THE MINUTES

OF THE

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

for the years

1862-1867
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THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
for the
Bicentennial of American Methodism
1984
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The numbers in parentheses in the margins refer to the page numbers of the original handwritten minutes kept in the vault of the Luther L. Gobbell Library at Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee. These minutes were taken by hand on the Conference floor and so contain discrepancies in spelling, especially of names such as Bachman-Bochman, Bryansburg-Briensburg, and Peebles-Peeples. Had these minutes been prepared for publication in 1867, they would have been most carefully corrected. We felt they were more interesting with their unique spelling and punctuation and have tried to follow as closely as possible the form of the original.
The years of 1862-1867 were difficult ones for the Memphis Conference. The Civil War swept through its boundaries, the battle lines separating pastors from their churches, sons from their families, and even one end of the Conference from the annual meetings. The devastation of war is obvious in its pages as obituaries are read, the problems of widows and orphans discussed, and the poverty and desolation of the people described. The destruction of a way of life unfolds in the concerns brought before these dedicated men. Historical facts are important, but insight into the strength and faith of our ancestors is inspiring. It is fitting that these minutes should be printed for the first time in 1984, the year of the Bicentennial of American Methodism.

The Commission on Archives and History
Memphis Conference
United Methodist Church
GLOSSARY

These definitions are taken from information found in the *Cyclopaedia of Methodism*, edited by Matthew Simpson; Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts Publishing, 1880.

Class - First established by John Wesley, the members of each society were divided into smaller classes, usually by neighborhood. They met weekly for religious conversation and testimony. The usual order of business was singing, prayer, sometimes scripture; then counsel and exhortation by the leader and personal participation by each member. Sometimes a topic was selected on which members conversed or a particular duty was discussed in an informal manner.

Class-leader - A mature, exceptional Christian selected by the preacher in charge and under his counsel and advice, the class-leader was virtually the sub-pastor. His duties included seeing each member once a week, either in the meeting or visiting any absentees; giving religious counsel, advice and encouragement; meeting with the preacher in charge for guidance and to report any case needing the aid or attention of the pastor; and paying over any money collected to the pastor and stewards of the circuit.

Deacon and Elder - A minister who answered the call to preach first received a license as a local preacher from the Quarterly Meeting, which then recommended him to the Annual Conference as a full-time itinerant. He was received on trial by the Annual Conference, and after two years preaching and passing several examinations, he was ordained deacon. After two more years ministerial service, he was eligible for ordination as an elder.

Effective preacher - A minister currently serving appointments.

Exhorter - A lay officer licensed by the preacher in charge who held meetings for prayer and exhortation. Exhortation was an address calling persons to the performance of a duty or deferring him from a course of wrong. It was addressed to the affections rather than the intellect, and aroused a sense of duty. The Exhorter's office was important in developing the talents of persons likely to be called to the ministry. It furnished a sort of probation to the ministry.

Local preachers - Local preachers were not members of the Annual Conference and were not itinerant. They engaged in secular pursuits and devoted what time they could to the regular ministry. Their field of labor was local, but their office was ministerial. They answered the same call to preach, were licensed and after 1789 were ordained, so they were true ministers, not laymen. In Methodist history, local preachers were often the pioneers of Methodism.

Location - A preacher who had to leave the traveling ministry (because of ill health, marriage, or the problems of supporting a family) and settle down to earn a living was said to "locate." He no longer was a member of the Conference and had no financial claim on it. He then became a local preacher.
Superannuated - Those ministers who, through age, infirmity, or affliction, became permanently disabled for the ministerial labor, but who remain members of the Annual Conference with all rights and privileges, except for being eligible for appointment.

Superintendent - Preacher in charge of a circuit and responsible for the probationers assigned to him. He was in charge of maintaining discipline and order in all the societies of the circuit; he presided as chief pastor in all circuit courts; he made the travel plan and arranged for quarterly visitation of the classes. All the details connected with the management of the circuit were in his hands.

Supernumerary - First defined by the M.E. Church in 1792 as “one so worn out in the itinerant service as to be rendered incapable of preaching constantly, but at the same time willing to do any work in the ministry which the Conference may direct and his strength enable him to perform.” Though at one time they received the same support as effective preachers, by the 1860’s they had no claim on Conference funds except by vote of the Conference.

SYMBOLS USED IN EDITING

( ) Used to denote the page numbers of the original handwritten minutes.

[ ] Used to denote omissions in the text, or corrections by the editor.

[sic] Used to denote original spelling.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE MINUTES

Cir. - Circuit
Sta. - Station
Miss. - Mission
Col’d - Colored
Prob’s - Probationary members
Pr’s - Preachers
P.E. - Presiding Elder
Sup. - Superintendent or preacher in charge
viz - Namely
THE MINUTES

of the

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Twenty-third Session

held in

Grenada, Mississippi

Nov. 5-7, 1862
Grenada, Mississippi November 5, 1862

The Twenty-Third Session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South met in the Presbyterian Church, Grenada, Miss. -- having been changed from Holly Springs, Miss. -- Wednesday morning, November 5th, 1862, and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by Michael J. Blackwell.

There being no Bishop present, Samuel Watson was called to the chair, pro. tem.


Conference proceeded to elect a presiding officer by ballot, and Michael J. Blackwell was elected, and took the chair.

W.C. Johnson was elected Secretary and J.H. Evans Ass't Secretary.

The bar of the Conference was fixed at the fourth seat from the front.

The time of meeting was fixed at 8 o’clock A.M. and of adjourning at 1 o’clock P.M.

Turner P. Holman, Thos. J. Gooch, and Isaac Ebbert were appointed a committee on Public Worship.

J.H. Brooks and M.H. Ford were appointed a committee on Memoirs.

The following appointments were made to fill vacancies in the Committee on Finance, viz. Rich A. Umsted for the Somerville District, Amos Kendall for the Jackson District, Jno. H. Garret for the Trenton District, James M. Spence for the Dresden District, Geo. K. Brooks for the Iuka District, Jno. Bancroft for the Grenada District, and C.C. Glover for the Miss. Bottom District.

The report of the Trustees of the Franklin Female College was presented, and having been read, was referred to the committee on Education.

Question First was taken up: Who are admitted on trial? There were none.

Question Second was taken up: Who remains on trial? The characters of William C. Haskell, John Thompson, Amos B. Jones, James A. McClellan, James W. Howell, Bascom T. Pearson, John C. Lowe, Mexico B. Sherman, Thos M. Melugin, and John W. Mciver were examined and passed; and they were continued on trial, with the understanding that they be examined next year on the studies of the past year.

& Question Third & Seventh were taken up: Who are admitted into full connections? What traveling preachers are elected and ordained deacons? Joseph W. Poston, William W. Pearson, Geo. W. Bochman, William L. Kister, James R. Dycus, & Robt. H. Mahon having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were admitted into full connection, and elected deacons.

The characters of Henry B. Avery, Matthew M. Taylor, and John F. Williams were examined and passed, but they not having been examined on the prescribed studies, were continued on trial.

The name of William S. Payne was called, and it was announced that he had died in the faith.

Question Sixth was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year? John Barcroft and John W. Boswell, having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed
studies, their characters were examined and passed. The character of Jasper V. Fly was examined and passed, with the understanding that he be examined next year on the prescribed studies of the last year.

The characters of John W. Shelton and William T.J. Sullivan who are elders, were examined and passed.

*Question Ninth* was taken up: What traveling preachers are elected and ordained elders? Charles D.N. Campbell and Geo. K. Brooks having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were elected elders.

The characters of Thos L. Duke, Robt. G. Porter, Benj. B. Risenhoover, Dan'l C. Johnson, Thos H. Davenport, Benj. F. Peeples, William B. Ramsay [Ramsey], James W. Mathis, Thos. C. Ellis, and Aaron K. Miller were examined and passed, and they were continued in the fourth year's class to be examined next year.

William B. Ramsey was granted a Supernumerary relation.

Albert H. Thomas was appointed Secretary of the committee on the Bible cause in the place of Benj. T. Crouch, who is absent.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

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**Thursday Morning, November 6th 1862**

Conference met according to adjournment -- Michael J. Blackwell in the chair -- and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing and prayer led by William McMahon.

The roll was called, and the following additional members were present, viz. Wm McMahon, Albert H. Thomas, John A Fife, Matthew D. Fly, Murdoch M. Dunn, Dave C. Johnson, and Jasper V. Fly.

The minutes of yesterday's Session were read and approved.

The Rev's. D.M. Proctor and T.J. Hill of the St. Louis Conference and the Rev. B.F. Mitchell, a Local preacher in the bounds Thereof, were introduced by the President and were invited to seats on the floor of the Conference.

The report of the committee on Books and Periodicals was presented, and having been read was adopted.

The report of the Principal of the Bascom Female Seminary was presented, and having been read was referred to the committee on Education.

The character of Fletcher C. Pearson was examined and passed, and he was elected an elder.

Napolean B. Basford having left his work without just-cause was on motion discontinued.

The character of Marcus H. Cullom was examined and passed, but he, not having been examined on the prescribed studies, was continued on trial.

The characters of James M. Barton, James P. Dancer, John F. Markham, and Joseph R. Sykes were examined and passed; and they not having been examined on the prescribed studies, were continued in the fourth year's class.

John H. Cooper having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed, and he was elected as an elder.

