessary for any union committee to request additional appropriations, organization of colored conferences be deferred until after the 1944 Autumn Council, in order to ascertain whether or not this will be possible.
6. That the 1930 plan of colored organization for the Southern States be adopted for all territories in North America with sufficient members, but where the constituency is not sufficiently large to warrant the organization of colored conferences.

N.B. These recommendations were submitted to the delegation at the April Spring Council, 1944, and were unanimously adopted.

Finis

The Meeting adjourned.

March 27, 1946

STATISTICS OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT

Membership of the Colored Department

General Conference, 1941	14,537
1944	17,891
1945	19,008

Tithe of the Colored Department

Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940	\$1,112,189.52
1944	828,868.68
1945	964,515.73

Missions Offerings of Colored Department

Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940	\$703,347.40
1944	321,196.30
1945	407,988.71

Statements Concerning Colored Department - 1945

Number of churches	234
Number of Ordained Ministers	68
Number of Licensed Ministers	61

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.

*Spring Council
April 1944*

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE WAYS AND MEANS
OF STRENGTHENING THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMERICA

Organization

1. Status quo
2. Extend Southern plan to whole field
3. Organiz. conferences where the location and membership would make this possible.

Educational

1. Establish school in North of academic grade capable of development into a junior college
2. Foster development of primary schools

Medical

1. Establish medical institution in North with a view to training colored nurses
2. Continue to develop the medical work in the South

Literature

1. Colored editor
2. Church paper for colored churches

Departmental

1. Continue to train and develop field missionary secretaries to train colporteurs
2. Departmental leadership

(Stratified organization)

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

**G. E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

The fundamental reason for the advance step in the organization of colored conferences is rightfully set forth in the preamble of the recommendation that was adopted at the Spring Meeting held in Chicago, April 10, 1944:

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

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

"We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

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

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

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

Following the Spring Meeting several Union Conferences invited a commission from the officers of the General Conference to give study to the plan of going forward with the proposed organization. The Lake Union was first to lead out in this direction.

September 26, 1944, the colored churches of the Lake Union comprising 2,260 believers were organized into a conference taking the name, "Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". This new conference embraces the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. The officers of the conference

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

This new conference which began its functions January 1 has a colored population of 800,000 souls, which must be warned with the message of a soon coming Saviour.

October 3 another colored conference was organized. This conference comprises the Atlantic Union territory (except Bermuda) and has taken the name "North Eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". In the new conference is the Ephesus Church of New York City with more than 1,000 members. There is a total of 15 churches with a membership of 2,200. L. H. Bland was elected President and Religious Liberty Secretary. He will also carry the Home Missionary Department for the present. L. O. Irons was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and Louis Preston, Publishing Department Secretary.

The colored population of this conference numbers 1,106,000.

December 17 the Columbia Union Conference went forward with its new organization. This conference has 40 churches with some 3,800 believers and a colored population of 2,340,832. The conference includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The name adopted was the "Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Officers of the conference are: J. H. Wagner, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager; W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and H. D. Warner, Publishing Department Secretary.

These three conferences have been organized to meet present day conditions and to help in the speedy finishing of God's work on earth. Our colored workers and believers in North America are loyal and true to this Message. The tithe paid by our colored churches during the year 1943, amounted to \$686,853.11 and offering to missions, including Ingathering, was \$279,755.09. The report for 1944 will show a substantial increase in both tithe and offerings, which will prove helpful to the operation of our work both at home and abroad.

We must not neglect to state that the Southern Union Conference with a colored membership of 5,000 believers plan to go forward in the near future with an organization of two conferences in the eight states included in that territory, which has a colored population of 6,000,000.

We realize that the organizing of these conferences will not be without trials and difficulties. But with God at the helm, as the Omnipotent Captain these newly launched ships will sail on to victory.

The progress of the Message Magazine, now about nine years old, is another cause for much gratitude. This magazine is a monthly, full-message journal, the only periodical of its kind in the world. Its psychology is especially adapted to meet the spiritual needs of the 13,000,000 colored people of the United States. At present it is going to all colored Universities, Colleges, Academies, and newspaper editors. It is the ideal medium for making the primal contact with the wealthy families of our cities.

It is amazing to learn that by the end of November its circulation had reached 1,297,133 for the year; a gain of 500,000 over the previous year, which was also a record year. Since its origin nearly all the articles have been prepared by our colored ministers and workers.

At a recent meeting of the Southern Publishing Association Board, L. B. Reynolds, one of our colored ministers, was elected as Editor. In selecting this brother, the leaders of the Southern Publishing Association felt assured

of his qualification for this responsibility. Elder Reynolds entered upon his new duties January 1. It is also understood that he will give some time to the Riverside Sanitarium as Chaplain.

We are thankful to report that our work in North America is growing fast in membership. Figures for the first ten months of 1944 reveal that there have been more than 1,500 baptisms.

May we pledge ourselves to be faithful and true; and with all seriousness and assiduity address ourselves to the task before us this New Year. The task of being ready ourselves and that of making "ready a people prepared for the Lord."

George E. Peters, Secretary
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED ~~DEPT.~~

(Article for the Review and Herald)
1945

MINUTES - COLORED DEPARTMENT - NOVEMBER 11, 1947

MINUTES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

PRAYER

T. M. Rowe opened the meeting with prayer.

RIVERSIDE SANI-
TARIUM

1

After much discussion, it was moved and seconded to appoint a committee to work out plans for the Riverside Sanitarium goals.

The chairman with the help of council members appointed the following committee to wait upon the group: E. F. Hackman, C. O. Franz, G. E. Peters, J. J. Nethery, T. M. Rowe, L. H. Bland, H. D. Singleton, H. R. Murphy, J. H. Wagner, W. W. Fordham, J. G. Dasent. Committee members met immediately after the adjournment of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT CHANGE

2

Following an open and candid discussion, it was moved and seconded by committee members to refer the consideration of the re-naming and re-organizing of the North American Colored Department to the General Conference Committee for study and action.

NORTH AMERICAN
INFORMANT

3

It was generally agreed by committee members that the NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT is serving its purpose. A wider circulation for the periodical was heartily suggested by T. M. Rowe.

LOMA LINDA QUOTA

4

The quota problem for the Loma Linda Hospital was cleared up by Dr. Macpherson of the medical college. He stated positively that no quota exists and that applicants are chosen solely on their scholastic rating, preparation, and recommendations.

RESIGNATION OF
MISS GENEVA BRYAN

5

G. E. Peters brought before the council members the cause of Miss Bryan's resignation and highly commended her services in the department.

PROMOTION OF
HEALTH EDUCATION

6

Whether the department should continue to promote health education was discussed pro and con by committee members, and it was finally moved and seconded that the matter of the health education office in the department be referred to the General Conference Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by L. H. Bland.

N. C. Wilson, Chairman
G. E. Peters, Associate Chairman
Mercedes Moran, Recording Secretary

MEETING OF AVAILABLE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Held in Pantlind Hotel, 1:00 p. m., Nov. 17, 1947

PRESENT G E Peters, L. B. Reynolds, H. D. Dobbins, J. H. Wagner, F. L. Peterson, H. D. Singleton, V. W. Fordham, H. R. Murphy, J. G. Dasent, O. A. Troy, L. E. Ford. Others present were R. E. Crawford, T. W. Fountain, H. W. Kibble.

PRAYER Prayer was offered by J. H. Wagner.

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

The MESSAGE MAGAZINE was presented by Elder Reynolds. In discussing its progression, its problems, the feasibility of increasing the magazine's subscription list, which would place it on a sounder financial basis, was presented. Elder Reynolds reported that some of our churches were sponsoring large subscription lists, among them the Chicago Shiloh church taking 740 subscriptions and the New Orleans church 550 copies. Conference presidents and other present leaders were requested to urge all their churches to cooperate in this matter.

INCREASING SIZE AND PRICE

Elder Reynolds asked the group to consider the advisability of increasing the size of the magazine to make it more attractive. Such an increase in size as contemplated would require the magazine to sell for twenty-five cents per copy (retail). No vote was taken, but the consensus of opinion seemed to favor the increase in size to 36 pages and the consequent increase in price.

Elder Crawford spoke glowingly of the accomplishments of the MESSAGE under the efficient editorship of Elder Reynolds. He mentioned particularly the wide acceptance of the special temperance issue.

TEMPERANCE NUMBER

The problem of supplying copies of the temperance number to the colleges making requests was presented to the group. There were commitments by the presidents of conferences and other field representatives. These were turned over to Editor Reynolds.

G. E. Peters, Chairman
O. A. Troy, Acting Secretary

REPORT SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 11, 1947

The special committee was called by Elder J. J. Nethery, chairman, to discuss the matter of raising the balance of funds needed for furnishings and equipment for the Riverside Sanitarium.

There was much deliberation concerning ways and means of raising the required conference goals. It was pointed out by the chair that the only way to get anything done is to get right after it and do it.

G. E. Peters reported that the churches had already raised \$47,000, but the total amount now needed is \$120,000.

It was voted to request our colored churches to raise the balance of \$37,000 by February 14, 1948. It was also discussed that the offering that would be taken in all of our churches, including our white congregations, would apply on the over-all goal allotted to our churches.

J. J. Nethery, Chairman

G. E. Peters, Secretary

Organization of the Lake Region Conference
September 26, 1944

Organization of the Lake Region Conference Association
August 8, 1947

Constitution and By-Laws

LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE COLORED CONSTITUENCY
OF THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Held at the
Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois, September 26, 1944

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Elder Jay J. Nethery, president of the Lake Union Conference, chairman.

Preceding the opening of the meeting, F. N. Crowe of Muncie, Indiana, led the congregation in an inspiring song service. Elder J. G. Dasent read the Scripture Lesson from Revelation 14, and Elder S. E. Wight offered prayer.

The chairman stated that this is the first time in the history of the Lake Union Conference that we have called a colored constituency meeting. Representatives from the General Conference, Lake Union Conference and the colored churches in the four states of the Lake Union Conference make up the delegates to this meeting.

The official notice that was printed in the Lake Union Herald, September 5, 1944, was read by the Lake Union Conference secretary, R. M. Harrison. Following this the official delegate cards were received and 151 delegates were present. This included 25 delegates from the local, Union and General Conferences, as they are delegates at large.

D E L E G A T E S

GENERAL CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

1. W. H. Branson
2. G. E. Peters

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

3. Jay J. Nethery
4. R. M. Harrison
5. V. P. Lovell
6. H. P. Bloum
7. H. F. Brown
8. W. A. Higgins
9. T. E. Lucas
10. F. E. Thompson
11. H. W. Kibble
12. S. E. Wight
13. T. G. Bunch
14. L. E. Lenheim
15. T. E. Unruh
16. A. W. Johnson
17. T. R. Lukens
18. B. C. Marshall

DELEGATES AT LARGE

19. J. Parker Laurence
20. Clarence T. Richards
21. L. B. Baker
22. F. N. Crowe
23. J. G. Dasent
24. C. D. Henri

Delegates at Large Contd.

25. J. W. Allison Jr.
26. W. D. Forde
27. Virgil Gibbons
28. J. E. Johnson
29. Jacob Justiss
30. W. J. Kisack

DELEGATES - REGULAR

Illinois:

31. W. H. Moore
32. S. E. Williams
33. Robert White
34. Mrs. H. W. Kibble
35. Miss Earnestine Wamble
36. Mrs. Christine Thompson
37. Phillip Giddings
38. Mrs. Alice Blanchard
39. Mrs. Grace Proffitt
40. Robert Meaux
41. W. H. Maynor
42. Mrs. Frances Vaughn
43. Mrs. Harriet Hall
44. William Christopher
45. Stephen Lilly
46. Willie Blanchard
47. Mrs. Cristal Ricks
48. Mrs. Helen Maynor
49. Mrs. Maud Gantt

DELEGATES - Regular Contd.

Illinois

- 50. Miss Millicent Jordan
- 51. Mrs. Lottie Norman
- 52. Mrs. Pauline Byrd
- 53. Mrs. Sallie Washington
- 54. Cornelius Harris
- 55. Miss Avis Graham
- 56. Alfred Williams
- 57. Mrs. Ruth Blevins
- 58. Marcus Reid
- 59. Mrs. Elma Ward
- 60. Mrs. Mattie Jones
- 61. Mrs. Joella West
- 62. Mrs. Bessie L. Shelton
- 63. C. C. Arburthnot
- 64. Mary Stover

Indiana

- 65. George Williams
- 66. James Smith
- 67. William Betts
- 68. William Miller
- 69. Laura Cartwright
- 70. Marcella Anderson
- 71. Avannah Smith
- 72. Sister Franklin
- 73. Certha Sanders
- 74. Miss Mary Christian
- 75. Mrs. Mary Overstreet
- 76. Mrs. Eva Bryand
- 77. Mrs. Christine Banker
- 78. Mrs. Peggy Baker
- 79. Mrs. Hattie Hackney
- 80. Mrs. Cora Mays
- 81. Mrs. Sydonia Moseley
- 82. Mrs. Georgia Dodson
- 83. Mrs. Jane Hill
- 84. Mrs. Mary Orendorff
- 85. Mrs. Bertha Bailey
- 86. Mrs. C. E. Dasent
- 87. Othelo White
- 88. Reuben Roberts
- 89. Spaulding Mills
- 90. Thomas Dodson
- 91. A. T. Maycock
- 92. Herbert Mays
- 93. L. B. Baker
- 94. Mrs. V. Rhinehardt
- 95. Mrs. D. Dodson
- 96. F. N. Crowe
- 97. Mrs. Cora Luckey
- 98. Wilbur Gully
- 99. Emma Kee
- 100. Jessie Gulley
- 101. Charles Lawrence
- 102. A. L. Coley

Michigan

- 103. Mrs. Helen Parker
- 104. Leroy Hemingway
- 105. Mrs. Mildred Minisee
- 106. Mrs. Carrie Eaton
- 107. R. J. Lawrence
- 108. Myrtle J. Simpson
- 109. George Baker
- 110. Ella S. Duiguid
- 111. Mrs. Georgia Jefferson
- 112. Virgil Humphrey
- 113. Mrs. Aylene Lee
- 114. Lucinda Ray
- 115. Mrs. Lila Washington
- 116. Mrs. Mabel Burke
- 117. Mrs. Maxine Spencer
- 118. Mrs. Willis Rush
- 119. R. Ivan Thompson
- 120. Mrs. Willie Lee Barner
- 121. David Bell
- 122. Jesse Barner
- 123. Mrs. Dorothy Clark
- 124. William Ray
- 125. Herman Thompson
- 126. Miss N. Skinner
- 127. Robert Orr
- 128. Mrs. Anna Lawrence
- 129. Lafayette Williams
- 130. Henry Moseley
- 131. Mrs. Patricia Thompson
- 132. Mrs. Laura Hollis
- 133. Mrs. Clara Copening
- 134. K. E. Foster
- 135. George Jordan Sr.
- 136. Elizabeth Auston
- 137. Clarice Gibbons
- 138. Francis Bivins
- 139. Irene Lee
- 140. Virgil Gibbons
- 141. Thomas Jimerson
- 142. E. J. Goodman
- 143. Mrs. Ethel Harris
- 144. Mrs. Priscilla Smith
- 145. Mrs. Bertha Roach
- 146. Mrs. Edith P. Forde
- 147. Mrs. Goldie Tarner
- 148. Mrs. Helen Friend
- 149. Miss Gwendolyn Jones
- 150. W. H. Baker
- 151. Charlie Laurence
- 152. William E. Clark
- 152. William E. Clark
- 153. George Powers
- 154. Lella Holly
- 155. Mrs. W. D. Cain
- 156. W. J. Kisack
- 157. R. J. Lawrence

It was stated that this meeting was called to study the advisability of organizing our colored constituent members in the Lake Union Conference into a conference organization.