*Question Sixteenth* was taken up: What is the number of preachers and members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memphis District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
<th>Local Pr's</th>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>263</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Col'd Miss</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>311</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Cir.</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Col'd Miss</td>
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<td></td>
<td>278</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Cir.</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okolona&amp;Verona Sta.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okalona Cir.</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton Cir.</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Spring Cir.</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldwin Cir.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pontotoc Cir.</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>48</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada Cir.</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffeeville Cir.</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun Cir.</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Sta.</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford Cir.</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panola Cir.</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston Cir.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>
W.B. Barton was, on motion, recognized as the Lay Delegate from the Aberdeen District.

David J. Allen was called to the chair -- the President having to be absent.

Question Eighth was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?

Ethelbert Rankin, Fulton Circuit, Aberdeen District

Archbald N. Beard, Baldwin

William C. Young, Jackson

Having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, were elected deacons.

Question Tenth was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders? There were none.

Conference resolved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet this afternoon at 2½ o’clock.

Question Fifteenth was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of Joseph Johnson, Hudson D. Howell, James B. McCutchen, Alexander S. Hamilton, Henry Bell, J.M. Flatt, R.G. Rainey & J.S. Smotherman were examined and passed. The character of James
Gaines was examined and passed, and he was continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The character of Jno. T. Merriwether, Jno. Young, R.A. Neblett, T.J. Lowry, J.T.C. Collins, R.C. Alexander, J.T. Talley, and J.M. Spence were examined and passed.

The character of M.J. Blackwell was examined and passed and he was continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The characters of L.P. Holman, T.J. Gooch, J.M. Hampton, S.H. Davis, W.S. Harrison, Albert H. Thomas, Wm. C. Green, and Isaac Ebbert were examined and passed.

The characters of Wm. S. Jones and James M. Bates were examined and passed and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The members of the Finance Committee and the Presiding Elders were, on motion, excused from attending the afternoon session.

Conference adjourned with the benediction.

Thursday Afternoon, Nov. 6th, 1862

Conference met according to adjournment, and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer led by Jno. A. Fife.

D.J. Allen was called to the chair in the absence of the President.

The Rev. John H. Riggan, a Local Preacher in the bounds of the Missouri Conference was introduced by the chairman, and was invited to a seat within the bar.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of L.D. Mullins, W.D.F. Hafford, John Randle, J.B. Harris, R.S. Harris, R.A. Umsted, N.A.D. Bryant, B.H. Bishop, B. Medlin, F.M. Morris, J.G. Acton, J.D. Slaughter, and A.P. Sage were examined and passed.

The characters of R.V. Taylor, James Perry, J.T. Baskerville, W.N. Morgan, and James M. Scott were examined and passed, and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The characters of S.W.D. Harris, Amos Kendall, Amos W. Jones, Benj. A. Hayes, Andrew C. Smith, C.J. Maudlin, W.J. Mahon, and N.P. Ramsay were examined and passed.

The characters of Lorenzo Lea, T.G. Lane, and R.M. Farrant were examined and passed, and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The characters of E.C. Slater, J.H. Evans, W.H. Leigh, A.B. Sollers, Simpson Weaver, H.B. Covington, R.S. Swift, P.J. Kelsey, and M.C. Robinson were examined and passed.

The characters of Nathan Sullivan and E.L. Fisher were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of Finley Bynum, E.B. Plummer, A.L. Hunsaker and J.H. Witt were examined and passed.

The characters of John Moss, A.J. Lee, J.H. Brooks, Elias Jackson, M.M.
Dunn, Robt. Martin, M.H. Ford, B.W. Stubbs, J.E. Douglass, P.J. Eckles, and J.W. Medlin were examined and passed.
The characters of C.B. Harris, and Thos. Joyner were examined and passed, and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.
The character of S.B. Carson was examined and passed, and he was granted a Supernumerary relation.
The characters of B.T. Crouch, E.E. Hamilton, J.A. Fife, R.H. Burns, and W.B. Owen were examined and passed.

Question Thirteenth was taken up: Who are superannuated? The characters of William R. Dickey, Elias Tidwell, John Hunter, Jeremiah Moss, James M. Major, W.D. Scott, David C. Wells, and Jno. A. Vincent were examined and passed, and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz.
Resolved, 1. That the Memphis Conference advise to the Bishop to call a General Conference during the ensuing year, if the state of the country should be favorable to such an object.

2. That the Delegates elected last session are hereby recognized as the representatives of the Memphis Conference.

Conference, on motion, resolved itself into the Missionary Society of the Memphis Conference, after the transaction of the business of which, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the chairman.

Friday Morning, Nov. 7th, 1862

Conference met at the appointed hour -- the President in the chair -- and was opened with reading from the Holy Scripture, singing, and prayer led by Thos. P. Davidson.
The following members appeared and took their seats, viz. B.H. Bishop, W.T.J. Sullivan, T.J. Lowry, R.C. Alexander, and W.C. Green.
The minutes of yesterday afternoon's session were read and approved.
The report of the Committee on Missions was presented and having been read, was adopted.
The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read, was adopted.
John Randle, Simpson Weaver, J.M. Hampton, and Philip Tuggle were each granted a supernumerary relation.
The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was presented and having been read, was adopted.
John W. Medlin was located at his own request.
It was resolved that the President appoint a committee to nominate suitable persons for the Committees of Examination during the next four years. The President appointed the following committee, viz. D.J. Allen, J.T.C. Collins, & J.T. Merriwether; they were granted leave of absence.
Conference resolved to rescind the action of yesterday afternoon by which the Delegates to the General Conference elected last year were recognized as the representatives of the Memphis Conference, if there should be a called General Conference.
It was then resolved to proceed immediately to the election of the Delegates.
There are 149 members entitling the Conference to 9 Delegates.
On the first ballot, M.J. Blackwell received 47 votes, T.L. Boswell 46, Saml Watson 45, S.W. Moore 42, G.W.D. Harris 39, J.H. Brooks 37, and John Moss 34; and these members, having received a majority of the votes cast, were elected.
In the second ballot, William McMahon received 30 votes, and he, having received a majority of the votes cast, was elected.
On the third and fourth ballots there was no election, and on the fifth ballot, W.C. Johnson received 33 votes, and he, having received the majority of the votes cast, was elected.

L.D. Mullins and J.T. Merriwether, having received the next highest votes on the first ballot were, by resolution, chosen as Reserve Delegates.

The report of the Committee on Education was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the committee appointed to nominate the members of the Examining Committee for the next four years was presented, and having been read, the nominations were confirmed, viz.

2. 1st year's class: J.H. Brooks, Amos Kendall, W.T. Harris
3. 2nd year's class: W.C. Johnson, J.T.C. Collins, J.H. Evans
4. 3rd year's class: T.L. Boswell, A.H. Thomas, T.J. Gooch
5. 4th year's class: S.W. Moore, A.J. Lee, T.P. Holman

The report of the Committee on Finances was presented, and, having been read and amended, was adopted.

Conference resolved that as soon as it is ascertained there will be a called General Conference, the preachers are required to raise a collection in their respective charges, to defray the expenses of the Delegates -- the money to be forwarded to the Delegates.

Conference resolved that the preachers be authorized to raise collections in their respective charges for the benefit of the families of members, who are, or may be in Federal prisons -- the money being forwarded to the Presiding Elders in the bounds of whose Districts the families reside.

An appeal Case -- J.D. Mills appellant-from Olive Branch Quarterly Conference, Memphis District, was presented; and it was resolved that the case be deferred, as the Conference is not now prepared to try it.

Question Twentytenth was taken up: When and where shall the next session of the Conference be held? Aberdeen, Miss. was selected as the place -- the time to be fixed by the Bishops.

The character of Thos. T. Ashby was examined and passed, as the President of the Conference was requested to transfer him, as he desires, to the St. Louis Conference.

The minutes of this morning's session were read and approved.

Conference adjourned -- to meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon -- with the benediction.

Friday Afternoon, Nov. 7th, 1862

Conference met according to adjournment, and was opened with singing and prayer led by L.H. Davis -- D.J. Allen, in the absence of the President, in the chair by vote of the Conference.

The Appeal Case of J.D. Mills, a local preacher in the Olive Branch Circuit, was taken up for trial; and the Charge and Specifications with Testimony (on file) were read. After which, the following resolution was offered, viz.

Resolved that the decision of the Olive Branch Circuit Quarterly Conference in the trial of J.D. Mills be and hereby is reversed.

The appellant addressed the Conference at length in his own defence, and after remarks by various members, the resolution was adopted.

Question Seventeenth was taken up: What amounts are necessary for the supernumerary preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowances in their
respective districts circuits and stations? The Finance Committee reported the amount to be \$6100.00.

*Question Eighteenth* was taken up: What has been collected on the foregoing account and how has it been applied?

The Finance Committee reported as collected \$1414.40, which was applied to claims of Bishop Soule, widows and orphans of preachers, & deficient preachers.

*Question Nineteenth* was taken up: What has been contributed for the Missionary, Sunday School, and Tract Societies?

- Missionary \$1421.55
- Sunday School 420.00

The minutes of the afternoon session were read and approved.

Conference adjourned with the benediction -- to meet at the Methodist Church tonight at 8½ o’clock.

**Friday Night, Nov. 7th, 1862**

Conference met according to adjournment -- the President in the chair -- and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by D.J. Allen, in connection with the services of the Missionary Anniversary.

Mexico B. Sherman was discontinued at his own request.

Conference adopted the customary resolutions of thanks to the citizens & c. [churches?] of Grenada.

The minutes of this session were read and approved.