Our chairman read some of the recommendations regarding conference organization from the General Conference minutes taken at the Spring Council, April 10, 1944. These recommendations are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also, recommendations from the Lake Union Conference Committee minutes of July 17, 1944 were read. These recommendations are as follows:

"In harmony with recommendations of the General Conference, We recommend,

"1. That the Lake Union Conference Committee provide for the organization of a separate conference for the members of the churches known as colored churches in the Lake Union Conference.

"2. That the organization of such a conference supersede the present arrangement of having in the Lake Union Conference organization a departmental or field secretary representative of the colored people.

"3. That in order to further the organization of such a conference the Lake Union Conference Committee provide for a meeting of the constituency of the proposed conference and that at that meeting a tentative constitution and by-laws with a suggestive name for the organization be presented by the Union Committee.

"4. That the location of the headquarters of the conference be determined by the newly elected conference committee in counsel with the union conference committee.

"5. That an operating budget for the year 1945 be approved for the proposed conference with the understanding that if, and when, a separate conference organization has been completed, a more detailed working budget will be prepared in harmony with the then existing conditions, this working budget to make provision for a reasonable operating capital to be held in the conference treasury in harmony with the General Conference working policies.

"6. That the amounts of operating funds, resources and reserves on hand at the close of the year 1944 in the several conferences involved be shared with the proposed conference on an equitable basis to be determined by the Lake Union Conference Committee, taking into consideration existing liabilities, obligations and commitments."

We were favored by a vocal solo, entitled "Ready to Walk With Jesus," by Mrs. Frances Vaughn, of Chicago.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:

It was moved and duly supported that we proceed to organize the Lake Union Conference colored church members into a colored conference. The time up until the noon hour was spent in general discussion regarding the advisability of organizing our colored constituency into a conference. Many of the delegates took part in the discussion and the discussion was brought to a close with the speeches of W. H. Branson and G. E. Peters.

Adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

Chairman, Jay J. Nethery

Secretary, F. M. Harrison

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE COLORED CONSTITUENCY OF THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Held at the
Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois, September 26, 1944
2:30 p. m.

We opened our meeting by singing "Revive Us Again," and W. D. Forde offered prayer.

The chair stated that, when we adjourned several delegates were on their feet wishing to speak to the motion before us. After another general discussion by a number of the delegates, the question was called and the vote was 140 in favor of organizing a colored conference and 12 negative votes. The motion carried.

POLICY OF ORGANIZATION:

VOTED, That we follow the plan as outlined in the General Conference Working Policy that each church be represented on a large committee to nominate the various standing committees for the conference session.

The meeting was recessed for a few minutes until the various churches could appoint their representatives. Later we reconvened and the following names were submitted and accepted for this large committee:

ILLINOIS:	E. St. Louis	W. H. Moore	INDIANA:	Burnett	---
	Evanston	Evelyn Williams		Gary	James Smith
	Morgan Park	Robert White		Ind. Cap. Ave.	Peggy Baker
	Shiloh	Phillip Giddings		Marion	Mrs. D. Dodson
	Springfield	C. C. Arburthnot		Muncie	Mrs. F. N. Crowe
				South Bend	Wilbur Gully
				Richmond	A. L. Coley

MICHIGAN:	Calvin Center	Leroy Hemingway	WISCONSIN:	Milwaukee	Walter J. Kisack
	B. C. Berean	R. J. Lawrence			
	Det. Hartford	Ivan S. Thompson		Conference Church	J. P. Laurence
	Det. E. Side	Thomas Jimerson			
	Ecorse	E. J. Goodman			
	Flint	Gwendolyn Jones			
	Inkster	William E. Clark			

Again we recessed for this large committee to appoint the various standing committees.

The meeting reconvened at 4:30 p. m.

We sang No. 211, "He Hideth My Soul in the Cleft of the Rock," and Elder L. E. Lenheim offered prayer.

Phillip Giddings, the secretary of the large committee, rendered the report for the standing committees, which is as follows:

Members of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws:

Chairman:	S. E. Wight	R. M. Harrison
	R. I. Thompson	F. N. Crowe
	J. G. Dasent	

Committee on Plans:

Chairman	G. E. Peters	C. D. Henri
	L. B. Baker	A. T. Maycock
	J. E. Johnson	H. P. Bloum
	H. W. Kibble	C. T. Richards
	W. H. Baker	Phillip Giddings
	T. E. Unruh	

Committee on Nominations:

Chairman	Jay J. Nethery	T. G. Bunch
	L. Mase	Wm. Betts
	W. H. Branson	C. R. Lawrence
	W. H. Maynor	W. J. Kisack
	C. C. Arburthnot	

Committee on Credentials and Licenses:

Chairman	G. E. Peters	J. G. Dasent
	W. D. Forde	Jay J. Nethery
	H. W. Kibble	

VOTED, That we adopt this report. Carried.

In order that these various committees may have time to do their work, it was

VOTED, to adjourn until 9:00 a. m., Wednesday, September 27, 1944.

Chairman, Jay J. Nethery

Secretary, R. M. Harrison

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE COLORED CONSTITUENCY
OF THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS
Held at the

Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois, September 27, 1944

Our meeting was opened by the use of hymn, "I Remember Calvary". Prayer was offered by J. G. Dasent, pastor of the Indianapolis Capitol Avenue Church. After this we were favored by a duet by Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Ryan, of the Indianapolis Capitol Avenue Church.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved. The Committee on Plans and Resolutions was called for and H. W. Kibble, secretary of the committee, rendered a partial report.

CONFERENCE NAME:

Voted, unanimously to adopt the name, Lake Region Conference, for the newly organized conference.

G. E. Peters took the chair during the absence of Jay J. Nethery.

Report of Committee on Constitution and By-laws was called for and F. N. Crowe, secretary of the committee, rendered the following report, which was adopted unanimously:

CONSTITUTION OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE S. D. A.

ARTICLE I
Name

This organization shall be known as the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

ARTICLE II
Territory

The territory of this organization shall be the States of Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois.

ARTICLE III
Object

The object of this organization is to teach the Everlasting Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV
Membership

The constituency or membership of this organization shall be the organized colored churches in the States of Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois.

ARTICLE V
Manner of Conducting Its Work

The conduct of the work of this organization and management is as set forth in the By-laws attached hereto.

BY-LAWS OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE S. D. A.

ARTICLE I
Delegates

Section I: Regular Delegates. The delegates to this conference shall be one delegate for each local church without regard to number and one additional delegate for each fifteen members, or major fraction thereof.

Section II: Delegates at Large. Delegates at large shall be the local conference committee members, the local conference ordained and licensed ministers, the Lake Union and General Conference workers present at the session.

Section III: This conference may receive or disfellowship a church for cause at any regularly called conference session. It may also disfellowship any church at any specially called session, providing said church has been given thirty days notice either in writing, or notice printed in the Lake Union Herald.

Section IV: Each church organization will be required to vest the title of its church property in the local conference legal association, unless otherwise voted by the conference in session.

ARTICLE II
Conference Sessions

Section I: This conference shall hold biennial sessions at such dates and places as the Executive Committee shall designate by notice published in the Lake Union Herald at least four weeks before the date of the session, and in the same manner, special meetings may be called when it is deemed advisable by the Executive Committee.

Section II: At each session the conference shall elect an executive committee of seven (?) members for carrying on its work between sessions.

ARTICLE III
Officers

The officers of this Lake Region Conference shall be a president and secretary-treasurer, who shall be elected by the conference.

ARTICLE IV
Duties of Officers

The duties of the president and secretary-treasurer are such as usually pertain to such offices respectively, and such other duties as the Executive Committee may prescribe.

ARTICLE V
Meetings

Section I: Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the president or secretary.

Section II: Any four members present of the Executive Committee, including the president, shall be empowered to transact such routine business as is in harmony with the general plan outlined by the committee, but the concurrence of all four members shall be necessary to pass any measure.

Section III: During the interval between sessions of the conference the Executive Committee shall have full administrative power with authority to grant and withdraw credentials and licenses for cause, and to fill, for the current term, any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees, or agents, by death, resignation, or otherwise, except in cases where other provision for filling such vacancies shall be made by vote of the conference. The withdrawal of credentials or filling of vacancies on the Executive Committee shall require the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI Departments and agents

Section I: Such corporations and departments may be created as the development of the work requires.

Section II: At each regular session of this conference the delegates shall elect such trustees of all corporate bodies connected with this organization as may be provided in the statutory laws governing each.

Section III: The conference shall employ such committees, secretaries, treasurers, agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons, and shall make such distribution of its laborers as may be necessary to execute its work effectively. It shall also grant credentials or licenses to its ministers and missionaries.

ARTICLE VII Finance

Section I: The Lake Region Conference shall receive a tithe of the income from all its members.

Section II: This conference shall pay tithe of its tithe, sustentation, per cent of tithe, and such other prescribed funds to the Lake Union Conference and General Conference as may be agreed upon by said organizations.

Section III: The Executive Committee shall be authorized to call for such special donations as may be necessary to properly prosecute the work of the conference.

Section IV: All funds received from local churches and members designated for the Union and General Conferences shall be passed on monthly.

ARTICLE VIII Audits

Section I: The Executive officers shall have the accounts of the conference audited at least once each calendar year, and shall report upon the same to the Executive Committee of the Conference at the annual session of the Committee, and to the constituency at its biennial meeting.

Section II: The Executive Committee, together with four representatives not in their employ, as may be appointed by the Executive Committee (two of these from the Lake Union Conference office) shall constitute an auditing board who shall audit annually the time and expense of the Lake Region Conference employees, and settle all accounts against the conference.

Section III: The Lake Union auditor shall be the auditor of the conference treasurer's books and other organizations under the direction of the Committee.

ARTICLE IX
Committees, Boards & Agents

The voters of this conference shall, at each regular session, elect seven (7) trustees for the legal corporation known as the Lake Region Association of Seventh Day Adventists and the members of such other corporate bodies as are, or may be, connected with this organization according to the state laws governing such corporations and the conference shall employ such committees and agents as it may deem necessary.

ARTICLE X

This Constitution with its By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voters present at any session. Such amendments to be not inconsistent with the constitutions of the Union and General Conferences; and provided further, that, if it is purposed to amend the constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

It was suggested that a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Lake Region Conference be gotten out by the Lake Union Conference and sent to the pastors and elders of each colored church in the Lake Union Conference.

The balance of the resolutions from the Plans Committee were read and the report was unanimously adopted. These resolutions are as follows:

Committee on Plans and Resolutions:

GRATEFULNESS

WHEREAS, Our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and constituency in developing the work among the colored people, and

WHEREAS, The time has come when our General and Union brethren have seen fit to authorize a colored conference in order that our work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

Resolved, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all-out program of evangelism and loyalty in tithes, and liberality in offerings for foreign missions and home work.

CONFERENCE NAME

We recommend, That the newly formed conference be known as the "Lake Region Conference" of Seventh-day Adventists.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

We recommend, That the location of the conference headquarters be referred to the conference committee in council with the Union Conference Committee.

PLANS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, This newly formed conference is a part of the Lake Union Conference, and a sister conference to the other four conferences of the Lake Union,

We recommend, That the newly formed conference place itself on record as accepting all the plans and policies now in operation as are handed down by the General and Union Conferences.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, This new conference will promote the departmental activities recommended by the General Conference,

We recommend, That provisions be made for the establishment of the following departments: Home Missionary, Sabbath School, Young People's Missionary Volunteer, Educational and Publishing, and provide for the promotion of such other activities as may be recommended.

BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

We recommend, The establishment of a central Book and Bible House at such a time as may seem advisable by the conference committee.

"MESSAGE" MAGAZINE

WHEREAS, The "Message" Magazine has become a strong factor in the spreading of the Everlasting Gospel to the colored people,

We recommend, That a renewed effort be put forth to greatly increase its circulation both in subscriptions and in single copies.

BEGINNING DATE

We recommend, That the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists begin its operation January 1, 1945.

SHILOH CHURCH

RESOLVED, That we, the delegates assembled, express our sincere gratitude to the pastor and church members of the Shiloh Church for the unparalleled hospitality extended to us during this constituency meeting.

Discussion regarding the segregation of the colored students at Emmanuel Missionary College cafeteria was presented.

VOTED, That this item be referred to the Committee on Plans and Resolutions.

Mrs. Lee, the choir leader of the Detroit Hartford Avenue Church, favored us with a solo, entitled, "Love Never Faileth." Mrs. Lee was accompanied by Mrs. Clark, the pianist of the Hartford Avenue Church.

Jay J. Nethery again took the chair.

We adjourned until 1 p. m. and were dismissed by C. D. Henri.

Chairman, Jay J. Nethery

Secretary, R. M. Harrison

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE COLORED CONSTITUENCY
OF THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Held at the
Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois, September 27, 1944
1:00 p.m.

We sang to open our meeting the hymn, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder".

Prayer was offered by L. E. Lenheim, president of the Illinois Conference.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Committee on Credentials and Licenses was called for and the following report was unanimously adopted:

Committee on Credentials and Licenses:

We recommend, That all employees of the Lake Region Conference,--ordained and licensed ministers, Bible instructors, teachers, colporteurs, etc., continue to hold conference papers similar to those issued to them by the four conferences of the Lake Union Conference, and that appropriate papers be issued to all additional employees of the conference.

The Plans Committee brought in a resolution recommending that any further resolutions be referred to the incoming committee.

Moved we adjourn until 10 minutes to two.

Reconvened at 2:20 p. m., September 27, 1944.

H. W. Kibble, pastor of the Shiloh Church, led us in prayer.

The secretary of the Nominating Committee, W. J. Kisack, rendered the final report, which is as follows:

CONFERENCE OFFICERS: President, J. G. Dasent
Secretary-treasurer, L. E. Ford
Publishing Dept. Secretary, Virgil Gibbons
Publishing Dept. Assistants, C. Willis and L. B. Baker
M. V. & Educ. Secretary, W. J. Kisack

H. M. & S. S. Secretary to be referred to the incoming conference committee in council with the General and Union representatives.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: J. G. Dasent
L. E. Ford
J. E. Johnson
H. W. Kibble
A. T. Maycock
Virgil Gibbons

That the seventh member of the Executive Committee be referred to the incoming committee. The report was adopted.

A few well-chosen words were spoken by the new conference president, J. G. Dasent. G. E. Peters of the General Conference appealed to the constituent members for their support and hearty cooperation in this new conference. Welcome was given by the president of the Lake Union Conference, Jay J. Nethery, to Elder Dasent to the Union Conference Committee. Local conference presidents also welcomed J. G. Dasent as a new local president in the Lake Union Conference.

V. P. Lovell, our Union Educational Secretary, spoke of his keen interest in the colored youth in this new conference. W. A. Higgins, Publishing Department Secretary, spoke of the book work in this newly organized conference. H. F. Brown, Union Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary, assured us of his interest regarding the home missionary and Sabbath school work in these colored churches and his desire to cooperate with them in their endeavors. H. P. Bloum, our auditor, assured the officers of this new conference his full cooperation.