The President, after some suitable and affecting remarks, announced the following appointments of the preachers for the ensuing year, viz.

*Memphis District, Saml Watson, P.E.*

Memphis:

- Wesley Chapel, *J.W. Knott*
- Asbury Chapel, *D.J. Allen*
- Asbury Col’d Mission, to be supplied
- Greenwood&Collins’ Chapel, *J.G. Acton*
- Union St. Church, *G.K. Brooks*
- Hernando&Hinds Chapel, *F.A. Wilkerson; E.J. Williams, Sup.*
- Olive Branch Cir., *M.D. Fly, one to be supplied; Philip Tuggle, Sup.*
- Olive Branch Col’d Miss., *Joseph Johnson*
- Edgewood&Forest Chapel, To be supplied
- State Female College, *Charles Collins, President*

*Somerville District, L.D. Mullins, P.E.*

Somerville Sta., *W.D.F. Hafford; R.V. Taylor, Sup.*
- Wesley Cir., *J.H. Garret, M.H. Cullom, J. Perry, Sup.*
- Wesley Col’d Miss., To be supplied; *J.T. Baskerville, Sup.*
- Lagrange Cir. *B. Medlin, J.W. Poston; W.N. Morgan, Sup.*
- Lagrange Col’d Miss., *N.A.D. Bryant*
- Macon Cir. *Thos J. Boswell*
- Cypress Cir., *W.M. McFerrin*
- Macon Col’d Miss., *J.W. Walkup*
- Raleigh Cir., *F.M. Morris*
- Brownsville & Prospect, *J.H. Evans*
- Brownsville Cir., *R.A. Umsted, J.B. Harris; J.M. Scott, Sup.*
- Mt. Zion Cir., *B.H. Bishop*
- Mt. Zion Col’d Miss., *J.D. Slaughter*
- Randolph Miss., *Thos. M. Melugin*
Jackson District, G.W.D. Harris, P.E.

Jackson Sta., J.W. Shelton; L. Lea, Sup.
Jackson Col'd Miss., B.A. Hayes
Jackson Cir., C.J. Maudlin; T.G. Lane, Sup.
Memphis Conf. Female Institute, A.W. Jones, President
Mt. Pinson Cir., J.R. Sykes
Denmark Cir., A.C. Smith, A.B. Jones
Cageville Cir., N.P. Ramsay
Dyersburg Sta., R.S. Harris; R.M. Farrant, Sup.
Dyersburg Cir., Henry B. Avery; W.B. Ramsay, Sup.
Madrid Bend, To be Supplied

Trenton District, E.E. Hamilton, P.E.

Trenton & Humboldt, J.M. Mathis; John Randle, Sup.
Trenton Cir., W.H. Leigh; N. Sullivan, Sup.
Paris Sta., R.H. Mahon, John Thompson
Paris Cir., A.B. Sollers, T.C. Ellis
Huntingdon Cir., Jasper V. Fly, B.F. Peeples
Pleasant Plains, To be supplied
Camden Cir., H.B. Covington; E.L. Fisher, Sup.
Morgan's Creek Miss. R.S. Swift
Lexington Cir., P.J. Kelsey
Obion Miss. M.D. Robinson
Decaturville Cir., J.F. Williams
Andrew College, E.C. Slater, President

Dresden District, Finley Byrum, P.E.

Dresden Sta., E.B. Plummer
Dresden Cir., A.L. Hunsaker, J.A. McClellan
Hickman Sta., To be supplied
Hickman Cir., B.B. Risenhoover
Clinton Cir., R.H. Burns
Benton Cir., To be supplied
Bryansburg Cir., To be supplied
Murray Cir., J.H. Witt
Paducah Sta., To be supplied
Paducah Miss., To be supplied

Iuka District, W.T. Harris, P.E.

Iuka Cir., H.D. Howell, D.J. Tabb
Corinth Cir., J.W. Honnell, James Gaines, Sup.
Rienzi Cir., J.S. Smotherman; Reuben Ellis, Sup.
Middleton Cir., J.P. Dancer, A.S. Hamilton
Rock Spring Cir., R.G. Rainey
Montezuma Cir., Henry Bell
Jack's Creek Miss., To be supplied
Adamsville Cir., M.M. Taylor, J.M. Flatt
Good Spring Cir., J.W. McIver

Aberdeen District, J.T. Merriwether, P.E.

Aberdeen Sta., C.D.N. Campbell
Aberdeen Col'd Miss., John Young
Aberdeen Cir., R.A. Neblett
Prairie Col'd Miss., T.J. Lowry
Houston Cir., R.C. Alexander
Okolona Cir., J.M. Spence; J.M. Barton, Sup.
Fulton Cir., W.L. Kistler
Baldwin Cir., J.T. Talley
Pontotoc Cir. & Col’d Miss., J.T.C. Collins, A.J. See; M.J. Blackwell, Sup.

_Grenada District, T.P. Holman, P.E._

Grenada Sta., Amos Kendall
Grenada Col’d Miss., W.T.J. Sullivan
Grenada Cir., John Barcroft
Coffeeville Cir., Jno. A. Fife, J.H. Cooper
Coffeeville Col’d Miss., Robt. Martin
Calhoun Cir., W.C. Green; J.M. Hampton, Sup.
Oxford Sta., L.H. Davis
Oxford Cir., W.S. Harrison; W.S. Jones, Sup.
Panola Cir., S.W. Moore; J.W. Bates, Sup.
Charleston Cir., J.F. Markham
Bascom Female Seminary, Isaac Ebbert, President

_Holly Springs District, John Moss, P.E._

Holly Springs Sta. W.C. Johnson
Holly Springs Cir. Elias Jackson; C.B. Harris, Sup.
Byhalia Cir. J.H. Brooks
Chulahoma Circuit M.M. Dunn, A.P. Sage.
Chulahoma Col’d Miss., To be supplied
Sardis Cir., A.H. Thomas, D.C. Johnson
Marshall Cir. T.J. Gooch; Thos. Joyner, Sup.
Salem Cir. A.K. Miller; S.B. Carson, Sup.
Ripley Cir. B.W. Stubbs
Hickory Flat, J.W. Boswell
Franklin Female College, J.E. Douglass, President
Byhalia Female Institute, P.J. Eckles, President

_Miss. Bottom District, William McMahan, P.E._

Commerce Cir. F.C. Pearson
Furrica Cir., B.F. Pearson; F.A. Owen, Sup.
Friar’s Point Cir. G.W. Bochman; T.P. Davidson, Sup.
Richland Cir. J.R. Dycus
Concordia Cir. Jno. C. Lowe, one to be supplied
Beulah Cir. & Col’d Miss. C.C. Glover
Hushpuckany, To be supplied

_B.F. Crouch, Chaplain 1st Tenn. Cav’y Regt._

_M.H. Ford_, Ballentine’s

_W.B. Owen_, 17th Miss. Reg’t

_W.C. Haskell_, 154th Tenn.

_Thos L. Duke_, 19th Miss.

_J.B. McCutchen_, 7th Ky

_W.J. Mahon_, 13th Tenn.

_R.G. Porter_, 29th Miss.

_W.W. Pearson_, 31st Miss.
Guilford Jones transferred to the Arkansas Conference.
Thos. T. Ashby " " St. Louis "

X--In the Confederate States Army

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

W.C. Johnson, Sect'y

M.J. Blackwell
THE MINUTES
of the
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
of the
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Twenty-fourth Session
held in
Aberdeen, Mississippi
Nov. 11-16, 1863
and
the Called Session
held in
Cageville, Tennessee
Oct. 28-30, 1863
The Twenty Fourth Session of the Memphis Annual Conference met in the Methodist Church, Aberdeen, Miss., Wednesday morning, Nov. 11th, 1863, and opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by Lorenzo D. Mullins and Bishop R. Paine.

The chair was taken by Bishop Paine, after some remarks suitable to the occasion.

The roll was called by the Secretary of the last Conference and the following members were present, viz. Saml Watson, Lorenzo D. Mullins, Michael J. Blackwell, Thos. J. Lowry, Lewis H. Davis, Joseph H. Brooks, Robt Martin, John Moss, Joseph T.C. Collins, John Young, Wm T. Harris, Jno. A. Fife, Andrew J. Lee, Jno. T. Meriwether, Clement C. Glover, Andrew C. Smith, Amos Kendall, Wm. S. Harrison, Wm. C. Green, Turner P. Holman, James M. Spence, Wm C. Johnson, Matthew D. Fly, Benj. W. Stubbs, Jno. F. Markham, Robt. A. Neblett, Charles D.N. Campbell, Dave C. Johnson, Aaron K. Miller, John Barcroft, Jno. W. Boswell, George W. Bochman, and William L. Kistler.

W.C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary.

Conference resolved to meet at 9 o'clock A.M. and to adjourn at 1 o'clock P.M.

J.T. Meriwether and C.D.N. Campbell were appointed as the Committee on Public Worship.

The Financial Plan, with the arrangements for Standing Committees and a Committee of the Whole, was, on motion, suspended during the session.

J.H. Brooks, J.T.C. Collins and Amos Kendall were appointed Conference Stewards.

The following committees were constituted, viz.

On Memoirs: Amos Kendall, Robt. Martin, and Jno. W. Boswell
Education: W.T. Harris, John Barcroft, and Amos Kendall
Sabbath Schools: J.T.C. Collins, J.A. Fife, and R.A. Neblett
Publishing Interests: Saml Watson, C.C. Glover, and J.T. Meriwether
Bible Cause: W.C. Johnson, T.J. Lowry, and M.J. Blackwell,
Missions: James M. Spence, J.A. Fife, and W.S. Harrison.