Earnest prayers for the success of this conference were offered by H. W. Kibble, of the Chicago Shiloh Church, J. E. Johnson of the Detroit Hartford Avenue Church, G. E. Peters of the General Conference and Jay J. Nethery of the Lake Union Conference.

Minutes of this fourth and last meeting of the delegates to the colored constituency meeting were read and approved.

Moved that we adjourn sine die.

Chairman, Jay J. Nethery

Secretary, R. M. Harrison

SEP 12 REC'D

ORGANIZATION OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
Friday, August 8, 1947
10:00 A.M.

Place Shiloh S. D. A. Church, Chicago, Illinois
Present Delegates to the Lake Region Conference Session
J. G. Dasent in the chair
Opening Song "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken."
Prayer E. L. Green, Secretary-Treasurer, Lake Union Conference

After a few preliminary remarks setting before the delegates the purpose of the meeting, Elder Dasent invited E. L. Green, Sec'y-Treasurer of the Lake Union Conference, to the chair, who later on stepped down in favor of Elder L. E. Lenheim, President of the Lake Union Conference.

The chair took some time to explain to the delegates assembled the difference between the conference organization and that of the conference Association. The first is an unincorporated body; the latter a legal organization. One is dedicated to the preaching of the Everlasting Gospel, the other is a legal body for the holding of real estate, church property, etc.

In order to have some matter pertaining to the Association and its organization to place before the delegates, J. G. Dasent, F. N. Crowe, H. W. Kibble, R. F. Warnick, J. W. Allison, Virgil Gibbons, and William Ray, acting under the advice of Louis E. Johnson of Chicago, Illinois, Attorney at Law, prepared and submitted the following articles:

Article I
Name

The name of the corporation is Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-Day Adventists.

Article II
Period

The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.

Article III
Location

The address of its initial registered office in the State of Illinois is 619-621 Woodland Park, in the City of Chicago, Zone 16, County of Cook, and the name of its initial Registered Agent at said address is Elder J. Gershom Dasent.

(Articles continued)

ARTICLE IV
Board of Directors

The first Board of Directors shall be five in number; their names and addresses are as follows:

J. Gershom Dasent	619 Woodland Park	Chicago 16, Ill.
F. N. Crowe	621 Woodland Park	Chicago 16, Ill.
H. W. Kibble	6145 St. Lawrence	Chicago 37, Ill.
R. F. Warnick	1464 W. Grand Blvd.	Detroit 8, Mich.
J. W. Allison	2160 N. Capitol	Indianapolis 2, Ind.

ARTICLE V
Purpose and Territory

The Association is incorporated for religious purposes, and the welfare and benefit of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, an ecclesiastical, unincorporated body, without pecuniary profit, or gain to any person or persons, operating in the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, under the requirements of what is known as the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act," approved July 17, 1943, effective January 1, 1945 in the State of Illinois.

The Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists recognizes the Lake Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists (Not For Profit) organized under what is known as Act No. 327 of the Public Acts of 1931, the Michigan General Corporation Act, as the "Mother" of all such said Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists and will operate in cooperation and compliance with its general policy.

It was moved by William Clark of Inkster, Michigan, and seconded by C. P. Laurence of South Bend, Indiana, "that we the delegates assembled at the Second Biennial Session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Chicago, Illinois this 8th day of August, 1947, hereby approve and accept these articles as prepared by J. G. Dasent, F. N. Crowe, H. W. Kibble, R. F. Warnick, J. W. Allison, Virgil Gibbons, and William Ray, and filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Illinois on June 27, 1947 as the articles of the Constitution of the Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists and that we do hereby approve, accept, and ratify all their actions connected therewith." The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Mrs. Blanche Young of Detroit, Michigan and seconded by Mrs. Mary Brown of Detroit, Michigan, "that the names of Virgil Gibbons of 619 Woodland Park, Chicago 16, Illinois, and William Ray, 1466 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit 8, Michigan be added to the Board of Directors, thus increasing the number from five to seven. The motion was carried unanimously. The members of the Board of Directors are as follows: J. G. Dasent, F. N. Crowe, H. W. Kibble, R. F. Warnick, J. W. Allison, Virgil Gibbons, and William Ray.

It was moved by F. N. Crowe of Chicago, Illinois, and seconded by R. F. Warnick of Detroit, Michigan, that the Articles of Incorporation be amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS

- ARTICLE I That Article I, showing the name of this association be amended to read "Seventh-day" instead of "Seventh-Day." The motion to adopt this amendment was made by F. N. Crowe of Chicago and seconded by J. G. Dasent of Chicago. Motion carried unanimously.
- ARTICLE III That Article III, that part showing the name of the registered agent be amended so as to omit the title of "Elder" before the name of J. Gershom Dasent. Moved by F. N. Crowe of Chicago and seconded by H. W. Kibble of Chicago. Motion carried unanimously.
- ARTICLE IV That Article IV referring to the number of the Board of Directors be amended to read "not less than seven and not more than nine in number" instead of "five." Moved by F. N. Crowe of Chicago, and seconded by J. Smith of Gary, Indiana. Motion carried unanimously.

BY-LAWS OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

AMENDMENTS

- ARTICLE V Paragraph I. Insert these words after the word "president..." or in an emergency, after counsel with the Lake Union Conference president, by the secretary of said Board, or by three members thereof." Motion to make this change was made by F. N. Crowe of Chicago, and seconded by J. F. Lee of Ecorse, Michigan. Motion carried unanimously.

The amended article reads as follows: "Meetings of the Trustees, who are also the Board of Directors, may be called by the president, or in an emergency, after counsel with the Lake Union Conference president, by the secretary of said Board, or by three members thereof."

It was moved by R. F. Warnick of Detroit and seconded by R. J. Lawrence of Niles, Michigan, that Paragraphs II and III of Article V be deleted and that the following paragraph be inserted instead: "A quorum to do business shall consist of not less than four Trustees, one of whom shall be the president of the Board, except in an emergency." Motion carried unanimously.

- ARTICLE IX It was moved by C. P. Laurence of South Bend, Indiana and seconded by William Ray of Detroit that a period be placed after the word "session," and the rest of the paragraph be deleted, substituting the following: "If it is proposed to amend the constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session."

The amended article reads as follows: "These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members at the regular biennial session. If it is proposed to amend the constitution at a special session notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session."

VOTED, meeting adjourn sine die.

J. G. Dasent, President

F. N. Crowe, Secretary

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

OF

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Article 1

Name

The name of the corporation is Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article 2

Period

The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.

Article 3

Location

The address of its initial Registered Office in the State of Illinois is 619-21 Woodland Park in the City of Chicago, Zone 16, County of Cook, and the name of its initial Registered Agent at said address is Elder J. Gershom Dasent.

Article 4

Board of Directors

The first Board of Directors shall be Seven in number.

Article 5

Purpose and Territory

This Association is incorporated for religious purposes and the welfare and benefit of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, an ecclesiastical, unincorporated body, without pecuniary profit or gain to any person or persons, operating in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin; under the requirements of what is known as the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act," Approved July 17, 1943; Effective January 1, 1944; of the State of Illinois.

The Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists recognizes the Lake Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists (Not For Profit) organized under what is known as Act No. 327 of the Public Acts of 1931, the Michigan General Corporation Act, as the "mother" of all such said Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists and will operate in cooperation and compliance with its general policy.

BY-LAWS OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

of

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Article 1 --- Membership

The members of this Association shall be the accredited delegates to the regular biennial or specially called sessions of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, unincorporated.

Article 2 --- Trustees and Board of Directors

The business and affairs of this Association shall be managed by a Board of Trustees, who shall also be the Board of Directors, of not less than five or more than seven members.

Article 3 --- Election of Trustees

The Trustees, who also shall be the Board of Directors, of this Association, shall be elected by the delegates to the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, unincorporated, and shall serve for two years and until their successors are elected and appear for duty.

Article 4 --- Officers

At the first opportunity after election the Trustees, who also shall be the Board of Directors, shall elect from their members a President, a Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Auditor of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shall be the Auditor of the Lake Region Conference Association. (This refers to the Auditor of the Lake Union Conference Association, etc.)

Article 5 --- Meetings of Trustees and Board of Directors

Meetings of the Trustees, who also are the Board of Directors, may be called by the President or Secretary of said Board, or by three members thereof.

The Board of Trustees, who are also the Board of Directors, is always in session and at any time there are five members present, including the President and secretary, business may be transacted providing at least three members give their consent when the said Board is composed of Five Members and at least five members give their consent when the said Board might be composed of seven members.

When a meeting of the full Board is called a majority vote of those present is required to pass an action.

Article 6 --- Duties of Officers.

Duties of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and Auditor shall be such as usually pertain to such officers, respectively, and such other duties as the Board of Trustees, who are also the Board of Directors, may prescribe.

The President and Secretary shall sign for and in behalf of said Association, deeds, mortgages, powers of Attorney, annuity agreements and any other instruments of writing of similar character.

Article 7 --- Interval between Sessions,
Vacancies

During the interval between sessions of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, unincorporated, the Trustees, who are the Board of Directors, shall have full administrative power with authority to fill all vacancies that may occur among its officers, committees, or agents by death, resignation or otherwise.

Article 8 --- Seal

The seal of this Association shall consist of an ordinary size circular impression with the words "Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists" in the outer circle enclosing the word "Seal."

Article 9 --- Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members at the regular Biennial session or any specially called meeting, provided that mention is made of such a proposed amendment in the call.

North-
eastern

Organization of the Northeastern Conference

Constitution and By-Laws

October 3-4, 1944

C O N S T I T U T I O N
NORTHEASTERN COLORED CONFERENCE
of Seventh-day Adventists

ARTICLE I--Name

This organization which is a subsidiary of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, shall be known as the Northeastern Colored Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

ARTICLE II--Territory

The territory of this Conference shall comprise the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York.

ARTICLE III--Object

The object of this Conference is to teach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV--Membership

Section 1. The membership of this Conference shall consist of such colored churches as have been or shall be properly organized, and accepted by vote of the Conference.

Section 2. The voters of this Conference shall be:

- a. The members of the executive committee of the Conference.
- b. The members of the General Conference and the Atlantic Union Conference committees who are present at any session of this Conference.

- c. All ordained ministers and licensed ministers employed by this Conference, who are in good and regular standing, and who hold regular credentials and licenses from the Conference.

d. Such delegates as shall be duly accredited by the organized churches of the Conference, on the basis of one for each local organized church, and one additional for each twenty members or fraction thereof.

e. Such other persons, not exceeding twenty-five in number, as may be recommended by the executive committee and accepted by the delegates in session.

ARTICLE V--Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. The regular officers of this Conference shall be a president, a secretary and a treasurer, it being provided that the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

Section 2. President: The president shall act as chairman of the Executive Committee, and labor in the general interests of the Conference in counsel with the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of the Conference sessions, and of the Executive Committee, and to collect such data as may be desired by the president or by the Atlantic Union and local conference committees; and to perform such other duties as pertain to the said office.

Section 4. Treasurer: a. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all funds and to disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee, to audit the books of the local church treasurers at least once each year, and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the president or the local and union conference committees. Where it is found impossible for the treasurer personally to audit all of the books of the local churches, the committee shall arrange with him for such assistance as may be necessary.

b. Bank accounts within this conference territory, approved by the conference committee, shall be operated in the name of the conference by the treasurer and/or the president and/or such other individuals as may be authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The officers of the conference shall be elected by the constituency at the times of its biennial sessions, and shall be members of the Executive Committee. They shall hold their offices for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and appear to enter upon their duties. All other members of the Executive Committee and the secretaries of all departments shall be chosen by the delegates in the regular sessions of the conference, and shall hold their offices for the period of two years or until their successors are elected and appear to enter upon their duties.

ARTICLE VI--Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than seven members, of which committee the president shall be an ex-officio member and the chairman.

Section 2. During the intervals between sessions of the conference, the Executive Committee shall have administrative power with authority to grant and withdraw credentials and licenses, and to fill all vacancies in the offices of President, Secretary or Treasurer, and in the membership of the Executive Committee, and in the leadership of the departmental work, occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise. Such actions shall require the consent by vote of two-thirds of the members of the committee.

Section 3. Any four members of the Executive Committee, including the president, shall be empowered to transact such conference business as is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Committee. The concurrence of four members shall be necessary to pass any measure.

Section 4. Meetings of the conference committee may be called at any time or place by the president, or should he be absent from the field, such meetings may be called by the secretary upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII--Sessions

Section 1. This Conference may hold bi-annual sessions at such times and places as the Executive Committee may designate by a notice published in the Review and Herald or the Atlantic Union Gleaner at least three weeks before the date of ^{the} opening ^{it} the session.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may call a special session of the Conference at such times and places as it deems proper by a like notice as of regular sessions, and the transactions of such special sessions shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

ARTICLE VIII--Finance

Section 1. The funds of this Conference shall be:

a. The tithes from all colored churches, and such other colored believers as are not members of some other Seventh-day Adventist church organization.

b. Special donations.

Section 2. This Conference shall pass on monthly to the Atlantic Union Conference a tithe of its tithe receipts, all mission offerings, and such other funds as may be called for by the policies of the union and the General Conference organizations.

ARTICLE IX--Audits

The fixing of wages and the auditing of expenses of the workers within this Conference shall be carried out in harmony with the policies fixed by the Atlantic Union and the General Conference organizations.

ARTICLE X--Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourth's vote of the delegates present at any session provided that if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, due notice of the proposed amendments shall be given in the call for such special session.

CONSTITUTION
of the
CONFERENCE
(As adopted

Article No. 1
NAME

This organization shall be known as the
Seventh-day Adventists.

Conference of

Article No. 2
OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to extend throughout the world the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article No. 3
TERRITORY

The territory of this conference shall be the states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and all of the state of Florida except that portion lying west of the Apalachicola River.

Article No. 4
MEMBERSHIP

Sec. No. 1 This Conference shall be composed of such churches consisting of colored members as are, or may be organized, in any part of its territory, under the direction of its Executive Committee, said churches having been accepted by vote of the Conference in session.

Sec. No. 2 The isolated members of this Conference shall be organized into what shall be known as the Conference Church whose officers shall be the Conference President, and Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in each instance, serve as elder & clerk-treasurer, respectively.

Article No. 5
REPRESENTATION

Sec. No. 1 The voters of this Conference shall be the duly accredited delegates from the local churches, members of the Executive Committee, all regularly employed laborers holding ministerial credentials, ministerial licenses, missionary credentials, or Bible instructor's credentials from the conference, the conference secretary and treasurer, all departmental secretaries of the conference, and such representatives of the Southern Union, North American Division, and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as may be present at any meeting.

Sec. No. 2 Each local church shall be entitled to one delegate in the sessions of this conference without regard to number, and one additional delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must be members of the church which they represent.

Constitution - 2

Sec. No. 3 The conference churches shall be represented in the conference on the same ratio basis as the regularly organized churches, and shall elect their delegates in connection with the sessions of the conference.

Sec. No. 4 The delegates present at any regular or specially called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. No. 5 Each church delegation present at the Biennial Session shall select one member of its number who shall act with others, selected in like manner, as a committee to recommend to the session the personnel of such standing committees as may be required. The Union Conference President shall act as Chairman of this special committee.

Article No. 6
OFFICERS

Sec. No. 1 The officers of the conference shall be a president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected at each biennial meeting. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

Sec. No. 2 All officers of the conference shall be elected at the regular biennial session of the conference, and shall hold office until their successors are elected, and ready to assume their responsibilities.

Article No. 7
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. No. 1 At each regular session the conference shall elect an Executive Committee of not less than five members, nor more than nine members, including the president, for the carrying on of its work between sessions and such departmental secretaries as may be necessary for the carrying forward of the work of the conference.

Article No. 8
MEETINGS

Sec. No. 1 Meetings of this conference shall be held biennially at such time and place within its territory as the Executive Committee shall determine and designate for the purpose of electing the officers of the conference and to transact such other business as may properly come before the conference. Notice of such meetings shall be published at least two weeks prior to such meetings in the official organ of the Southern Union Conference.

Sec. No. 2 The Executive Committee may call extra sessions as occasion may require, by a like notice, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

BY-LAWS
CONFERENCE
(As adopted)

Article No. 1
PRESIDENT

The duties of the president shall be to preside at the session of the conference , and the executive committee, and to attend to all such other duties as usually pertain to the office of President. In the case of extended absence or inability to perform this office on the part of the President of the Conference, the President of the Southern Union Conference shall act in his stead until such time as the executive committee may be called.

Article No. 2
SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the records of the conference, to compile statistical reports, to be submitted to the executive committee, or to the General or Union conferences, and to attend to such other duties as usually pertain to the office of Secretary.

Article No. 3
TREASURER

Sec. No. 1 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds of the Conference and to disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the Conference and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee.

Sec. No. 2 It shall also be the duty of the treasurer to forward monthly all trust funds not intended for use within the conference to their proper destination through the Southern Union Conference.

Article No. 4
AUDITOR

The duties of the Auditor shall be to examine, at least once each year, all accounts of the conference and its departments, and to report same to the Conference Executive Committee annually, and to the conference in session bienially through the President and the Treasurer.

Article No. 5
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to take the general supervision of all labor performed within the territory of and for this conference; to take charge of, and care for, all property belonging to the conference; to exercise a general watch-care over all matters pertaining to the interests of the Third Angel's Message, in its relation to the work in the conference; to fill all vacancies which may occur among the officers of this conference for the current term.

Article No. 6
AUDITING COMMITTEES

Once each year all accounts incurred during the year in connection with any labor performed in this conference shall be examined, adjusted if necessary, and approved by auditing committee which shall consist of the Executive Committee, plus three additional brethren who have not been in the employ of the conference any part of the year to be audited.

Article No. 7
FUNDS

Sec. No. 1 The funds of this conference shall consist of the tithes paid by the churches and individuals in the conference, donations for special and general purposes, and such other funds as it is proper to use for our denominational work.

Sec. No. 2 All funds for general purposes to be used outside of this conference shall be passed on each month to the Southern Union Conference Treasurer.

Article No. 8
LABORERS

It shall be the duty of the laborers in the employ of this conference to make a written monthly report of their labors, together with a statement of receipts and expenditures, and to send the same at the close of the month to the conference officers.

Article No. 9
CHURCHES

Sec. No. 1 Each church of this conference shall render faithful support to the conference work by the prompt payment of its membership tithe, and such other funds as may be set apart for that purpose.

Sec. No. 2 Each church through its clerk shall make a written report every quarter to the conference secretary of its standing, its additions and losses, and such other information as may be required.

Sec. No. 3 Each church through its treasurer shall at the close of each month make a written report and forward all conference moneys to the conference treasurer.

Sec. No. 4 The secretaries of the various departments of the church shall forward promptly and at regular intervals, as requested, to the respective secretaries of the conference, such items and reports as may be called for.

Article No. 9
DEPARTMENTS, AGENTS, COMMITTEES

This conference shall maintain such departments as may be necessary for the carrying forward of its several lines of work, and shall employ such secretaries, committees, agents, ministers, missionaries, and make such distribution of labor as may be necessary to carry on its work effectually.

Article No. 10
CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES

Credentials and licenses shall be granted by the conference at its regular sessions to such laborers as are recommended by the conference in session, and by the Executive Committee during the interval between sessions, when deemed necessary.

Article No. 11
AUDITOR

The Auditor of the Southern Union Conference shall be the auditor of the conference.

Article No. 12
BY-LAWS

The voters of this conference may make by-laws and amend or repeal at any session thereof, and the scope of such by-laws may embrace all subjects not inconsistent with the Constitution.

Article No. 13
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegation present and voting in any session.

Oct. 3, 1944

Report of the Plans Committee

New York Temple Church
New York

GRATITUDE TO GOD

I

WHEREAS, Our heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and constituency in developing the work among the colored people, and

WHEREAS, The time has come when our general and union brethren have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference in order that our work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

Resolved, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all out program of evangelism, loyalty in tithes, and liberality in offerings for foreign missions and home work.

II

CONFERENCE LOCATION

We recommend, That the location of the North Eastern Conference headquarters be referred to the conference executive committee in council with the Union Committee.

III

PLANS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, This newly formed conference is a part of the Atlantic Union Conference, and a sister conference to the other four conferences of the Atlantic Union,

We recommend, That the newly formed conference place itself on record as accepting all the plans and policies now in operation within the other conferences of the Union.

IV

ACTIVITIES

Believing the true purpose of this conference to be expressed in Article III of our constitution, namely "The object of this conference is to teach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ",

We recommend, That the new executive committee lay large progressive plans for the furtherance of all phases of evangelism, carefully fostering our departmental and pastoral work in our churches and among our isolated believers.

V

BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

We recommend, The establishment of a Book and Bible House at the conference headquarters at such a time as may seem advisable to the conference committee.

VI

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

WHEREAS, The Message Magazine has become a strong factor in the spreading of the everlasting gospel to the colored people,

We recommend, That a renewed effort be put forth to greatly increase its circulation both in subscription and in single copy sales.

VII

That any church school comeback funds received by the proposed conference from the General Conference through the Atlantic Union Conference be held as a separate fund and disbursed by action of the executive committee of the conference for the support of its church schools in harmony with the provisions and regulations governing the use of such funds.

VIII

That the proposed conference assume its proportionate share of contributions toward the support of the "Voice of Prophecy", "Bible Auditorium of the Air", "Atlantic Union Conference Gleaner", etc., the division of these costs among the conferences of the Union to be determined by the Atlantic Union Conference Committee, it being understood that General provision has been made for a share of these expenses in the financing budget.

IX

That in the operation of the North Eastern Conference and in its building plans the "no debt" policy be followed and that operating and building and improvement budgets be approved in the regular ways provided in the working policies of the General Conference and of the Atlantic Union Conference before commitments are made.

X

That the Harvest Ingathering basic goals of the proposed conference be set annually by the Atlantic Union Conference Committee and that any comeback funds received from the Union Conference to be held as a separate fund in the Conference treasury and disbursed by action of the executive committee of the conference.

XI

That the amounts of operating funds and reserves on hand at the close of the year 1944 in the several conferences involved be shared with the North Eastern Conference on an equitable basis to be determined by the Atlantic Union Conference Committee taking into consideration existing liabilities, obligations and commitments.

XII

That a detailed operating budget be adopted annually by the executive committee and that a reasonable operating capital be held in the conference treasury in harmony with the General Conference working policies.

COMMITTEE:

Chairman - G. E. Peters

Members - R. J. Christian
R. L. Hubbs
J. F. Kent
E. A. Lockett
M. L. Morrison
D. A. Bailey
L. R. Preston
W. C. Raley
W. H. Williams

Organization of Colored Conferences in the Southern Union

It will be remembered that at the Spring Council, April, 1944, the following recommendations were adopted: "WHEREAS, it appears that a definite plan of organization for our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavors; therefore,

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

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

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

On the morning of December 4, E. F. Hackman, president of the Southern Union, and the members of the union committee, met over 300 delegates from the churches in Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina in the Atlanta church building.

E. F. Hackman served as chairman of the constituency meeting, and C. O. Franz as secretary. Present from the General Conference were L. K. Kickson, president of the North American Division and G. E. Peters, secretary of the Colored Department of the North American Division. These brethren participated in the opening exercises and in the forming of the conference organization. A constitution and by-laws in full accord with the policies of the denomination were adopted by the delegates.

This new conference has 3,300 members in 70 churches. It has

been named the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The nominating committee presented the following report which was accepted unanimously: President, H. D. Singleton; Secretary-Treasurer, L. S. Follette; Educational and Young Peoples' Secretary, F. A. Jenkins; Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary, H. D. Singleton; Publishing Department Secretary, Richard Robinson; Associate Publishing Department Secretaries, Silas McClamb and W. W. Jones. The office of Sabbath School Department Secretary was referred to the conference committee to be filled. The names of the members of the conference committee are as follows: H. D. Singleton, L. S. Follette, W. S. Lee, F. S. Keitts, W. W. Fordham, F. A. Jenkins, N. B. Smith, and A. J. Bailey. To climax the proceedings, a brief, beautiful ordination service was held to set apart to the gospel ministry Wilmot M. Fordham, of the Carolina Conference.

Leaving Atlanta, the union conference committee accompanied by the representatives of the General Conference, hastened to Birmingham, Alabama, where the delegates from the western half of the Southern Union representing the churches of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and the extreme western part of Florida, had gathered at 7:00 o'clock p. m., December 5, in a public building rented for the occasion.

A similar opening meeting was conducted by those who presided at the organization of the South Atlantic Conference, followed by the regular organizational procedure. The constituency unanimously elected the following officers: President, H. R. Murphy; Secretary-Treasurer, V. Lindsay; Educational and Young Peoples'

Secretary, Charles Dickerson; Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary, H. R. Murphy; Publishing Department Secretary, W. E. Adams; Publishing Department Associate Secretaries, B. H. Ewing and E. Brantley. The office of Sabbath School Secretary was left to be filled by the committee. Members of the conference committee elected were H. R. Murphy, V. Lindsay, B. W. Abney Sr., C. A. Lynes, J. G. Thomas, I. H. Hudson. The name chosen for the conference comprising the western half of the Southern Union was the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. There are forty churches in this conference. The two newly formed conferences comprise a combined membership of 8,000, and will begin functioning January 1, 1946.

We wish for these two conferences and their officers much Divine Guidance as they take up their duties in helping to finish the work of God in the earth.

George E. Peters

COMBINED MEETING OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENTS
OF THE CAROLINA, FLORIDA, AND GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCES
At the Berean Church, Atlanta, Georgia
10:00 A. M., December 4, 1945

OPENING The meeting was opened by the use of hymn No. 97, Elder E. F. Hackman in the chair. Elder G. E. Peters gave the scripture reading which was followed by prayer by Elder L. K. Dickson.

SECRETARY Upon motion it was VOTED, to ask Brother C. O. Franz to act as general secretary of the constituency meeting.

REMARKS Elder Hackman devoted some time to an outline of the growth of the colored work in the Southern Union Conference and of God's leading and guiding in its progress. He explained the steps which have led up to the calling of this meeting to organize a colored conference in the eastern half of the Southern Union.

CONSTITUENCY
MEETINGS Under the organization of the colored departments as operating up to this time it was necessary to call the constituencies of the three conferences involved to consider the questions of dropping the present organization and instituting the new. Meetings of the constituencies of the Carolina, Florida, and Georgia-Cumberland Conferences were called by their respective presidents, in each of which it was voted to favor the organization of a colored conference, to discontinue the present plan, and to withdraw from the sisterhood of churches of the white conference. Minutes of these meetings will be filed with the records of each of the conferences involved.

SEATING OF
DELEGATES As the first step in organizing the new colored conference it was VOTED, that the delegates of the former colored departments of the Carolina, Florida, and Georgia-Cumberland Conferences, together with delegates at large, constitute the delegates of the new conference organization. The total of delegates present from churches was found to be 398 with the 19 delegates at large.

NAME It was VOTED, that the name of the new conference be the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

CONSTITUTION A suggested constitution was presented by the secretary and VOTED, as follows:

ORGANIZATION OF COLORED CONFERENCES IN THE

SOUTHERN UNION

G. E. Peters

The eventful days of December 4 - 6, 1945 will long be remembered by our colored workers and members of the Southern Union as well as our people everywhere. The leaders of the General Conference and Southern Union had laid careful plans for the organization of two conferences for our colored believers in the Southern Union. These plans were executed on the above mentioned days.

For some time the general brethren had been convinced that the colored work could be made more effective if it could be directed and supervised by consecrated colored leadership. More than one year ago three conferences of colored believers were organized, one in each of the following unions: Atlantic, Columbia, and Lake. Even with many workers without the special experience needed in some departments, these new conferences have done very acceptable work and their organization has given new life and inspiration to our work in general.

On the morning of December 4 Elders L. K. Dickson and G. E. Peters of the General Conference and Elder E. F. Hackman and the Southern Union Committee met 398 regular and 19 delegates at large from the churches in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina in the Atlanta, Georgia church building.

After appropriate opening exercises participated in by the General Conference representatives and the president of the Southern Union the assembly resolved itself into a constituency meeting of the eastern half of the Southern Union Conference. After dealing with the formalities of such a meeting, committees were duly elected and set to work.

The nominating committee presented the following report which was accepted unanimously:

President	H. D. Singleton
Secretary-Treasurer	L. S. Follette
Educational and Young People's Secretary	F. H. Jenkins
Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary	H. D. Singleton
Publishing Dept. Secretary	Richard Robinson
Associates	Silas McClamb
	W. W. Jones

The office of Sabbath School Department secretary was referred to the conference committee to be filled.

Conference Committee

H. D. Singleton	W. W. Fordham
L. S. Follette	F. H. Jenkins
E. S. Lee	N. B. Smith
F. S. Keitts	A. J. Bailey

The name chosen for this new conference is THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH - DAY ADVENTISTS. A constitution and by-laws were voted and resolutions passed by the delegates.

To climax the proceedings a beautiful ordination service was held to ordain to the gospel ministry Elder Wilmot M. Fordham.

The General and Union Conference leaders hastened to Birmingham, Alabama where the delegates from the western half of the Southern Union representing the churches of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and the extreme ^{western} eastern part of Florida had already gathered at 7 P. M. December 5, 1945.

A formal opening meeting was conducted by the same men as presided at the organization of the SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE. Following the regular organizational procedure the constituency unanimously elected the following officers:

President	H. R. Murphy
Secretary-Treasurer	V. Lindsay
Educational & Young People's Secretary	Charles Dickerson
Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary	H. R. Murphy
Publishing Department Secretary	W. E. Adams
" " Associates	B. H. Ewing
	E. Brantley

The Office of Sabbath School Secretary was left* to be filled by the committee.

Conference Committee

H. R. Murphy	C. A. Lynes
V. Lindsay	J. G. Thomas
B. W. Abney, Sr.	I. H. Hudson

The name chosen for the conference comprising the western half of the Southern Union is THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH - DAY ADVENTISTS.

The newly formed conferences will begin functioning January 1, 1946.

Surely the Lord has led us thus far and He will lead us all the way if we will but trust Him and say with the poet, "The night is dark and I am far from home; Lead thou me on." We sincerely believe that a new and better day has dawned for our colored work. Time is short and much remains to be done. We solicit the earnest prayers of our believers everywhere for these newly formed conferences.

Organization of the South Atlantic Conference
December 4, 1945

Constitution and By-Laws

Organization of the South Central Conference
December 5, 1945

Constitution and By-Laws

CONSTITUTION
of the
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
As adopted December 4, 1945

Article No. 1
NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article No. 2
OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to extend throughout the world the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article No. 3
TERRITORY

The territory of this conference shall be the states of North and South Carolina Georgia, and all of the state of Florida except that portion lying west of the Apalachicola River.