A communication from G.W.D. Harris, President of a called Conference held at Cageville, Tenn., Oct. 28-30, 1863, and composed of members of this body whose fields of labor are within the enemy's lines, having been read, was, with the Journal of said Conference, received. Dr. Harris stated in his letter that the proceedings of the Conference were only advisory; and the Bishop announced that in that light they would be regarded by this body.

A communication from J.H. Evans, Secretary of said called Conference, having been read, was received.

A communication from the Rev. Rich' Abbey, concerning Bishop Soule's support having been read, was referred to the Board of Stewards.

The report of the Trustees of the Byhalia Female Institute was presented, and, having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.

*Question Fourth* was taken up: Who are readmitted? David M.K. Collins, having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference held for Capers Chapel, Memphis District, was readmitted in elder's orders.

*Question Eighth* was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?

Tilman Page, Wesley Circuit, Somerville District
Jesse Hudgins, Oxford Circuit, Grenada District

Having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences were elected deacons.
Question Tenth was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders? There were none.

Conference resolved to sit with open doors during the examination of character until further orders.

Question Second was taken up: Who remains on trial? There were none.

Question Sixth was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year? Geo. W. Bochman and William L. Kistler having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed.

Questions Third and Seventh were taken up: Who are admitted into full connection? & What traveling preachers are elected and ordained deacons? Bascom T. Pearson and Jno. C. Lowe having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed: and they were admitted into full connection and elected deacons.

The name of William C. Haskell was called, and it was announced that he had died during the year.

The name of John Thompson was called, and it was announced that he was killed in the battle of Chikamauga [sic].

Conference adjourned with prayer by Joseph H. Brooks.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 12th, 1863

Conference met at the appointed hour-Bishop Paine in the chair-and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing and prayer led by M.J. Blackwell.

The roll was called and the following members, in addition to those present yesterday, responded to the call of their names, viz. A.H. Thomas, F.C. Pearson, and W.W. Pearson.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

A.H. Thomas and Amos Kendall were granted leave of absence to examine some members of the Third Year's Class.

Questions Third and Seventh was resumed: Who are admitted into full connection? & What traveling preachers are elected deacons? The name of Amos B. Jones, now in the Army, was called, and it being established to the satisfaction of the Conference, that he has fallen from grace, he was discontinued, and his case referred for trial to the Quarterly Conference of Jackson Station.

Thomas M. Melugin, Henry B. Avery, and Marcus H. Cullom having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed, and they were admitted into full connection and elected deacons.

The characters of J.A. McClellan, J.W. Howell, J.W. McIver, and M.M. Taylor were examined and passed; and they not having been examined on the prescribed studies, were continued on trial. John F. Williams was discontinued.

Question Sixth was resumed: Who are the deacons of one year? J.W. Poston and R.H. Mahon having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed.

James R. Dycus having, as reported, without the consent of his Presiding Elder, left his work on the Richland Circuit, entered the enemy's lines with the avowed intention (if required of him in order to get to his parents in Kentucky) of taking the oath of allegiance to the enemy's government, and disregarding it, and having taken that oath at Helena, Ark., and now being absent, the following resolution after some discussion was adopted, viz.

Resolved. That the Conference decline to pass the character of James R. Dycus, and that the Secretary be directed to prepare a written statement of the reports and complaints against his character, and forward it to the Presiding Elder of the Paducah District, for investigation by a committee of traveling preachers.
Question Ninth was taken up: What traveling preachers are elected and ordained elders?

John Barcroft, Jasper V. Fly, Daniel C. Johnson, James W. Mathis, Aaron K. Miller, and John F. Markham having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed, and they were elected elders.

John W. Boswell having stood a satisfactory examination on a portion of the prescribed studies, and not being prepared for examination on the remainder, because he could not obtain the text books, his character was examined and passed, and he was elected an elder. Then it was resolved that he be directed to complete the course of study during the coming year.

Thos L. Duke, Robt G. Porter, B.B. Risenhoover, Thos H. Davenport, B.F. Peebles [Peeples], T.C. Ellis, and J.M. Barton not having been examined on the prescribed studies, being absent, their characters were examined and passed, and they remain the [the] Fourth Year's Class.

James M. Barton was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of William B. Ramsay, James P. Dancer, and J.R. Sykes who are elders were examined and passed.

It was resolved that the widow of the Rev. Simeon R. Walker, who was formerly a member of this body, but at the time of his death was in connection with the Arkansas Conference—she being now in our bounds and needing assistance, be received as one of the beneficiaries of the funds of this Conference at the present session.

Question Sixteenth was taken up: What is the number of preachers and members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memphls District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
<th>Local Pr's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Chapel.</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asbury Chapel.</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asbury Col'd Mission.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwood &amp; Collins Chapel.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union St. Church.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernando &amp; Hinds Chapel.</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Branch.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Branch Col'd Miss.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgewood &amp; Forest Chapel.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

| Iuka District             |               |              |               |              |            |
| Iuka.                     | 431           | 25           | 24            | -            | 3          |
| Corinth.                  | 72            | -            | 31            | -            | 2          |
| Rienzi.                   | 610           | 87           | 30            | -            | 8          |
| Middleton.                | 504           | 40           | 16            | -            | 5          |
| Rock Spring.              | 417           | 81           | 19            | -            | 8          |
| Montezuma.                | 296           | 70           | 7             | 3            | 4          |
| Jack’s Creek.             | 45            | 50           | ----          | ----         | 1          |
| Adamsville.               | 440           | 36           | 38            | ----         | 7          |
| Good Spring.              | 163           | 31           | 12            | ----         | 1          |

<p>| Aberdeen District         |               |              |               |              |            |
| Aberdeen Sta.             | 175           | 25           | ----          | ----         | 4          |
| Aberdeen Col’d Miss.      | ----          | ----         | 290           | 31           | ----       |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White Members</th>
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<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
<th>Local Pr's.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Cir.</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Col'd Miss.</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Houston.</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okolona.</td>
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<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton.</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldwin.</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>Pontotoc Cir. &amp; Col'd Miss.</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>24</td>
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**Grenada District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>White Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada Sta.</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada Col'd Miss.</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffeeville.</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffeeville Col'd Miss.</td>
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<td>----</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>----</td>
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<td>Calhoun.</td>
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<td>Oxford Cir.</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>163</td>
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<td>Panola.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston.</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>75</td>
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**Holly Springs District**

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<td>Holly Springs Sta.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Byhalia.</td>
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<td>Chulahoma.</td>
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<td>Chulahoma Col’d Miss.</td>
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<td>Sardis.</td>
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<td>Salem.</td>
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<td>Ripley.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory Flat.</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>55</td>
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**Miss. Bottom District**

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<td>Commerce.</td>
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<td>Tunica.</td>
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<td>Friar’s Point.</td>
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<td>Richland.</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>Beulah Cir. &amp; Col’d Miss.</td>
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<td>----</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hushpuckany.</td>
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</table>

**Recapitulation**

[No figures were recorded.]

**Memphis District**

Iuka
Aberdeen
Grenada
Holly Springs
Miss. Bottom
*Somerville
*Jackson
Conference adjourned with prayer led by J.H. Brooks.

*From Cageville Journal*

Friday Morning, Nov. 13th 1863 (20)

Conference met according to appointment-Bishop Paine in the chair-and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer led by Saml Watson.

The calling of the roll was dispensed with, and the following members were announced as present for the first time, viz. M.M. Dunn, H.B. Avery, and D.M.K. Collins.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read, amended, and approved.

The report of the Committee on Publishing Interests was presented, and having been read was adopted.


*Question Fifth* was taken up: Who are received by transfer from other Conferences? James L. Denton from the Arkansas Conference.

*Question Sixth* was resumed: Who are the deacons of one year? W.W. Pearson having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was examined and passed. F.C. Pearson, who was elected an elder last year, but is of this class, stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, and his character was examined and passed.

*Question Fifteenth* was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of Saml Watson, J.W. Knott, D.J. Allen, F.A. Wilkerson, J.G. Acton, M.D. Fly, Joseph Johnson, and Charles Collins were examined and passed. The character of G.K. Brooks (who was elected last year but has not been ordained an elder) was examined and passed. The characters of E.J. Williams and Philip Tuggle were examined and passed, and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The characters of W.T. Harris, H.D. Howell, James Gaines, A.S. Hamilton, Henry Bell, and R.G. Rainey were examined and passed. The character of D.F. Tabb was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation. The character of Reuben Ellis was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation. The name of Jesse S. Smotherman was called, and it was announced that he had died in the faith.

The characters of J.T. Meriwether, C.D.N. Campbell, Jno. Young, R.A. Neblett, T.J. Lowry, J.M. Spence, A.J. Lee and J.T.C. Collins were examined and passed. The character of M.J. Blackwell was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation. The character of J.T. Talley was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The character of Turner P. Holman was examined and passed.

Conference adjourned-to meet at 3 o’clock this afternoon-with the benediction.

Friday Afternoon, Nov. 13th 1863

Conference met according to adjournment-Bishop Paine in the chair-and was opened with prayer led by L.H. Davis.

The minutes of the morning’s session were read and approved.

The Journal of the called Conference at Cageville was read and after some
amendments it was resolved that the Journal of the called Conference at Cageville be adopted by this body and inscribed in the Conference Journal; and that the Bishop be requested to conform his action as to the appointments as far as he may deem appropriate, to the plan of appointments announced at Cageville.

The report of the Conference Stewards was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The following persons received the appropriations for the following beneficiaries, viz. S. Watson for Bishop Soule, $667.50- D.M.K. Collins for Sister Crouch, $280.00- J.T. Meriwether for H.D. Howell $200.00- John Moss for W.R. Dickey $150.00- J.H. Brooks for C.B. Harris $150.00- G.W. Bachman for John Hunter $150.00- W.L. Kistler for R. Ellis $150.00- J.Y. Meriwether for Sister Walker $150.00- J.H. Brooks for Elias Jackson $150.00- H.B. Avery for Sister Henderson $100.00- L.D. Mullins for Sister Cole $100.00- H.B. Avery for Sister Gillespie $100.00- H.B. Avery for Sister McFarland $100.00- T.J. Lowry for Sister Smotherman $100.00- A.W. Smith for Sister Hubbard $100.00- H.B. Avery for Sister Peebles [Peeples] $100.00.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of Amos Kendall, W.T.J. Sullivan, John A. Fife, Robt Martin, W.C. Green, W.S. Harrison, S.W. Moore & L.H. Davis were examined and passed. The characters of J.M. Hampton and W.S. Jones were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation. The character of Isaac Ebbert was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The name of Jno. H. Cooper was called and it was announced that he had died in the work.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 14th 1863

Conference met at the appointed hour-Bishop Paine in the chair-and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by Robt Martin.

The minutes of yesterday afternoon’s session were read and approved.

Amos W. Jones appeared and took his seat in Conference.

A communication from Amos W. Jones proposing a settlement of his indebtedness to the Conference on account of his purchase of the interest of the Conference in the Institute property at Jackson, Tenn., was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.

Leave of absence was granted to J.M. Hampton.

Bishop Andrew having arrived briefly addressed the Conference.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of John Moss, W.C. Johnson, Elias Jackson, J.H. Brooks, A.H. Thomas, M.M. Dunn, A.P. Sage, T.J. Gooch, B.W. Stubbs, M.H. Ford, J.E. Douglass, and P.J. Eckles were examined and passed.

Leave of absence was granted to A.H. Thomas.

The characters of C.B. Harris, Thos Joyner and S.B. Carson were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of Willliam McMahon and C.C. Glover were examined and passed.

The characters of F.A. Owen and T.P. Davidson were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of W.B. Owen was examined and passed.

The name of B.T. Crouch was called, and it was announced that he was killed in the battle of Thompson’s Station.
The character of R.C. Alexander was examined and passed and the Bishop was requesting to transfer him to the Louisville Conference.

Pending this question, the chair was taken by Bishop Andrew.

*Question Thirteenth* was taken up: Who are the superannuated? The characters of W.R. Dickey, Elias Tidwell, John Hunter and D.C. Wells were examined and passed, and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The report of the Committee on Education was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Missions was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was presented and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Memoirs was presented, and having been read, was amended and adopted as follows, viz.

The Rev. Benjamin T. Crouch was born and raised in Kentucky. In what part of the State, or in what year, he was born, we have not the means of ascertaining. His parents were devoted Christians, his father a prominent minister in the M.E. Church South, for many years. He was, therefore, brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in early life embraced the religion of Christ, and identified himself with the Church of God. Feeling it to be his imperative duty to preach the Gospel to dying men, he applied for and obtained license to preach, and was admitted on trial in the Memphis Annual Conference at Paducah in the fall of 1851. After traveling some two or three years, discharging the duties of his calling acceptably and usefully, he volunteered to go as a Missionary to California, where he labored faithfully and efficiently, proving himself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." While in California, he was united in marriage to her who now weeps in solitary widowhood. Subsequently, he returned to this Conference, and took work regularly till the inauguration of the fratricidal war in which our country is now involved; when, actuated by principles of the purest patriotism and piety, he went out as Chaplain to Lt. Col. Logwood's Cavalry Battalion. Afterwards, he was appointed Chaplain to the 1st Tenn. Cavalry Reg't commanded by Col. Jackson, to whom he acted as a Volunteer Aide in their several engagements with the enemy. Last Spring, he accompanied Gen. Van Dorn's command to Middle Tenn., where he was placed on Gen. W.H. Jackson's staff, and while gallantly leading a regiment in the memorable battle of Thompson's Station, he fell pierced by a ball and expired in a few minutes. He was decently buried by his companions in arms in the cemetery at Spring Hill, Tenn. where his remains will repose till the resurrection horn. Some prejudiced or misinformed correspondent of a Mobile newspaper, in giving an account of the engagement in which he lost his life informed the public that his last words were such as would cast a shade on his religious character. But we are happy to learn that Gen. Jackson in a public card has contradicted that statement, and testified to his consistent Christian deportment, not only in the fatal hour, but also during his entire connection with his command. We learn further, that on the Sabbath preceding his death, he attended church on a Quarterly Meeting occasion, partook of the Lord's Supper, and in conversation with the Presiding Elder, expressed himself as being better satisfied with his religious experience and prospects than he had been for a long time.

Bro. Crouch was exceedingly impulsive in temperament, and being ardent in his feelings was very social in his habits and much devoted to his friends. He was remarkable for his bravery—the thick flying missiles of death never intimidating him nor deterring him from the prompt and faithful performance of what he conscientiously and religiously regarded as his duty.
As a minister he was highly gifted. Enjoying the advantages of a superior education, combined with extraordinary powers of speech, he occupied a prominent position on the walls of Zion. But he has gone to his reward—his body sleeping in a soldier’s grave—leaving behind him an affectionate wife and several small children whom we commend in prayer to God, and to the sympathy and liberality of the church.

The Rev. John H. Cooper was a member of this Conference for some seven or eight years. He was appointed at last Conference, for the second year, to the Coffeeville Circuit, where he died, in Calhoun Co., near Banner, Miss. He died last Spring—the day not known to us. He was with friends in his sickness, which was brief, only about a week, and was not considered dangerous, he complaining only of a pain in his breast. The day he died, he rose, dressed, was shaved, and with some assistance walked down stairs, intending to walk out, but at the request of a friend lay down, and in a few hours closed his eyes, and died like a child going to sleep. He sleeps in Jesus.

Bro. Cooper was one of the most agreeable, mild and gentle spirits. His ability in the pulpit was but ordinary, but his kind and prudent deportment in families, and among all with whom he associated, gave him a degree of usefulness, and now for him the kind regards of all who knew him.

He leaves no family, his wife and child having preceded him to the better land. His pious mother and two sisters are living in Middle Tenn., being his only near relations. May the soothing balm of God’s grace be applied to their smitten hearts, sustaining them in this afflictive dispensation; and may they finally be brought to the land of repose, where loved ones part no more.

The Rev. Jesse S. Smotherman was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference in the fall of 1854, at its session in Somerville, Tenn., and continued a member thereof till his departure to the spirit land. He was a man of solid piety, unassuming demeanor and great moral worth—always conducting himself with propriety in the sphere in which he moved, constraining those by whom he was surrounded to “take knowledge of him that he had been with Jesus.”

His preaching was plain, practiced, and forcible. He dealt not in rhetorical flourishes, but presented the truths of the Gospel in their unadulterated simplicity and purity, aiming only at the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

For some time before his death, his health had been quite feeble: disease was making rapid inroads upon his constitution, and he was reminded that he must soon go hence to be no more on earth. Fortunately, he was permitted to return to his father’s house where, after a season spent in deep affliction, he calmly passed away, as a faithful steward to receive his reward.

The Rev. William C. Haskell was a son of the distinguished lawyer and politician, Gen. Wm T. Haskell of Tenn. His mother is a member of the M.E. Church, South, and for many years has been well known for the piety and uniform consistency of her Christian character. Consequently she trained up her son in the way he should go; and her prayerful efforts in his behalf were not in vain; for in youth he adopted the principles of our holy religion, which he retained and cultivated under all circumstances, till summoned to the better land.

He was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference in 1861, and appointed Chaplain to the 154th Reg’t Tenn. Volunteers, in which capacity he labored with great acceptableness, commanding the respect of all, and exerting an influence for good upon the hearts and lives of those to whom he ministered in holy things.

His health becoming feeble, he obtained a furlough [sic] to visit his widowed mother in Memphis, where after resting for a few weeks, he found himself restored to his usual strength, and returned to his command. But God did not see fit to
continue to him the health necessary to the performance of his work. The exposure incident to camp life and the discharge of his duties as Chaplain proved too severe for his comparatively frail frame. The hand of disease again arrested him, reducing him so low that it was with great difficulty he was able to reach home. At the house of the Rev. D.J. Allen, he received from his mother and friends every attention necessary to his comfort in the final struggle. Death approached; but still he was undismayed, furnishing the witnesses of his departure with the most remarkable exhibition of calmness and resignation, while he met the last enemy like a Christian Philosopher.

He was a young man of extraordinary intellectual powers, and being studious in his habits he promised much usefulness to the Church; and if he had been spared, we doubt not, he would have been one of our most gifted and successful ministers. But he rests from his labors and his works follow him.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amos Kendall, Ch’mn

The Bishop introduced the Rev. H.J. Harris of the Mississippi Conference.
The Secretary read a letter to the Rev. Finley Bynum, Presiding Elder of the Dresden District, concerning the case of James R. Dycus, and it was approved.
Conference resolved to remit the interest on the debt due from A.W. Jones, occurring during the time that the Institute property was held by the enemy, and to authorize him to pay the remainder of the interest now due to the Treasurer of the Preacher’s Aid Society.