Article No. 4
MEMBERSHIP

Sec. No. 1 This Conference shall be composed of such churches consisting of colored members as are, or may be organized, in any part of its territory, under the direction of its Executive Committee, said churches having been accepted by vote of the Conference in session.

Sec. No. 2 The isolated members of this Conference shall be organized into what shall be known as the Conference Church whose officers shall be the Conference President, and Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in each instance, serve as elder and clerk-treasurer, respectively.

Article No. 5
REPRESENTATION

Sec. No. 1 The voters of this Conference shall be the duly accredited delegates from the local churches, members of the Executive Committee, all regularly employed laborers holding ministerial credentials, ministerial licenses, missionary credentials, missionary licenses, or Bible instructor's credentials from the conference, the conference secretary and treasurer, all departmental secretaries of the conference, and such representatives of the Southern Union, North American Division, and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as may be present at any meeting.

Sec. No. 2 Each local church shall be entitled to one delegate in the sessions of this conference without regard to number, and one additional delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must be members of the church which they represent.

Constitution - 2

Sec. No. 3 The conference church shall be represented in the conference on the same ratio basis as the regularly organized churches, and shall elect its delegates in connection with the sessions of the conference.

Sec. No. 4 The delegates present at any regular or specially called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. No. 5 Each church delegation present at the Biennial Session shall select one member of its number who shall act with others, selected in like manner, as a committee to recommend to the session the personnel of such standing committees as may be required. The Union Conference President shall act as Chairman of this special committee.

Article No. 6
OFFICERS

Sec. No. 1 The officers of the conference shall be a president, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected at each biennial meeting. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

Sec. No. 2 All officers of the conference shall be elected at the regular biennial session of the conference, and shall hold office until their successors are elected, and ready to assume their responsibilities.

Article No. 7
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. No. 1 At each regular session the conference shall elect an Executive Committee, of not less than five members nor more than nine members including the president, for the carrying on of its work between sessions, and such departmental secretaries as may be necessary for the carrying forward of the work of the conference.

Article No. 8
MEETINGS

Sec. No. 1 Meetings of this conference shall be held biennially at such time and place within its territory as the Executive Committee shall determine and designate for the purpose of electing the officers of the conference and to transact such other business as may properly come before the conference. Notice of such meetings shall be published at least two weeks prior to such meetings in the official organ of the Southern Union Conference.

Sec. No. 2 The Executive Committee may call extra sessions as occasion may require, by a like notice, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

Constitution - 3

Article No. 9
DEPARTMENTS, AGENTS, COMMITTEES

This conference shall maintain such departments as may be necessary for the carrying forward of its several lines of work, and shall employ such secretaries, committees, agents, ministers, missionaries, and make such distribution of labor as may be necessary to carry on its work effectually.

Article No. 10
CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES

Credentials and licenses shall be granted by the conference at its regular sessions to such laborers as are recommended by the conference in session, and by the Executive Committee during the interval between sessions, when deemed necessary.

Article No. 11
AUDITOR

The Auditor of the Southern Union Conference shall be the auditor of the conference.

Article No. 12
BY-LAWS

The voters of this conference may make by-laws and amend or repeal at any session thereof, and the scope of such by-laws may embrace all subjects not inconsistent with the Constitution.

Article No. 13
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegation present and voting in any session.

BY-LAWS
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
As Adopted December 4, 1945

Article No. 1
PRESIDENT

The duties of the president shall be to preside at the session of the conference, and the executive committee, and to attend to all such other duties as usually pertain to the office of President. In the case of extended absence or inability to perform this office on the part of the President of the Conference, the President of the Southern Union Conference shall act in his stead until such time as the executive committee may be called.

Article No. 2
SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the records of the conference, to compile statistical reports, to be submitted to the executive committee, or to the General or Union conferences, and to attend to such other duties as usually pertain to the office of Secretary.

Article No. 3
TREASURER

Sec. No. 1 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds of the South Atlantic Conference and to disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the South Atlantic Conference and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee.

Sec. No. 2 It shall also be the duty of the Treasurer to forward monthly all trust funds not intended for use within the conference to their proper destination through the Southern Union Conference.

Article No. 4
AUDITOR

The duties of the Auditor shall be to examine, at least once each year, all accounts of the conference and its departments, and to report same to the Conference Executive Committee annually, and to the conference in session biennially through the President and the Treasurer.

Article No. 5
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to take the general supervision of all labor performed within the territory of and for this conference; to take charge of, and care for, all property belonging to the conference; to exercise a general watch-care over all matters pertaining to the interests of the Third Angel's Message, in its relation to the work in the conference; to fill all vacancies which may occur among the officers of this conference for the current term.

Article No. 6
AUDITING COMMITTEES

Once each year all accounts incurred during the year in connection with any labor performed in this conference shall be examined, adjusted if necessary, and approved by an auditing committee which shall consist of the Executive Committee, plus three additional brethren who have not been in the employ of the conference any part of the year to be audited.

Article No. 7
FUNDS

Sec. No. 1 The funds of this conference shall consist of the tithes paid by the churches and individuals in the conference, donations for special and general purposes, and such other funds as it is proper to use for our denominational work.

Sec. No. 2 All funds for general purposes to be used outside of this conference shall be passed on each month to the Southern Union Conference Treasurer.

Article No. 8
LABORERS

It shall be the duty of the laborers in the employ of this conference to make a written monthly report of their labors, together with a statement of receipts and expenditures, and to send the same at the close of the month to the conference officers.

Article No. 9
CHURCHES

Sec. No. 1 Each church of this conference shall render faithful support to the conference work by the prompt payment of its membership tithe, and such other funds as may be set apart for that purpose.

Sec. No. 2 Each church through its clerk shall make a written report every quarter to the conference secretary of its standing, its additions and losses, and such other information as may be required.

Sec. No. 3 Each church through its treasurer shall at the close of each month make a written report and forward all conference moneys to the conference treasurer.

Sec. No. 4 The secretaries of the various departments of the church shall forward promptly and at regular intervals, as requested, to the respective secretaries of the conference, such items and reports as may be called for.

CHURCH
PROPERTIES VOTED, that we recommend to the three white conferences involved the election of the president and treasurer of the South Atlantic Conference as members of each legal association in existence in its territory, these officers to be called to meet with the association committees whenever action is contemplated involving church properties held in trust for members of the South Atlantic Conference.

CREDENTIALS
& LICENSES VOTED, that the issuing of credentials and licenses to workers in the South Atlantic Conference be referred to the new conference committee for action.

LARGE
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE In accordance with Article No. 5, Section 5, of the Constitution, each church delegation present was called to meet and select one of its number to act on a special committee to nominate the nominating committee of the session. This large committee, composed of sixty members with Elder Hackman as chairman, brought in the names of the following persons to act as the nominating committee which was accepted by vote of the constituency: N. B. Smith, M. Green, N. J. Grant, P. H. Morgan, Dr. Portis, J. W. Jones, A. J. Bailey, F. H. Stevens, L. S. Follette.

ELECTION The Nominating Committee named above met and after careful study brought to the session the following report:

President, H. D. Singleton
Secretary-Treasurer, L. S. Follette
Educational and Young People's Secretary, F. H. Jenkins
Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary, H. D. Singleton
Publishing Department Secretary, Richard Robinson
Associate Secretaries, Silas McClamb and W. W. Jones
Bible House Manager, L. S. Follette
That the selection of a Sabbath School Secretary be referred to the Conference Committee.
Conference Committee: H. D. Singleton, L. S. Follette, W. S. Lee, F. S. Keitts, W. W. Fordham, F. H. Jenkins, N. B. Smith, A. J. Bailey.

Upon motion the above nominations were accepted unanimously by vote.

BEGINNING
DATE VOTED, that the above named persons take office January 1, 1946, and that the organization of the conference be perfected at as early a date as possible.

SALISBURY
CHURCH Inasmuch as the Salisbury, N. C., church has been organized but not as yet accepted into the sisterhood of churches it was VOTED, that this church be accepted into the sisterhood of churches of the South Atlantic Conference.

ORDINATION In accordance with the recommendation of the Carolina Conference and the Southern Union Conference W. M. Fordham was ordained to the gospel ministry, those taking part, being elders, were: L. K. Dickson, E. F. Hackman, G. E. Peters, H. D. Singleton, L. S. Follette, J. G. Thomas, F. S. Keitts, J. H. Wagner, M. Green, P. Morgan.

GRATITUDE

Recognizing that our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and the constituency in developing the work among the colored people of the Southern Union,

WHEREAS, The time has come when our General and Union Conference Committees have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference embracing the eastern section of the Southern Union, in order that the work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

RESOLVED, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all-out program of evangelism, loyalty in the paying of tithes, and liberality in offerings both for foreign missions and home work.

Also that we express to the General Conference, the Southern Union, and the Southern Publishing Association our appreciation for the part each has had in promoting the organization of this conference and for the financial help which they have given; and to each of our workers and members who have assisted in furnishing meals, rooming accommodations, and in other ways made this meeting a success.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned sine die.

E. F. Hackman, Chairman

C. O. Franz, Secretary

COMBINED MEETING OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENTS
OF THE CAROLINA, FLORIDA, AND GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCES
At the Berean Church, Atlanta, Georgia
10:00 A. M., December 4, 1945

OPENING The meeting was opened by the use of hymn No. 97, Elder E. F. Hackman in the chair. Elder G. E. Peters gave the scripture reading which was followed by prayer by Elder L. K. Dickson.

SECRETARY Upon motion it was VOTED, to ask Brother C. O. Franz to act as general secretary of the constituency meeting.

REMARKS Elder Hackman devoted some time to an outline of the growth of the colored work in the Southern Union Conference and of God's leading and guiding in its progress. He explained the steps which have led up to the calling of this meeting to organize a colored conference in the eastern half of the Southern Union.

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS Under the organization of the colored departments as operating up to this time it was necessary to call the constituencies of the three conferences involved to consider the questions of dropping the present organization and instituting the new. Meetings of the constituencies of the Carolina, Florida, and Georgia-Cumberland Conferences were called by their respective presidents, in each of which it was voted to favor the organization of a colored conference, to discontinue the present plan, and to withdraw from the sisterhood of churches of the white conference. Minutes of these meetings will be filed with the records of each of the conferences involved.

SEATING OF DELEGATES As the first step in organizing the new colored conference it was VOTED, that the delegates of the former colored departments of the Carolina, Florida, and Georgia-Cumberland Conferences, together with delegates at large, constitute the delegates of the new conference organization. The total of delegates present from churches was found to be 398 with the 19 delegates at large.

NAME It was VOTED, that the name of the new conference be the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

CONSTITUTION A suggested constitution was presented by the secretary and VOTED, as follows:

CONSTITUTION
of the
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
As adopted December 4, 1945

Article No. 1
NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article No. 2
OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to extend throughout the world the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article No. 3
TERRITORY

The territory of this conference shall be the states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and all of the state of Florida except that portion lying west of the Apalachicola River.

Article No. 4
MEMBERSHIP

Sec. No. 1 This Conference shall be composed of such churches consisting of colored members as are, or may be organized, in any part of its territory, under the direction of its Executive Committee, said churches having been accepted by vote of the Conference in session.

Sec. No. 2 The isolated members of this Conference shall be organized into what shall be known as the Conference Church whose officers shall be the Conference President, and Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in each instance, serve as elder and clerk-treasurer, respectively.

Article No. 5
REPRESENTATION

Sec. No. 1 The voters of this Conference shall be the duly accredited delegates from the local churches, members of the Executive Committee, all regularly employed laborers holding ministerial credentials, ministerial licenses, missionary credentials, missionary licenses, or Bible instructor's credentials from the conference, the conference secretary and treasurer, all departmental secretaries of the conference, and such representatives of the Southern Union, North American Division, and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as may be present at any meeting.

Sec. No. 2 Each local church shall be entitled to one delegate in the sessions of this conference without regard to number, and one additional delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must be members of the church which they represent.

Constitution - 2

Sec. No. 3 The conference church shall be represented in the conference on the same ratio basis as the regularly organized churches, and shall elect its delegates in connection with the sessions of the conference.

Sec. No. 4 The delegates present at any regular or specially called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. No. 5 Each church delegation present at the Biennial Session shall select one member of its number who shall act with others, selected in like manner, as a committee to recommend to the session the personnel of such standing committees as may be required. The Union Conference President shall act as Chairman of this special committee.

Article No. 6
OFFICERS

Sec. No. 1 The officers of the conference shall be a president, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected at each biennial meeting. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

Sec. No. 2 All officers of the conference shall be elected at the regular biennial session of the conference, and shall hold office until their successors are elected, and ready to assume their responsibilities.

Article No. 7
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. No. 1 At each regular session the conference shall elect an Executive Committee, of not less than five members nor more than nine members including the president, for the carrying on of its work between sessions, and such departmental secretaries as may be necessary for the carrying forward of the work of the conference.

Article No. 8
MEETINGS

Sec. No. 1 Meetings of this conference shall be held biennially at such time and place within its territory as the Executive Committee shall determine and designate for the purpose of electing the officers of the conference and to transact such other business as may properly come before the conference. Notice of such meetings shall be published at least two weeks prior to such meetings in the official organ of the Southern Union Conference.

Sec. No. 2 The Executive Committee may call extra sessions as occasion may require, by a like notice, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

Constitution - 3

Article No. 9
DEPARTMENTS, AGENTS, COMMITTEES

This conference shall maintain such departments as may be necessary for the carrying forward of its several lines of work, and shall employ such secretaries, committees, agents, ministers, missionaries, and make such distribution of labor as may be necessary to carry on its work effectually.

Article No. 10
CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES

Credentials and licenses shall be granted by the conference at its regular sessions to such laborers as are recommended by the conference in session, and by the Executive Committee during the interval between sessions, when deemed necessary.

Article No. 11
AUDITOR

The Auditor of the Southern Union Conference shall be the auditor of the conference.

Article No. 12
BY-LAWS

The voters of this conference may make by-laws and amend or repeal at any session thereof, and the scope of such by-laws may embrace all subjects not inconsistent with the Constitution.

Article No. 13
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegation present and voting in any session.

BY-LAWS
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
As Adopted December 4, 1945

Article No. 1
PRESIDENT

The duties of the president shall be to preside at the session of the conference, and the executive committee, and to attend to all such other duties as usually pertain to the office of President. In the case of extended absence or inability to perform this office on the part of the President of the Conference, the President of the Southern Union Conference shall act in his stead until such time as the executive committee may be called.

Article No. 2
SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the records of the conference, to compile statistical reports, to be submitted to the executive committee, or to the General or Union conferences, and to attend to such other duties as usually pertain to the office of Secretary.

Article No. 3
TREASURER

Sec. No. 1 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds of the South Atlantic Conference and to disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the South Atlantic Conference and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee.

Sec. No. 2 It shall also be the duty of the Treasurer to forward monthly all trust funds not intended for use within the conference to their proper destination through the Southern Union Conference.

Article No. 4
AUDITOR

The duties of the Auditor shall be to examine, at least once each year, all accounts of the conference and its departments, and to report same to the Conference Executive Committee annually, and to the conference in session biennially through the President and the Treasurer.