Question First was taken up: Who are admitted on trial? Wilber F. Mister having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Grenada Station Grenada District, and having stood a satisfactory examination as to his literary qualifications, and answered the Disciplinary questions-Bishop Paine in the chair-pronounced by the Bishop, was admitted on trial.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz.

Resolved, 1. That the Conference advise the Bishops to call a General Conference during the ensuing year, if the state of the country should be favorable to such an object.
2. That the Delegates elected two years ago are hereby recognized as the representatives of this Conference, except Guilford Jones transferred to the Ark. Conference.
Conference proceeded to the election of a delegate in the place of Guilford Jones-a majority of the votes cast being required to elect.
On the first ballot, there was no election.
On the second ballot, W.C. Johnson received 22 votes, and this number being a majority of the votes cast, the Bishop announced that he was elected.
Wm McMahon, J.T. Meriwether, T.P. Holman, J.T.C. Collins, and W.T. Harris, were nominated and elected Reserve Delegates.
It was resolved that W.C. Johnson be appointed to attend the Bishop’s Meeting next spring, as a representative of this Conference.
Conference adjourned to meet at sunrise Monday morning-benediction by Bishop Andrew.

Monday Morning, Nov. 16th 1863

Conference met according to adjournment-Bishop Paine in the chair-and was opened with prayer by John Barcroft.
The minutes of Saturday’s session were read and approved.
H.D. Howell and T.M. Melugin appeared and took their seats in Conference.
Question Twentieth was taken up: Where and when shall the next session of the
Conference be held? It was resolved to meet at Brownsville, Tenn., provided the
enemy's lines are north of that place—otherwise at Aberdeen, Miss.

It was resolved, further, that in case it should not be convenient to meet at
Brownsville or Aberdeen, the Bishop appointed to preside next year, be authorized
to select a place of meeting.

Conference adopted the customary resolution of thanks to the citizens of
Aberdeen.

Conference resolved itself into the Preacher's Aid Society, and after the business
thereof was transacted, Conference resumed its business.

M.J. Blackwell was appointed to preach a sermon to the Conference on the
first night of the next session.

Questions Seventh & Eighth were resumed: What travelling preachers are elected
and ordained deacons? & What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?
Bishop Paine reported that the following persons were ordained deacons by Bishop
Andrew yesterday morning in the Methodist Church, viz. Traveling preachers:
G.W. Bachman, B.T. Pearson, J.C. Lowe, T.M. Melugin, H.B. Avery, M.H.

Questions Ninth & Tenth were resumed: What travelling preachers are elected
and ordained elders? & What local preachers are elected and ordained elders? Bishop
Paine reported that the following persons were ordained elders yesterday afternoon
in the Methodist Church by himself, viz. John Barcroft, D.C. Johnson, A.K. Miller,
J.F. Markham, F.C. Pearson, and J.W. Boswell—all traveling preachers.

The vote, by which Reuben Ellis was continued supernumerary, was re-
considered, and he is effective.

The Treasurer of the Missionary Society reported the amount of money
collected for the Cause to be [no amount given].

Bishop Andrew made an affectionate and impressive address to the members,
after which the Conference engaged in singing and prayer led by Bishop Andrew.
The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Bishop Paine, then, after a few remarks, announced the following appointments
for the ensuing year, viz.

Memphis District, Saml Watson, P.E.
Memphis:
  Wesley Chapel, D.J. Allen
  Asbury Chapel & Colored Mission, J.W. Knott
  Greenwood & Collins Chapel, G.K. Brooks
  Capers Chapel, J.L. Denton
Hernando & Hinds Chapel, F.A. Wilkerson; E.J. Williams, Sup.
Olive Branch, W.C. Green, P. Tuggle, Sup.
Book & Tract Depository, Saml Watson, Agent
State Female College, Charles Collins, President

Grenada District, T.P. Holman, P.E.
Grenada Station, Amos Kendall.
Grenada Circuit, S.W. Moore.
Coffeeville, J.A. Fife.
Coffeeville Col'd Miss., Robt. Martin.
Calhoun, J.F. Markham, L.H. Davis.
Oxford Station, Jno. Barcroft.
Oxford Cir., M.D. Fly, W.S. Jones.
Holly Springs District, John Moss, P.E.
Holly Springs Cir., Elias Jackson, C.B. Harris, Sup.
Byhalia, R.A. Neblett.
Byhalia Female Institute, P.J. Eckles, President
Chulahoma, A.P. Sage, J.W. Boswell.
Chulahoma Col’d Miss., Joseph Johnson.
Sardis, W.S. Harrison, D.C. Johnson.
Salem, A.K. Miller, S.B. Carson, Sup.
Ripley, To be supplied.
Hickory Flat, J.P. Dancer.

Iuka District, W.H. Harris, P.E.
Iuka, Reuben Ellis.
Rienzi, James Gaines.
Rock Spring, J.T. Gooch.
Montezuma, Henry Bell.
Adamsville, R.G. Rainey.
Corinth, Middleton, Jack's Creek Mission, & Good Spring, To be supplied.

Aberdeen District, J.T. Meriwether, P.E.
Aberdeen Sta., A.J. Lee.
Aberdeen Col’d Miss., John Young.
Aberdeen Cir., C.D.N. Campbell.
Prairie Col’d Miss., T.J. Lowry.
Houston, J.T.C. Collins.
Okolona, J.M. Spence; J.M. Barton, Sup.
Fulton, W.L. Kistler.
Baldwin, W.W. Pearson; J.T. Talley, Sup.

Mississippi Bottom District, C.C. Glover, P.E.
Tunica Cir. & Commerce Col’d Miss., M.M. Dunn, F.A. Owen, Sup.
Friars Point, J.C. Lowe, T.P. Davidson, Sup.
Richland, G.W. Bochman [Bachman]
Hushpuckany, William McMahon
Concordia, F.C. Pearson, B.T. Pearson

R.G. Porter, Chaplain 10th Miss Regt; W.B. Owen Ch’n 17th Miss. Regt; T.H. Davenport, Ch’n 3rd Tenn. Regt; J.B. McCutchen Ch’n 7th Ky. Regt; W.C. Mahon Ch’n 13th Tenn. Regt; W.F. Mister Ch’n 14th Tenn. Regt; J.W. McIver Ch’n. 12th Miss. Regt; W.C. Johnson, Miss. Ch’n to Maj. Gen. S.D. Lee's Cav’y Command.

J.B. Acton transferred to South Carolina Conference.
R.C. Alexander transferred to Louisville Conference.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

W.C. Johnson, Sec’y

R. Paine
REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Conference in session at Aberdeen Nov. 11-16, 1863.

Publishing Interests

The committee to whom was referred our Publishing Interests beg leave to report:

The Southern Methodist Publishing House

The committee regret that no communication has been received from the Agent, relative to our publishing interests at Nashville. The only information they received is from a private letter written by the Rev. R. Abbey, Financial Secretary. From this, they learn that the Publishing House has been thus far preserved from interruption by the Federal Authorities, except to a small extent in material to establish a paper in the city.

We have no communication from any of our church papers, but are glad to learn that the Southern and Richmond Christian Advocates still live under the able editorial management of Rev. Drs Myers and Duncan. We most cordially recommend our preachers and people to subscribe for and circulate these excellent papers. They are doing valuable service to the church, and should by all means be liberally sustained. We hope every preacher in this part of the Conference will take them and act as Ag’t for them in procuring a large number of subscribers.

Book & Tract Society

In consequence of the occupation of the city of Memphis by the Federal Army, the business of the Depository has been entirely suspended during the past year. The books have been moved to the upper story of the shelves, and the lower part rented out to a wholesale dry goods firm.

The Society had a claim on the Hartford (Conn.) Insurance Co. for damages in removing the stock when a fire occurred in Oct. 1860, in an adjacent building. This claim has been legally forfeited in the consequence of the delays caused by the war. The President of the Board went in February last, to Hartford, where he represented the Society to the officers of the Insurance Co., and they generously paid the full claim of Eighteen Hundred Dollars.

There are some Twenty-five or Thirty Thousand Dollars of notes now due to the Society. There has been nothing paid on them since the Federal occupation of Memphis. The Society owes a debt of Three Thousand and Two Hundred, and Sixty-five, 21/100 Dollars to the Rev. W.C. Johnson, with interest from 1st Jan. last, for money borrowed to build the house they occupy. Also something over Two Thousand Dollars to Northern publishers. These debts should be liquidated as soon as practicable. There was no Ag’t appointed last year. We recommend that one of the preachers of the city of Memphis be appointed Agent to adjust the claims of the Society and to pay, as soon as possible, all its indebtedness.

We cannot do anything in the way of purchasing and selling books, while the present state of things exists in our country. Care should be taken of the stock on hand, so that when "these calamities are overpast", we may resume business, and go on to accomplish the work contemplated in the organization of the Society.

We rejoice to learn that the Rev. W.T. Harris has been nominated & we recommend his appointment as Ag’t for the Soldier’s Tract Association to obtain funds & distribute Bibles & Tracts among the soldiers of the Confederate States. Resolved, That we will give him our hearty cooperation, whenever he may find it convenient to visit our respective charges.

Respectfully Submitted, Nov. 13th 1863
Saml Watson, Ch’n
Conference Stewards

Your Board of Stewards beg leave to submit the following as their report.

The claims of the preachers, as reported, amount to $12,190. Their receipts are $8,697-leaving a balance unpaid of $3,511, to meet which we have received from the various appointments as Conference Collection $2,928.56. We appropriate as follows, viz. Bishop Soule $667.50 - H.D. Howell $200 - Sister Crouch $280 - W.R. Dickey $150 - C.B. Harris $150 - Jno. Hunter $150 - Reuben Ellis $150 - Sister Walker $150 - Elias Jackson $150 - W.T. Harris $200 - B.W. Stubbs $46.50 - R.S. Collins' heirs $40 - Sister Campbell $28.45 - Sister Henderson $100 - Sister Cole $100 - Sister Gillespie $100 - Sister McFarland $100 - Sister Smotherman $100 - Sister Hubbard $100 - Sister Peebles [Peeples] $100.

Nov. 13th 1863 Respectfully Submitted,
J.H. Brooks, Ch’n

Education

The committee to whom was referred the cause of Education beg leave to report as follows, viz.

A communication from the President of the Board of Trustees of the Byhalia Female Institute, represents that it is doing well at present, though its operations have been suspended during almost the entire year, in consequence of Federal raids. The Library belonging to the school, with much of the Philosophical and Chemical Apparatuses, has also been either destroyed or carried off by the enemy. The school at present numbers forty-nine pupils, and bids fair for a prosperous future, could quiet be restored to the country. We rejoice at this fact and earnestly recommend the reappointment of the Rev. P.J. Eckles as President.

From the State Female College, we have received no written report, but learn that the exercises of the school are kept up, though with what success is not known by us. The committee recommend that Dr. C. Collins be returned as its President.

The Memphis Conference Female Institute has been reorganized since the evacuation of Jackson by the enemy. We recommend the return of the Rev. A.W. Jones to its charge.

The Marshall Female Institute, the Franklin Female College, and the Bascom Female Seminary, sharing in the calamities of the country, have been compelled to suspend for the present. We have nothing specific from Andrew College.

The committee earnestly pray for the early dawn of a better day, when prosperity shall be restored to the church and to the country and our school operations shall be resumed.

Nov. 14th 1863 Respectfully submitted,
W.T. Harris, Ch’n

P.S. Your committee recommend the Conference not to entertain the proposition made by Amos W. Jones, in reference to a settlement of his indebtedness to the Conference.

W.T. Harris, Ch’n

Bible Cause

The committee on the Bible Cause report that the great work of placing the Holy Scriptures within reach of all people should ever command the energies of the Church of God, as a duty most intimately connected with the world’s conversion to God. The condition of public affairs, at present, however, forbids the hope of much success in this work, except in one special direction. The Army is the field of labor now pointed out by the finger of Providence. The Word of God should be in the hands of our soldiers. Many of them have already been supplied; but
many more still need and desire the precious treasure. The wonderful revivals in our Army attest the usefulness of the religious agencies brought to bear upon our soldiers, and encourage continuance in this labor of love. The printed, as well as the preached Word of Truth has been and will be blessed of God. The Bible Society of the Confederate States, now in the second year of its existence and usefulness, is the main organ through which the church should work in this department of Christian beneficence. Its place of business is Augusta, Ga. The Rev. E.H. Myers D.D. is Corresponding Secretary, and Geo. M. Then, Esq. Treasurer, both of that city. The following resolution is submitted, viz.

Resolved, That the Conference recommend the preachers and people in our bounds to cooperate with the Confederate States Bible Society, and its Agents in the work of circulating the Holy Scriptures, especially among the soldiers of the Southern Confederacy.

Nov. 14th 1863
W.C. Johnson, Ch’n

Missions

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Missions beg leave to state that the facilities for information being greatly deranged, and documentary data, in consequence, meager, we are not prepared to make a full report. The following is all the information we have been able to obtain.

The Collins Chapel Col’d Mission, in the city of Memphis, has a large church edifice built by the colored people. It was served for a few months of the past year by the Rev. J.G. Acton and afterwards by Dr. Charles Collins. There has been a large attendance and a fine revival during the year. It has 140 members & 39 probationers. We recommend its continuance.

Asbury Col’d Mission, also in Memphis, was served during the past year by the Rev’s D.J. Allen and G.K. Brooks. A fine revival has been in progress during the year. Congregation large. There are 109 members, about half of whom have joined since last Conference. Its continuance is recommended.

Prairie Colored Mission has been served this past year by the Rev. T.J. Lowry. There has been a great revival of religion on this mission-from 75 to 100 conversions. There are 334 members and 109 probationers. There were 25 adults baptized and 15 received into full connection. It is prosperous and we recommend its continuance.

Coffeeville Colored Mission has been served, the past year, by the Rev. Robt Martin, who preached at three appointments to from 300 to 400 persons.

Aberdeen Col’d Mission has been served the past year by the Rev. Jno. Young. There are five appointments, 290 members, and 31 probationers.

Pontotoc Col’d Mission has been served by the Rev. J.T.C. Collins in connection with the circuit. It has 90 members and 24 probationers.

Beulah Mission has a membership of 24 persons.

Owing to the distracted condition of our country, our missionary operations have been greatly interrupted; but we must not relax our efforts to give the Gospel to our colored population.

We have but little information in regard to our foreign missions, but we are glad to learn that the China Mission still lives, attended however, with many difficulties. Missionaries Wood, Allen, and Jenkins are still there, but for want of means are limited in their operations to the city of Shanghai. They should, if possible, be assisted.

From our Indian Missions, we have heard but little. The Chikasaws, [sic] Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles having joined the South in her struggle for independence and therefore being very much confused, we may safely infer that the missions among them are not prospering as formerly.

We are happy to report that a plan has been devised and efforts are being made, to supply the great want of ministerial labor in the Army by the appointment...
and support of missionaries to labor therein. We learn that appointments have been
made to several, if not all, of the Army Corps, of missionaries, whose duty it is
to preach when practicable, to visit the sick and dying, encourage the appointment
of chaplains, circulate religious literature, and use all available means to promote
the religious interests of the brave defenders of our country. But still, we are informed
that great destitution exists in many regiments, and even whole brigades are without
the benefits of the blessed Gospel. We would, therefore, recommend that more
strenuous efforts be made to supply this great deficiency, and that we pledge
ourselves to use more diligence and energy in the collection of means to meet our
part of the expenses thereof.

Nov. 14th 1863

Respectfully Submitted,
James M. Spence, Ch’n

Sabbath-Schools

The Committee on Sabbath-Schools beg leave to submit the following report.
There are within the bounds of the six Districts represented here, namely, Memphis,
Iuka, Aberdeen, Grenada, Holly Springs, and Miss. Bottom - 29 schools - 245
officers and teachers - 1215 scholars - 5055 volumes in libraries. There were $97.00
collected for Sabbath-Schools, and 63 scholars were converted during the year.

We regard the Sabbath-School Cause as one of vital importance and would
urge upon the brethren to give their assiduous attention to the promotion of its
welfare.

Nov. 14th 1863

Respectfully Submitted
J.T.C. Collins, Ch’n

W.C. Johnson, Sect’y Memphis Conference

A called session of the Memphis Annual Conference was held at Cageville,
Tenn., Oct. 28th 1863.

G.W.D. Harris was called to the chair. The Conference was opened by reading
from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer.

The Conference thus proceeded to organize. G.W.D. Harris was elected
President. J.H. Evans was nominated and elected Secretary and J.W. Mathis,
Assistant Secretary—the following brethren being present: L.D. Mullins, J.H.
Garrett, M.H. Cullom, J.T. Baskerville, B. Medlin, J.W. Poston, F.M. Morris,
J.H. Evans, R.A. Umsted, J.B. Harris, G.W.D. Harris, C.J. Maudlin, T.G. Lane,
B.A. Hayes, J.R. Sykes, A.C. Smith, R.H. Burns, N.P. Ramsay, R.L. Harris,
H.B. Avery, E.E. Hamilton, J.W. Mathis, R.H. Mahon, A.B. Sollers, J.V. Fly,

The Conference decided to meet at 8 o’clock and adjourn at 12½ o’clock.
R.H. Burns, N.P. Ramsay, and R.H. Mahon were appointed a committee
on Public Worship.

The bar of the Conference was fixed at the first seat beyond the stove.
B. Medlin, F.M. Morris, and R.L. Harris were appointed a committee to
examine the candidates for admission on trial.

J.T. Baskerville was nominated and elected a committee of examination for
the first year’s class; and A.B. Sollers, a committee for the fourth year’s class.
M.H. Cullom, J.R. Sykes, and A.C. Smith were elected a Board of Stewards.
J.B. Harris, N.P. Ramsay, and B. Medlin were elected a committee on
Missions.
C. J. Maudlin and W. J. Mahon were elected a committee on Sabbath-Schools.

J. T. Baskerville, and J. H. Evans were elected a committee on Memoirs.

Question First was taken up: What preachers are admitted on trial? The applicant not having passed their examination, the question for the present was laid over.

Question Fifteenth was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

The Conference voted to sit with open doors during the examination of character.

The characters of L. D. Mullins and W. D. F. Hafford were examined and passed.

The character of R. V. Taylor was examined and passed and he continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of J. H. Garrett was examined; and, there being some complaints, J. A. Vincent, B. A. Hayes, and W. J. Mahon were appointed a committee to investigate the case.

The characters of J. T. Baskerville and James Perry were examined and passed, and they continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of B. Medlin, N. A. D. Bryant, T. L. Boswell, W. M. McFerrin, J. W. Walkup, F. M. Morris, J. H. Evans, R. A. Umsted, J. B. Harris, and J. D. Slaughter were examined and passed.