Article No. 5
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to take the general supervision of all labor performed within the territory of and for this conference; to take charge of, and care for, all property belonging to the conference; to exercise a general watch-care over all matters pertaining to the interests of the Third Angel's Message, in its relation to the work in the conference; to fill all vacancies which may occur among the officers of this conference for the current term.

Article No. 6
AUDITING COMMITTEES

Once each year all accounts incurred during the year in connection with any labor performed in this conference shall be examined, adjusted if necessary, and approved by an auditing committee which shall consist of the Executive Committee, plus three additional brethren who have not been in the employ of the conference any part of the year to be audited.

Article No. 7
FUNDS

Sec. No. 1 The funds of this conference shall consist of the tithes paid by the churches and individuals in the conference, donations for special and general purposes, and such other funds as it is proper to use for our denominational work.

Sec. No. 2 All funds for general purposes to be used outside of this conference shall be passed on each month to the Southern Union Conference Treasurer.

Article No. 8
LABORERS

It shall be the duty of the laborers in the employ of this conference to make a written monthly report of their labors, together with a statement of receipts and expenditures, and to send the same at the close of the month to the conference officers.

Article No. 9
CHURCHES

Sec. No. 1 Each church of this conference shall render faithful support to the conference work by the prompt payment of its membership tithe, and such other funds as may be set apart for that purpose.

Sec. No. 2 Each church through its clerk shall make a written report every quarter to the conference secretary of its standing, its additions and losses, and such other information as may be required.

Sec. No. 3 Each church through its treasurer shall at the close of each month make a written report and forward all conference moneys to the conference treasurer.

Sec. No. 4 The secretaries of the various departments of the church shall forward promptly and at regular intervals, as requested, to the respective secretaries of the conference, such items and reports as may be called for.

CHURCH PROPERTIES	VOTED, that we recommend to the three white conferences involved the election of the president and treasurer of the South Atlantic Conference as members of each legal association in existence in its territory, these officers to be called to meet with the association committees whenever action is contemplated involving church properties held in trust for members of the South Atlantic Conference.
CREDENTIALS & LICENSES	VOTED, that the issuing of credentials and licenses to workers in the South Atlantic Conference be referred to the new conference committee for action.
LARGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	In accordance with Article No. 5, Section 5, of the Constitution, each church delegation present was called to meet and select one of its number to act on a special committee to nominate the nominating committee of the session. This large committee, composed of sixty members with Elder Hackman as chairman, brought in the names of the following persons to act as the nominating committee which was accepted by vote of the constituency: N. B. Smith, M. Green, N. J. Grant, P. H. Morgan, Dr. Portis, J. W. Jones, A. J. Bailey, F. H. Stevens, L. S. Follette.
ELECTION	<p>The Nominating Committee named above met and after careful study brought to the session the following report:</p> <p>President, H. D. Singleton Secretary-Treasurer, L. S. Follette Educational and Young People's Secretary, F. H. Jenkins Home Missionary and Religious Liberty Secretary, H. D. Singleton Publishing Department Secretary, Richard Robinson Associate Secretaries, Silas McClamb and W. W. Jones Bible House Manager, L. S. Follette That the selection of a Sabbath School Secretary be referred to the Conference Committee. Conference Committee: H. D. Singleton, L. S. Follette, W. S. Lee, F. S. Keitts, W. W. Fordham, F. H. Jenkins, N. B. Smith, A. J. Bailey.</p> <p>Upon motion the above nominations were accepted unanimously by vote.</p>
BEGINNING DATE	VOTED, that the above named persons take office January 1, 1946, and that the organization of the conference be perfected at as early a date as possible.
SALISBURY CHURCH	Inasmuch as the Salisbury, N. C., church has been organized but not as yet accepted into the sisterhood of churches it was VOTED, that this church be accepted into the sisterhood of churches of the South Atlantic Conference.
ORDINATION	In accordance with the recommendation of the Carolina Conference and the Southern Union Conference W. M. Fordham was ordained to the gospel ministry, those taking part, being elders, were: L. K. Dickson, E. F. Hackman, G. E. Peters, H. D. Singleton, L. S. Follette, J. G. Thomas, F. S. Keitts, J. H. Wagner, M. Green, P. Morgan.

GRATITUDE

Recognizing that our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and the constituency in developing the work among the colored people of the Southern Union,

WHEREAS, The time has come when our General and Union Conference Committees have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference embracing the eastern section of the Southern Union, in order that the work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

RESOLVED, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all-out program of evangelism, loyalty in the paying of tithes, and liberality in offerings both for foreign missions and home work.

Also that we express to the General Conference, the Southern Union, and the Southern Publishing Association our appreciation for the part each has had in promoting the organization of this conference and for the financial help which they have given; and to each of our workers and members who have assisted in furnishing meals, rooming accommodations, and in other ways made this meeting a success.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned sine die.

E. F. Hackman, Chairman

C. O. Franz, Secretary

COMBINED MEETING OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENTS
OF THE KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCES
AND THREE CHURCHES IN EASTERN TENNESSEE

At the Smithfield Court Community Hall, Birmingham, Alabama

7:00 P. M. December 5 and 9:00 A. M. December 6, 1945

OPENING The meeting was opened by the use of the hymn "Lift Up the Trumpet," Elder E. F. Hackman being in the chair. Elder L. K. Dickson gave the scripture reading which was followed by prayer by Elder G. E. Peters.

SECRETARY Upon motion it was VOTED, to ask Brother C. O. Franz to act as general secretary of the constituency meeting.

REMARKS Elder Hackman devoted some time to an outline of the growth of the colored work in the Southern Union Conference and of God's leading and guiding in its progress. He explained the steps which have led up to the calling of this meeting to organize a colored conference in the western half of the Southern Union.

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS Under the organization of the colored departments as operating up to this time it was necessary to call the constituencies of the two conferences involved to consider the questions of dropping the present organization and instituting the new. Meetings of the constituencies of the Kentucky-Tennessee and Alabama-Mississippi Conferences were called by their respective presidents, in each of which it was voted to favor the organization of a colored conference, to discontinue the present plan, and to withdraw from the sisterhood of churches of the white conference. Minutes of these meetings will be filed with the records of each of the conferences involved.

SEATING OF DELEGATES As the first step in organizing the new colored conference it was VOTED, that the delegates of the former colored departments of the Kentucky-Tennessee and Alabama-Mississippi Conferences, together with delegates from the churches of Morristown, Knoxville, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the delegates at large, constitute the delegates of the new conference organization.

NAME It was VOTED, that the name of the new conference be the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

CONSTITUTION A suggested constitution was presented by the secretary and VOTED, as follows:

CONSTITUTION
of the
SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
As adopted December 5, 1945

Article No. 1
NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article No. 2
OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to extend throughout the world the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article No. 3
TERRITORY

The territory of this conference shall be the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and that portion of the state of Florida lying west of the Apalachicola River.

Article No. 4
MEMBERSHIP

Sec. No. 1 This Conference shall be composed of such churches consisting of colored members as are, or may be organized, in any part of its territory, under the direction of its Executive Committee, said churches having been accepted by vote of the Conference in session.

Sec. No. 2 The isolated members of this Conference shall be organized into what shall be known as the Conference Church whose officers shall be the Conference President, and Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in each instance, serve as elder and clerk-treasurer, respectively.

Article No. 5
REPRESENTATION

Sec. No. 1 The voters of this Conference shall be the duly accredited delegates from the local churches, members of the Executive Committee, all regularly employed laborers holding ministerial credentials, ministerial licenses, missionary credentials, missionary licenses, or Bible instructor's credentials from the conference, the conference secretary and treasurer, all departmental secretaries of the conference, and such representatives of the Southern Union, North American Division, and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as may be present at any meeting.

Sec. No. 2 Each local church shall be entitled to one delegate in the sessions of this conference without regard to number, and one additional delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must be members of the church which they represent.

Constitution - 2

Sec. No. 3 The conference church shall be represented in the conference on the same ratio basis as the regularly organized churches, and shall elect its delegates in connection with the sessions of the conference.

Sec. No. 4 The delegates present at any regular or specially called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. No. 5 Each church delegation present at the Biennial Session shall select one member of its number who shall act with others, selected in like manner, as a committee to recommend to the session the personnel of such standing committees as may be required. The Union Conference President shall act as Chairman of this special committee.

Article No. 6

OFFICERS

Sec. No. 1 The officers of the conference shall be a president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected at each biennial meeting. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

Sec. No. 2 All officers of the conference shall be elected at the regular biennial session of the conference, and shall hold office until their successors are elected, and ready to assume their responsibilities.

Article No. 7

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. No. 1 At each regular session the conference shall elect an Executive Committee, of not less than five members nor more than nine members including the president, for the carrying on of its work between sessions, and such departmental secretaries as may be necessary for the carrying forward of the work of the conference.

Article No. 8

MEETINGS

Sec. No. 1 Meetings of this conference shall be held biennially at such time and place within its territory as the Executive Committee shall determine and designate for the purpose of electing the officers of the conference and to transact such other business as may properly come before the conference. Notice of such meetings shall be published at least two weeks prior to such meetings in the official organ of the Southern Union Conference.

Sec. No. 2 The Executive Committee may call extra sessions as occasion may require, by a like notice, and the transactions of such sessions shall be equally valid with those of the regular sessions.

Article No. 9
DEPARTMENTS, AGENTS, COMMITTEES

This conference shall maintain such departments as may be necessary for the carrying forward of its several lines of work, and shall employ such secretaries, committees, agents, ministers, missionaries, and make such distribution of labor as may be necessary to carry on its work effectually.

Article No. 10
CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES

Credentials and licenses shall be granted by the conference at its regular sessions to such laborers as are recommended by the conference in session, and by the Executive Committee during the interval between sessions, when deemed necessary

Article No. 11
AUDITOR

The Auditor of the Southern Union Conference shall be the auditor of the conference.

Article No. 12
BY-LAWS

The voters of this conference may make by-laws and amend or repeal at any session thereof, and the scope of such by-laws may embrace all subjects not inconsistent with the Constitution.

Article No. 13
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegation present and voting in any session.

BY-LAWS
SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
As adopted December 5, 1945

Article No. 1
PRESIDENT

The duties of the president shall be to preside at the session of the conference, and the executive committee, and to attend to all such other duties as usually pertain to the offices of President. In the case of extended absence or inability to perform this office on the part of the President of the Conference, the President of the Southern Union Conference shall act in his stead until such time as the executive committee may be called.

Article No. 2
SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the records of the conference, to compile statistical reports, to be submitted to the executive committee, or to the General or Union conferences, and to attend to such other duties as usually pertain to the office of Secretary.

Article No. 3
TREASURER

Sec. No. 1 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds of the South Central Conference and to disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the South Central Conference and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee.

Sec. No. 2 It shall also be the duty of the treasurer to forward monthly all trust funds not intended for use within the conference to their proper destination through the Southern Union Conference.

Article No. 4
AUDITOR

The duties of the Auditor shall be to examine, at least once each year, all accounts of the conference and its departments, and to report same to the Conference Executive Committee annually, and to the conference in session biennially through the President and the Treasurer.

Article No. 5
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to take the general supervision of all labor performed within the territory of and for this conference; to take charge of, and care for, all property belonging to the conference; to exercise a general watch-care over all matters pertaining to the interests of the Third Angel's Message, in its relation to the work in the conference; to fill all vacancies which may occur among the officers of this conference for the current term.

Article No. 6
AUDITING COMMITTEES

Once each year all accounts incurred during the year in connection with any labor performed in this conference shall be examined, adjusted if necessary, and approved by an auditing committee which shall consist of the Executive Committee, plus three additional brethren who have not been in the employ of the conference any part of the year to be audited.

Article No. 7
FUNDS

Sec. No. 1 The funds of this conference shall consist of the tithes paid by the churches and individuals in the conference, donations for special and general purposes, and such other funds as it is proper to use for our denominational work.

Sec. No. 2 All funds for general purposes to be used outside of this conference shall be passed on each month to the Southern Union Conference Treasurer.

Article No. 8
LABORERS

It shall be the duty of the laborers in the employ of this conference to make a written monthly report of their labors, together with a statement of receipts and expenditures, and to send the same at the close of the month to the conference officers.

Article No. 9
CHURCHES

Sec. No. 1 Each church of this conference shall render faithful support to the conference work by the prompt payment of its membership tithe, and such other funds as may be set apart for that purpose.

Sec. No. 2 Each church through its clerk shall make a written report every quarter to the conference secretary of its standing, its additions and losses, and such other information as may be required.

Sec. No. 3 Each church through its treasurer shall at the close of each month make a written report and forward all conference moneys to the conference treasurer.

Sec. No. 4 The secretaries of the various departments of the church shall forward promptly and at regular intervals, as requested, to the respective secretaries of the conference, such items and reports as may be called for.

CHURCH
PROPERTIES

VOTED, that we recommend to the two white conferences involved the election of the president and treasurer of the South Central Conference as members of each legal association in existence in its territory; these officers to be called to meet with the Association Committee whenever action is contemplated involving church properties held in trust for members of the South Central Conference.

CREDENTIALS
& LICENSES

VOTED, that the issuing of credentials and licenses to workers in the South Central Conference be referred to the new conference committee for action.

LARGE
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

In accordance with Article 5, Section 5, of the Constitution, each church delegation present was called to meet and select one of its members to act on a special committee to nominate the nominating committee of the session. This large committee composed of thirty-four members, with Elder Hackman as chairman, brought in the names of the following persons to act as the Nominating Committee which was accepted by vote of the constituency: F. L. Peterson, J. F. Chrichlow, I. H. Hudson, B. W. Abney, Sr., C. A. Lynes, Walter Pearson, W. H. Winston.

ELECTION

The Nominating Committee named above met and after careful study brought to the session the following report:

President, H. R. Murphy

Secretary-Treasurer, V. Lindsay

Educational & Young People's Secretary, Charles Dickerson

Home Missionary & Religious Liberty Secretary, H. R. Murphy

Publishing Department Secretary, W. E. Adams

Associate Secretaries, B. H. Ewing and E. Brantley

Bible House Manager, V. Lindsay

That the selection of Sabbath School and Temperance Secretaries be referred to the conference committee.

Conference Committee: H. R. Murphy, V. Lindsay, B. W. Abney, Sr.,

C. A. Lynes, J. G. Thomas, Pastor of Birmingham church,

I. H. Hudson

Upon motion the above nominations were accepted unanimously by vote.

BEGINNING
DATE

VOTED, that the above named persons take office January 1, 1946, and that the organization of the conference be perfected at as early a date as possible.

GRATITUDE

Recognizing that our Heavenly Father has signally blessed and prospered the efforts of our colored workers and the constituency in developing the work among the colored people of the Southern Union,

WHEREAS, The time has come when our General and Union Conference Committees have seen fit to authorize the organization of a colored conference embracing the western section of the Southern Union, in order that the work may go forward more rapidly, and

WHEREAS, The delegates here assembled have consummated the organization of such a conference,

RESOLVED, That we offer our sincere praise and gratitude to God, and dedicate our lives anew to an all-out program of evangelism, loyalty in the paying of tithes, and liberality in offerings both for foreign missions and home work.

Also that we express to the General Conference, the Southern Union and the Southern Publishing Association our appreciation for the part each has had in promoting the organization of this conference and for the financial help which they have given; to the Housing authority for the use of the commodious auditorium, and to each of our workers and members who have assisted in furnishing meals, rooming accomodations, and in other ways made this meeting a success.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned sine die.

E. F. Hackman, Chairman

C. O. Franz, Secretary

Organization of the Southwestern Mission
December 16, 1946

SOUTHWESTERN MISSION

On Monday morning, December 16, 1946, at ten o'clock, the colored constituency of the Southwestern Union assembled in Dallas, Texas, to organize that field into a mission. At this time the executive officers of the mission were elected by the constituency.

Delegates were in attendance from every church in the Union. The attendance of delegates was one hundred per cent. It was phenomenal--none of those elected from the churches were absent. . . .The Dallas colored church was filled to capacity, and there was standing room only. The walls of the church vibrated as all raised their voices in singing the adopted theme song, "Give Me That Good Old Mission Spirit."

The officers elected were:

Superintendent	W. W. Fordham
Secretary-Treasurer	V. L. Roberts
Publishing Department	J. H. Jones
Sabbath School Secretary	Miss Helen Wiggins

For the time being the educational, young people's, and religious liberty departments will be carried by the superintendent and the Book and Bible House and home missionary departments will be carried by the secretary-treasurer.

Members of the Executive Committee are:

W. W. Fordham
V. L. Roberts
A. R. Carethers
W. S. Lee
Williams

Provisions have been made for two additional members of the executive committee, making a total of seven.

The mission headquarters will be in Dallas, Texas.

INFORMANT, February 1, 1947

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
SOUTHWEST REGION) CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Article I- Name

This organization shall be known as the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article II - Object

The object of this conference is to teach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to make converts to the third angel's message in the territory over which it has jurisdiction and to assist in spreading it to all nations of the world.

Article III - Territory

The territory of this conference shall consist of the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, excepting San Juan County in New Mexico.

Article IV - Membership

- Section 1. - The membership of this conference shall consist of such churches consisting of colored members as have been or shall be properly organized in any part of its territory and accepted by vote of the conference in session.
- Section 2. - The voters of this conference shall be designated as follows:
- a. Delegates at large.
 - b. Regular delegates.
- Section 3. - Delegates at large shall be:
- a. All members of the conference executive committee.
 - b. Members of the General Conference and the Southwestern Union Conference executive committees who may be present at any session of the conference.
 - c. Such other persons as may be accepted by vote of the delegates in session.
- Section 4. - Regular delegates shall be such persons as are duly accredited by the organized churches of the conference on the basis of one for each local organized church and one additional for each twenty members or major fraction thereof.
- Section 5. - The delegates present at any regular or duly called special session shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

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Article V - Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. - The officers of this conference shall be a president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be elected by the conference.

Section 2. - President:

The president shall act as chairman of the executive committee, shall preside at the business sessions of the conference, and labor in the general interest of the conference as the executive committee may advise.

Section 3. - Secretary:

It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the conference sessions and of the meetings of the executive committee and to collect such data concerning the work as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Section 4. - Treasurer:

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all funds of the conference and disburse them in harmony with the actions of the executive committee and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the conference or by the executive committee.

Section 5. - Election of officers:

All officers of the conference and members of the executive committee shall be chosen by the delegates at the regular biennial sessions of the Southwest Region Conference and shall hold their offices for the period of two years or until their successors are elected and appear to enter upon their duties.

Article VI - Auditors

Section 1. - The auditor of the Southwestern Union Conference shall be authorized to audit the accounts and records of this conference.

Section 2. - The treasurer of this conference, or such other persons as maybe be designated by the executive committee shall be the authorized auditor of the church treasurers' records within the conference.

Article VII - Executive Committee

At each regular session the conference shall elect an executive committee of seven members, including the president, for the administration of its work between sessions of the conference.

Article VIII - Incorporations, Departments, and Agents

- Section 1. - Such incorporations may be authorized by the conference in session or by the executive committee as the development of the work may require.
- Section 2. - At each regular session the delegates shall elect such trustees of corporate bodies connected with this organization as may be provided in the statutory laws governing each.
- Section 3. - This conference shall maintain such departments as may be necessary for the carrying forward of its several lines of work and shall employ such secretaries, committees, agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons, and make such distribution of its laborers as may be necessary to effectively execute its work.
- Section 4. - The conference shall grant credentials or licenses to its ministers and missionaries.

Article IX - Sessions

- Section 1. - This conference shall hold biennial sessions at such time and place as the executive committee shall designate for the purpose of electing officers and to transact any other business that may be properly ~~brought~~ before it.
- Section 2. - Special sessions may be called by action of the executive committee.
- Section 3. - Notice of all conference sessions whether regular or special shall be published in the Southwestern Union Record at least three weeks prior to the date of the meeting. The transactions of a special session shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

Article X - By-Laws

The voters of this conference may enact by-laws and amend or repeal them at any session thereof and such by-laws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the constitution.

Article XI - Amendments

This constitution or its by-laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voters present and voting at any session provided that if it is proposed to amend the constitution at a special session notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

Article I - Executive Committee

- Section 1. - During the intervals between sessions of the conference the executive committee shall have full administrative power, and authority to grant and withdraw credentials and licenses, and to fill for unexpired current term any vacancies that may occur in its officers, boards, committees, or agents, by death, resignation, or otherwise.
- Section 2. - Meetings of the executive committee may be called at any time or place by:
- a. The president
 - b. Should the president be absent from the field, such meetings may be called by the secretary upon a written request of any four members of the executive committee. Proper notice of said meeting being duly forwarded to all committee members.

Article II - Departments

- Section 1. - The conference may organize and maintain such departments as the various branches of the work seem to require in harmony with similar departments in the Union and General Conferences.
- Section 2. - Secretaries in charge of these departments shall be elected at the regular biennial session of the conference.

Article III - Funds

- Section 1. - The funds of this conference shall be the tithe of all of its members which shall be forwarded monthly to the conference treasurer by the treasurer of each local church, and such other donations, offerings, legacies and gifts as it may receive for its work.
- Section 2. - The conference shall pass on monthly ^{to} the Southwestern Union Conference a tithe of its tithe receipts, and all mission offerings, and such other funds as may be called for by the policies of the General Conference organizations.

Article IV - Auditing Committee

- Section 1. - It shall be the duty of the auditing committee to examine the accounts of the employees for the preceding year and to set salary rates for the ensuing year.
- Section 2. - The auditing committee of the conference shall consist of the following:
- a. The executive committee of the conference.
 - b. Three additional members who have not been in the employ of the conference during a period of at least twelve months prior to the time of the audit.
 - c. One or more representatives from the Southwestern Union Conference.

Article V -- Churches

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- Section 1. - Each church, in order to be retained as a member of this conference shall conform to the tenets, general policies and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.
- Section 2. - This conference may receive or disband a church at any regularly called session without notice or in a special session providing such a church has been given notice of the proposed action at least thirty days previous to the date of the special session, either by letter or through the South-western Union Record.
- Section 3. - Each local church organization shall vest the title to its church properties in the legal incorporation of this conference unless otherwise permitted by the conference in session.

Article VI -- Conference Church

- Section 1. - The "Conference Church" shall consist of such baptized believers as may be received into its membership because of their isolation from any regularly organized church,
- Section 2. - The president of the conference shall be the elder of the conference church. The secretary-treasurer of the conference shall likewise serve as clerk and treasurer of the conference church, and the executive committee shall serve as the administrative board of this church.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE
REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND RESOLUTIONS
EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

The Lord has been very gracious to His work and workers of the Southwestern Mission during the past biennial period. We have all been blessed with good health; no visible expression of God's displeasure rests upon us. The stamp of His approval upon our labors is manifest in the saving of souls, increase in tithes and offerings, and in our contributions to world-wide needs in general. We recognize that without His loving care and assistance such provisions would have been impossible. We do heartily express our thanks and gratitude to God for His tender mercies; especially for the humble part He has given us in His great work on earth, despite our many shortcomings, which we do greatly lament and deplore. At this meeting we re-consecrate ourselves unitedly and individually to His service, to the evangelizing of nearly 3½ million Negroes scattered throughout the southwestern territory, who have been entrusted to our care, and to the speedy finishing of the work in all the world in this generation.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the servant of the Lord has told us -- "Schools should be established if there are no more than six children to attend." Vol. 6 P 199.

WE RECOMMEND, that the churches of the Southwest Region Conference continue to erect and equip church school buildings and establish schools so that all the children of adventists families can receive a Christian Education.

WE FURTHER RECOMMEND, that definite plans be laid to make the position of our teachers more secure financially by guaranteeing their full salary at the end of each month.

WE RECOMMEND, that each church be encouraged to see the importance of Christian Education through sermons from the pulpit, posters, pamphlets, and whatever promotions found feasible from the education department.

WE FURTHER RECOMMEND, that in harmony with the explicit instruction of the Spirit of Prophecy that all new church buildings erected include plans for a church school.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER

WHEREAS, the keynote of the Missionary Volunteer Department has been sounded in favor of Evangelism and

WHEREAS, plans have been tried and tested and have proved successful

WE RECOMMEND, that in all our senior Missionary Volunteer Societies, some form of Evangelism for the winning of the youth to this message be sponsored this year, promotional material to be sent out from the Missionary Department of the Conference.

2. We further recommend that plans be made to encourage co-operation of our youth with each other in order to further share their faith and enjoy Christian Association. These plans may include district Rallies, Youth's federations and M. V. Conventions.

3. We further recommend that all of our M. V. Societies encourage the reading of the character classics and the current M. V. reading courses.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS, tremendous emphasis is placed upon maintaining a strong colporteur ministry as is brought to our attention by the following statement:

"The canvassing work should no longer be neglected. Many times I have been shown that there should be a more general interest in our canvassing work."
Colporteur Evangelist P. 30

WE RECOMMEND

1. That our church officers be requested to provide for proper and consistent promotion of the Literature Ministry.

2. That in churches where a bulletin is issued, that a brief interesting colporteur experience be published in the bulletin as often as space will permit. We believe that this will help stimulate an interest in the Colporteur work and will be the means of helping recruit men and women to take up the work.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PUBLISHING WORK

WHEREAS, the trend of the general public in recent years is to acquire our books and periodicals in the hands of neighbors and friends;

WHEREAS, the great object of our publications is to exalt God; to call man's attention to the living truths of the Word, and to enlighten the mind regarding world conditions and the solemnity of the times in which we live; and

WHEREAS, there are scores and scores of young men and women in our churches, who, with some encouragement and training would become interested in the book work, and enter the Literature Ministry:

THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND:

1. That pastors and district leaders take it upon themselves to encourage capable men and women to take up this important line of Missionary work.

2. That for the benefit of these prospective workers, institutes of short duration be held in churches where these workers attend.

3. That we ask all workers and laymen to place special emphasis upon a greatly increased circulation of the Message Magazine and books written by leaders of our group such as "The Hope of the Race", "Thy Dead Shall Live", "Dawn of a Brighter Day", "Eating for Health", "The Lord's Day", "Modern Home Council", "Little Journeys Into Story Land", also that the church missionary secretary make attractive displays of these books.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS

Believing that we are very rapidly approaching the end of time, and recognizing that "the work of God on this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."

1. WE RECOMMEND, that our workers and laity accept the challenge of this mighty hour and unite their forces for a great ingathering of souls by employing among others, the following methods:

- A. A vastly accelerated literature **distribution** endeavor.
- B. Seeking additional enrollments for our Bible Correspondence Courses.
- C. The holding of Bible studies and cottage meetings.
- D. Earnestly endeavoring to bring our neighbors and friends to evangelistic services being held in our community.
- E. Inviting our neighbors and friends not forgetting the children, to our Sabbath Schools and other services of the church.
- F. That we encourage the participation of every church member in the Mid-Century Evangelistic Program of 1950 as recommended by the recent Autumn Council held in St. Louis, Mo.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS

Believing the Sabbath School plan to be of divine origin and believing that if rightly conducted, it can be one of the greatest instrumentalities in bringing souls to Christ,

- A. WE RECOMMEND, A continued effort be made to enroll all church members and their children.
- B. That every Sabbath School give consideration to the developing of Branch Sabbath Schools and Sunday Schools in their respective communities.
- C. A re-emphasis of the recommendation of the General Conference which reads as follows:

WE RECOMMEND:

- 1. A revival of personal Bible study on the part of all our people.
- 2. A daily study of the Sabbath School Lessons by all our people. These lessons if adequately studied will furnish a regular and constant supply of spiritual strength and an accumulation of Bible truth for days to come.

TEMPERANCE

WHEREAS, in this country crime, accidents, divorce and arrests for drunkenness have increased in proportion to the amount of liquor that has been consumed during the past few years; and

WHEREAS, last year, many millions of dollars were expended in a nationwide advertising campaign, largely over the radio by the liquor trade, to make liquor attractive as having nutritive value as a food for adults and children; therefore,

WE RECOMMEND:

1. That Seventh-day Adventist members everywhere endeavor to arouse the public conscience against the evil effects of the liquor traffic by carrying on a vigorous campaign of temperance education by the following methods:
 - (a) By means of the circulation of the Message Magazine and of other temperance literature.
 - (b) By temperance lectures in public schools based on scientific and health principles.
 - (c) By giving temperance programs in our churches, colleges, and academics in co-operation with other temperance organizations.

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

RESOLVED: That we request pastors and church officers place special emphasis on the annual offering taken each year in behalf of the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital and that our church leaders properly use their influence in encouraging our people to patronize Riverside when seeking health and rest.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

We hereby extend to the pastor, Rev. Dr. Burk, officers, and members of the New Friendship Baptist Church our sincere appreciation for the use of their Church and all of its facilities.

Also, we extend to those who so ably prepared and served the food we have so much enjoyed and to all who contributed to our comfort our appreciation.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the Housing Committee, Sister Yancy, Chairman, who worked untiringly to provide adequate rooms for the delegates.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

L. K. DICKSON, GENERAL
A. V. OLSON, GENERAL
W. B. OCHS, GENERAL
J. J. NETHERY, GENERAL
N. C. WILSON, NORTH AMERICA

W. H. WILLIAMS, UNDERTREASURER
H. H. COBBAN, ASSISTANT TREASURER
J. F. CUMMINS, ASSISTANT TREASURER
ROGER ALTMAN, ASSISTANT TREASURER
E. J. JOHANSON, ASSISTANT TREASURER

H. T. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
A. W. CORMACK, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
T. J. MICHAEL, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
J. I. ROBISON, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
W. P. BRADLEY, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
E. E. ROENFELT, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"GENERAL CONFERENCE"
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CABLE ADDRESS
"ADVENTIST" WASHINGTON

To: Union Presidents Council

From: Colored Delegates At The Fall Council

Re: Meeting of the North American Advisory Council

Whereas: The colored work in North America in its newly organized form is making such rapid advancement throughout the field, and

Whereas: There is need of coordinating and unifying this growing work, and

Whereas: The expansion of our denominational work, both at home and abroad, will make greater demands on our colored constituency,

We Request: The General Conference Committee to call a meeting of the North American Advisory Council prior to the Spring Council of 1947 to give study to the promotion and development of the work for the colored people throughout the field.

NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I--Name

The name of the corporation is "Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists."

ARTICLE II--Object

The particular objects for which this corporation is formed are such as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE III--Territory

Section 1. The immediate territory of this corporation includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 2. The office of this corporation is located at 560 West 150th Street, New York 31, N. Y.

ARTICLE IV--Membership

The membership of this corporation shall be the accredited delegates to the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, an unincorporated ecclesiastical body. For the purpose of this corporation these delegates shall continue in office until other delegates are chosen to succeed them.

ARTICLE V--Trustees

Section 1. The first Board of Trustees shall be:

Louis H. Bland
Lionel O. Irons
A. E. Webb
A. W. Clarke
S. B. Huddleston
S. J. Hooper
T. Wilson
R. Jeffries

Section 2. The trustees shall have the ordering of all the affairs of this corporation, the management and disposal of all its property, and the execution of all trusts confided to it.

Section 3. The trustees shall elect biennially a president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president and treasurer shall be members of the Board of Trustees; the secretary may or may not be a member of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4. A quorum to do business shall consist of not less than four trustees, one of whom shall be an officer of the Board.

Section 5. The books of the corporation shall be audited annually by the auditors of the Atlantic Union Conference and they will submit an itemized report to the members of the corporation annually, or at such time that may be appointed by the Board.

Section 6. The trustees shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring in their membership.

ARTICLE VI--Duties of Officers

The duties of the officers of this corporation shall be such as usually pertain to such officers respectively, and such other duties as the Board of Trustees may prescribe. The president and the secretary shall, in behalf of the corporation sign all deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, annuity agreements, or other instruments of writing of similar character and import.

ARTICLE VII--Seal

The seal of this corporation shall be of an ordinary sized circular impression with the words "Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists" in an outer circle enclosing the word "seal".

ARTICLE VIII--Meetings

Section 1. Every regular and special meeting of the members of this corporation shall be called by the Board of Trustees. Notice of any such meeting shall be published in three successive issues preceding the time of the meeting, in THE ADVENT REVIEW AND SABBATH HERALD, a weekly paper published at Washington, D. C., or in the ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER, a weekly paper published at South Lancaster, Mass. or by written or printed notice signed by the secretary of the corporation, which notice shall be deposited in the post office, postage prepaid, directed to each member of the corporation at their last known address, ten days at least before the day of said meeting.

Section 2. Meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held biennially after the biennial meeting of the corporation, and also at such other times and occasions as may be in accordance with the following provision: Special meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the president of the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be held by request in writing of any three of its members, but notices of such meetings shall be given by notification thereof duly deposited in the post office, postage prepaid, directed to each member of the Board at their last known address, two days before the time fixed for such meetings.

Section 3. The members present at any duly called regular or special meeting of the corporation shall constitute a quorum to transact any business. Only members present shall be entitled to vote, and each member, whether he be trustee or not, shall have but one vote on any question.

ARTICLE IX--Dissolution

If at any time this corporation should be dissolved, or should it otherwise cease to exist, the title to all its property and effects shall at once vest in the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, whose office is now located at Washington, D. C., and the president and secretary of the Board of Trustees last in authority are authorized, empowered, and directed in the name of this corporation to make conveyance of title by such instrument of writing as may be appropriate and necessary.

ARTICLE X--Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members of the corporation present at any regular meeting of said members, when the proposed amendment does not conflict with the Articles of the Incorporation of the corporation. When it is proposed to change the By-Laws at any special meeting of the members of the corporation, notice shall be given to this effect in the call of the meeting, and the nature of the proposed amendment shall be stated.

* * * * *

119 delegates voted for the acceptance of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. None opposed.

CLOSING REMARKS:

As we came to the closing of this session, we could see the hand of God leading in every way. Elder M. L. Rice said he greatly enjoyed this Conference session. It has proved very interesting to him. He especially stressed the spirit of unity which existed among the delegates, and he is hoping when another Biennial Session comes around, great strides will be seen in the work in this Conference. He also said God has demonstrated what He can do through human instrumentalities.

Elder George E. Peters of the General Conference expressed his joy and satisfaction in attending the session, and admonished us to do everything to safeguard the work of this denomination. The hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", was then sung. The benediction was offered by Elder M. L. Rice.

L. H. Bland, Chairman

L. O. Irons, Secretary

South
Atlantic

NEGRO SANITARIUM AND NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL:

A committee of nine was appointed at the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee to study the Memorial from the Negro Department regarding the establishment of a Negro Sanitarium and Nurses' Training School, report to be made to the Autumn Council. The following report was presented by this committee, and adopted:

WHEREAS, For many years urgent word has come to us, presenting the need of a sanitarium and a school of nursing for the colored people, and recognizing that with the growing constituency of our colored membership and the increasing number of our colored youth this need becomes all the more imperative,

We recommend, 1. That the General Conference undertake to establish as early as possible, preferably near the city of Nashville, a sanitarium and school of nursing for the colored people.

2. That a committee be appointed by the General Conference Committee to decide on the definite location of the institution, this committee to report to the Minority Committee of the General Conference.

3. That the board of control of this institution be identical with the board of the Oakwood Junior College, such modifications being made in the board personnel, as at present constituted, as may be necessary to meet the needs of both institutions.

Dr. E.A. Sutherland reported on the investigation he had made as to the attitude of the people of Nashville toward the establishment of a Negro Sanitarium and School of Nursing near the city. He has contacted a number of leading doctors, city and state health department officials, lawyers, financiers, and others. All looked with favor upon the establishment of such an institution, and have promised to give their very best support.

Mrs. N.H. Druillard told of the great burden she has carried for years to help the colored people of the South, and of her willingness to turn over to the denomination for ownership and control the buildings and land of what is now known as the Riverside Sanitarium, near Nashville, to be operated as a sanitarium and nurses' training school for the colored people.

VOTED, To express our appreciation to Dr. E.A. Sutherland for his thorough investigation and report, and to

L. E. Froom, E. E. Franklin, T. E. Bowen, E. A. Manry, F. M. Wilcox, H. H. Cobban, J. F. Simon, J. K. Jones, M. E. Cady, M. E. Kern.

Prayer by William Robbins.

SCHOOL FOR COLORED YOUTH IN NORTH:

The committee appointed by the Autumn Council to study the advisability of establishing a training school for colored students in the North reported as follows:

RESOLVED, 1. That we institute a survey through the educational department of the student constituency of the colored believers in the North.

2. That in case the results of this survey will justify it, we undertake to give consideration to the establishment of a school of academic grade for colored students.

3. That as regards the location of such a school, the possibility of using an institution already in existence for this purpose be considered.

4. That the financial support of such an academy be on the regular basis of tuition charges the same as in our white schools, so that the establishment and maintenance be in no way a charge against our mission funds.

5. That we recognize the possibility of using our northern white colleges on a proper basis of distribution for the accommodation of colored college students until late development, and that where necessary separate facilities for rooming and boarding be provided.

VOTED, That the report be adopted, and that the names of S. E. Wight, J. L. Moran, and G. E. Peters be added to the committee which will continue its work of survey.

GEORGE A. HUSE--WASHINGTON COLLEGE:

VOTED, To pass on to the Lake Union and the Chicago Conference the call from the Columbia Union for George A. Huse to connect with the Washington Missionary College.

W. A. SPICER AND J. L. SHAW:

VOTED, That we request W. A. Spicer and J. L. Shaw to respond to the call of the Central Union to visit the Omaha church March 6.

W. W. PRESCOTT--UNION COLLEGE:

VOTED, That we grant the request of the Central Union that W. W. Prescott be permitted to continue his work with Union College for another year.

A. O. TAIT--CENTRAL UNION CAMP MEETINGS:

VOTED, That we invite A. O. Tait to attend camp meetings in the Central Union following the General Conference session.

C. K. MEYERS:

VOTED, That we request C. K. Meyers to respond to the invitation of the Columbia Union to visit churches week ends in East Pennsylvania during March.

C. W. IRWIN:

VOTED, That we request C. W. Irwin to attend meetings at Union Springs, New York, February 16.

DR. A. W. TRUMAN:

THE NEGRO DEPARTMENT

Previous to the creating of the North American Negro Department by the General Conference in 1909, an aggressive work was carried on by the denomination in the field of evangelization and education for the colored people.

Faith, courage, and intelligent optimism in the face of almost insurmountable barriers urged the pioneers of this work forward, until today as we note the achievements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the colored race, we say with the psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3

This department occupies a very distinct place in the program of the church, and renders both measurable and immeasurable service. There are still millions from among the colored people who are yet to be warned of the coming of the Lord and of the preparation that must be made in order to meet Him.

During the five years that have passed since the last General Conference session this department has experienced many difficulties, but God has blessed us with such exceptional opportunities for service that today we find our hearts united with the leadership of this movement for the finishing of the work of God in all the world, and we bring you a message of hope and courage.

When the apostle Paul stood on the flinty platform of Mars' Hill and delivered his challenging appeal to the Areopagites, an epoch

was turned in the history of Greece. Among the startling propositions of the sermon that caused the change of attitude of Dionysius and Damaris was the statement, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;.....and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Acts 17:24-26.

The grand old story of salvation is still being preached, and many thousands out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people are being changed until today the prophecy of Zephaniah is being fulfilled: "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My suppliants, even the daughters of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering." Zeph. 3:10/

The presence of the Negro upon American soil is the result of the cupidity of commerce. His coming was against his will. Since the landing of that little Dutch trading vessel in 1619 at Jamestown, Virginia, with its small cargo of African slaves, the descendants of these bondsmen have become free American citizens. They have contributed much to American progress and have helped to lay the material foundations of our civilization. Their labor, their songs, and their record of patriotism are evidences of their loyalty and their self-sacrificing spirit.

The leaders of the advent movement, early in the history of its organization, recognized the Negro as an integral element in American life. About the year 1890 definite steps were taken to

carry the third angel's message to the people. It is interesting to note that seven years previous to this, or in 1883, a colored church had been organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, which had been raised up by a colored brother who had received the truth through reading the Signs. Our present church work in Nashville, Tennessee, is the outgrowth of this first church organization.

Since that time evangelistic meetings have been held in almost all the large cities of North America. The colporteur, true to his task, has scattered our truth-filled books and papers in both rural and urban centers, and we are happy to report at this conference that we had 236 churches, with a combined membership of 14,537, at the close of 1940.

Our colored believers are loyal to this movement, and out of there poverty they have given during the last five years with impressive liberality. From the year 1936 to December 31, 1940, the total tithe receipts were \$1,112,189.52. During the same five-year period there was sent on to foreign missions \$703,347.40. The grand total in tithes and mission offerings was \$1,815,536.92. The colored believers have also contributed many thousands of dollars for their own local church needs and home missionary enterprises.

In this department we have fifty ordained ministers, fifteen licentiates, five Bible workers, five assistant field missionary secretaries, one union home missionary and educational secretary, eight interns, one hundred church school and academy teachers, and a small army of colporteur evangelists.

There are approximately 12,000,000 Negroes in North America. The last available figures of the census reveal the astounding fact that more than six million of them are without church membership. Although our race is reputed to be a religious group, for more than a generation there has been a drift away from religion. Here at the home base the Adventist Church should view this situation with serious concern and do all that is within her power to win these people for Christ.

Since we last met in General Conference session three of our workers have been laid to rest--A. J. Evelyn, A. Gaynes Thompson, and H. E. Ford.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian school has become a virile, positive force in this denomination. What Christian education has meant to our colored boys and girls, and the overwhelming importance of the church school in Negro education, cannot be adequately described within the limits of this report. It is the aim and purpose of the working force in this department to follow the blueprint in education as has been given to this people by the messenger of God. We believe that "Our children should be removed from the evil influences of the public school, and placed where thoroughly converted teachers may educate them in the Holy Scriptures."

--"Counsels to Teachers," p.204.

There are 100 teachers now engaged in giving Christian instruction to our church-school children, who are attending the 66 church school that are being conducted.

Oakwood Junior College, our advanced training school is doing an excellent work for our young people. There is a strong faculty of fifteen members. Each year the school is being improved, and a large number of students can now be accommodated there. During the last three years, approximately \$45,000 has been spent in the erection of new buildings and the purchasing of additional equipment. For the last five years 153 young people have been graduated from the junior college courses, and 73 from the academy. Some of these now in conference employ are graduates of Oakwood. The school enjoys the best financial standing it has experienced in many years. There is, however, a great need for enriching the courses of study that are offered, so that a larger number of our youth will be attracted to the school and so that they may receive a full college training.

LITERATURE MINISTRY

We have a small army of colporteurs who have set themselves to the task of taking our truth-filled literature to the homes of the people. Many thousands of copies of our large and small books and magazines are being sold by these literature ministers. The Message Magazine is filling a longfelt need in our work. It has grown from a quarterly magazine to ten issues a year. More than thirty thousand of the November-December issue for 1940 were sold. Our books and magazines are finding their way into the best homes of our people. There is a determined effort on the part of our workers to increase the circulation of the Message Magazine, and of our other magazines and books as well. It was the message that was published in the Signs that had to do with the organizing of our first colored church in 1883, and who knows but it might be

by the interpretation of the signs through the pages of the Message Magazine, that a larger number of our colored people will yet come into this truth.

In 1940 the Harvest Ingathering number of the Message Magazine proved a great blessing to our colored believers in their solicitation of funds for our foreign mission work, and we believe that the Ingathering number this year will be just as effective.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK *at Nashville, Tenn.*

The Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital *at Nashville, Tenn.* has gained for itself a good reputation among the colored people as a mess^{cc}a of health. More than one thousand patients have been treated at the sanitarium in the last five years. A small clinic is now being operated by the sanitarium, and this is proving a blessing to the people who live in the vicinity of the institution. ✓ Riverside is a struggling institution, and its needs are many.

We are very grateful to our sanitarium training schools for the work that is being done by them in educating some of our young women for nursing service. The Hubbard Hospital of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, has also permitted some of our young women to enter their training school for nurses. Sabbath privileges have been granted our girls, and a special diet has been planned for them. Although this arrangement is not the most ideal, we are thankful for what this institution is doing for us. We hope that the time is not far distant when we shall be prepared to conduct a nurses' training school at Riverside.

A large number of our churches are conducting home-nursing classes for the benefit of our church members.

The one great outstanding need of this department is a nurses' training school in connection with the "liverside Sanitarium, where our young people may receive a medical missionary training.

The General Conference has been very generous in making contributions toward the advancement of the North American Negro Department. Today we wish to express our gratitude and to pledge our loyalty to this cause and our support of it both by giving liberally of our means and by living Godly lives. We realize that this denomination has come face to face with a world tragedy, but we are determined to unite our effort with those of our leaders in the finishing of the work of God in all the world. Though there is a strengthening conviction that much more needs to be done to advance the work among this people, we close this report with full appreciation in our hearts for the growth and development of this department during the last five years.

Central
States

Organization of the Central States Mission

Central States Mission

In 1946 the leaders among the colored people in the United States asked that they be allowed to form their own church-governing bodies, in harmony with the new policy of forming Regional conferences. On January 1, 1947, in the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis, the Central States Mission was organized, with the Negro members of the Central Union Conference (a membership of 798) forming the constituency. T. M. Rowe was elected president, and J. H. Jones, secretary-treasurer. There followed a tremendous spurt in growth. In five years' time the mission had grown to the stature of a conference, with a membership increase of 76 per cent--from 798 in 1947 to 1,408 in 1952, with baptisms averaging more than 100 a year.

Central States Conference Organized

On November 9, 1952, a constituency meeting held in the Beacon Light Church in Kansas City, Missouri, organized the Central States Conference, with F. L. Bland, president, and H. T. Saulter, Secretary-treasurer.

CENTRAL STATES MISSION - FINANCIAL GAIN - 1950

Lake
Region