The characters of W. N. Morgan and J. M. Scott were examined and passed, and they continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of B. H. Bishop was examined and passed, and he [was] granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of E. E. Hamilton, W. H. Leigh, A. B. Sollers, H. B. Covington, and R. S. Swift were examined and passed.

The character of John Randle, W. Sullivan, and E. L. Fisher were examined and passed, and they continued in a supernumerary relation.

Conference adjourned.

Thursday Morning, October 29th 1863

Conference met according to adjournment - G. W. D. Harris in the chair - and was opened by singing and prayer led by A. B. Sollers.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Conference resumed the examination of the character of elders.

The characters of H. D. Robinson and E. E. Slater were examined and passed.

The character of P. H. Kelsey was examined and passed, and he [was] granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of G. W. D. Harris, J. W. Shelton, C. J. Maudlin, B. A. Hayes, A. W. Jones, J. R. Sykes, A. C. Smith, N. P. Ramsay, R. S. Harris, R. H. Burns and W. J. Mahon were examined and passed.

The characters of Lorenzo Lea, T. G. Lane & W. B. Ramsay, were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of R. N. Tarrant was examined and passed and he [was] granted a supernumerary relation.

Question Thirteenth was taken up: Who are superannuates? The characters of J. A. Vincent and W. D. Scott were examined and passed, and they continued in a superannuated relation.
The Conference then proceeded to call for the numbers in society which is as follows:

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<th>Somerville District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
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<table>
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39
T.G. Lane was added to the committee on Sabbath-Schools.

Question Ninth was taken up: What traveling preachers are elected and ordained elders? J.W. Mathis and J.V. Fly having stood their examination, their characters were examined and passed, and they were elected to elders' orders.

Questions Third & Seventh were taken up: Who are admitted into full connection? & What traveling preachers are elected and ordained deacons? M.H. Cullom, H.B. Avery and T.M. Melugin having stood their examination, their characters were examined & passed, & they were admitted into full connection and elected to deacons' orders.

The Committee on Memoirs presented the following report which was received:

Your Committee on Memoirs beg leave to submit the following report:

The Rev. John Thompson, a probationer in the Conference, has been called, during the past year, to his reward on high. Bro. Thompson was received in the traveling connection on trial at the Conference in Jackson, Tenn. in November 1861-traveled a part of one year on the Trenton Circuit-left his work owing to physical disability and after restoration to health, volunteered in the service of his country. He was killed instantly in the battle of Chickamauga on the 19th or 20th of Sept. 1863, the ball passing directly through his heart. He died exclaiming, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Bro. Thompson was a young man of much promise, deeply pious, of liberal education and studious habits. Could he have lived, we doubt not the church would have been much blessed by his labors. Peace to his ashes.

J.T. Baskerville, Ch’n

The Board of Stewards presented their report, which having been read, was adopted.

It was moved and seconded that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock: carried.

Question First was resumed: Who are admitted on trial? Wm. T.C. Young, a local preacher, presenting a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of the Jackson Circuit, and having stood a satisfactory examination before the committee and the President, was admitted on trial in the traveling connection.

Jno. F. Armstrong presenting a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of the Jackson Circuit, and having stood a satisfactory examination before the committee and the President, was admitted on trial in the traveling connection.

Question Second was taken up: Who remains on trial? None.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

The characters of Finley Byrum, E.B. Plummer, A.L. Hunsaker, B.B. Risenhoover, and J.H. Witt were examined and passed.

The character of J.M. Flatt appointed last year to the Adamsville Circuit and in the army, now in the Dresden District was examined and passed.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

Thursday Afternoon, October 29th 1863

Conference met according to adjournment-the President in the chair-and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by M.D. Robinson.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Questions Third & Seventh were resumed: Who are admitted in full connection? & What traveling preachers are elected and ordained deacons?

The Character of J.A. McClellen was examined and passed, but being absent in the army he was not admitted into full connection nor elected to deacons orders.
The committee, to whom the case of J.H. Garrett was referred, presented their report which is as follows:

We, the committee to whom the case of Bro. Jno. H. Garrett was referred, whose character complaints had been made by Dr. J.T. Baskerville, after having the case under consideration for a time, do not find, in our judgement, sufficient testimony upon which to base a decision. We would, therefore, respectfully beg leave to refer the case directly to the Conference for its action.

J.A. Vincent  
B.A. Hayes  
W.J. Mahon Committee

Whereupon the Conference took up the case, and the following charge and specifications were made by Dr. J.T. Baskerville, viz.

Charge:  
Crimes forbidden in the Word of God as unChristian practice.  
Specification 1st: Fighting at Bethlehem Church, on the 4th Saturday in September, 1863.  
Specification 2nd: Improper tempers, words and actions on the Wesley Circuit.

After some remarks by Dr. Baskerville, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

Friday Morning, October 30th 1863

Conference met according to adjournment—the President in the chair—and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by Dr. J.T. Baskerville.

The minutes of yesterday’s afternoon session were read & approved.  
The committee on Sabbath-Schools presented their report which was adopted.  
The committee on Missions presented their report which was adopted.  
W.D.F. Hafford and J.M. Flatt, having arrived, took their seats.  
The case of J.H. Garrett was resumed, and after much discussion, the following preamble and resolution were offered by E.E. Hamilton, viz.

Inasmuch as, in the case of Rev. J.H. Garrett, charged with immoral conduct before this body, sufficient evidence not appearing on the part of the accuser, Dr. J.T. Baskerville - Therefore,

Resolved. That Bro. Baskerville be requested to withdraw the charge and specifications for the present; and that Bro. Garrett’s character pass.

Bryant Medlin offered the following substitute, which was adopted, viz.

Whereas, in the case of Bro. Garrett there appearing no evidence sufficient in the estimation of this Conference to convict him of unChristian conduct,  
Resolved, that his character pass.

Before submitting the above substitute, the President ruled as his interpretation of the law—

That there being no evidence before the Conference sufficient to convict Rev. Garrett of unChristian conduct, but being convinced that there was evidence to be had in the bounds of the Wesley Circuit, that the case should be referred to a committee to be called together within the bounds of the Somerville District; and then, if not convicted, his character pass.

Question Sixth was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year?

Joseph W. Poston and Robt H. Mahon having stood a satisfactory examination their characters were examined and passed.

The characters of T.C. Ellis and B.F. Peebles [Peeples] were examined and passed, but not being present they were not elected to elders orders.

The examination of the characters of elders was resumed. The character of Simpson Weaver, now in the bounds of the Dresden District was examined and passed, and he continues in a supernumerary relation.
The characters of Jeremiah Moss and J.M. Majors were examined and passed, and they continued in a supernumerary relation.

*Question Second* was resumed: Who remain on trial? The character of M.M. Taylor was examined and passed, and he continued on trial, not being present to undergo an examination.

The character of J.F. Williams was examined and passed, and he continued on trial, not having stood his examination.

It was moved and seconded that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock. The motion prevailed.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

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**Friday Afternoon, Oct. 30th 1863**

Conference met according to adjournment - the President in the chair - and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by J.A. Vincent. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

*Question Sixth* was resumed: Who are the deacons of one year? The character of B.B. Risenhoover was examined & passed; but not being present, he was not elected to elders orders.

*Question Twentieth* was taken up: Where and when shall the next session of the Conference be held? At Brownsville, Tenn., provided the Conference at Aberdeen shall so order: The time to be given by the Bishop at Aberdeen.

On motion, B. Medlin, the chairman of the committee on Missions was constituted Treasurer of the Miss'y Society for this part of the Conference, to retain what money he may have in his hands, until drawn out by the proper authority.

Conference adjourned to meet at the Methodist Church tonight at the ringing of the bell.

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**Friday Night, Oct. 30th 1863**

Conference met according to adjournment and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing and prayer by J.T. Baskerville. The minutes of the afternoon session were read and approved.

It was moved and seconded that the vote by which Jno. Randle was made supernumerary be reconsidered and be made effective; the motion prevailed.

It was moved and seconded that R.S. Swift be granted a supernumerary relation: carried.

It was moved and seconded that the vote by which Jno. F. Williams was continued on trial be reconsidered, and that he be discontinued, for the reason that he has not stood any examination for the three years of his connection with us: the motion prevailed.

The usual vote of thanks was heartily returned to the citizens of Cageville for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained us during our stay among them.

A vote of thanks was returned to the Rev. G.W.D. Harris for the able and Christian-like manner in which he has presided over our deliberations.

The minutes of the night session were read and approved.
After some appropriate remarks, the President proceeded to read out the following appointments for the preachers, viz.

Somerville District, L.D. Mullins, P.E.
Somerville Station R.H. Mahon; R.V. Taylor, Sup.
Lagrange Circuit J.W. Poston; W.N. Morgan, Sup.
Lagrange Col’d Mission N.A.D. Bryant
Macon Cir. T.L. Boswell, W.D.F. Hafford
Macon Col’d Miss. J.W. Walkup
Wesley Cir. M.H. Cullum [Cullom], one to be supplied; J. Perry, Sup.
Wesley Col’d Miss. To be supplied; J.T. Baskerville, Sup.
Mt. Zion C.T.M. Morris
Mt. Zion Col’d Miss. To be supplied
Randolph Cir. J.H. Garrett
Cypress Miss. W.M. McFerrin
Raleigh Cir. J.W. Shelton

Dyersburg District, G.W.D. Harris, P.E.
Dyersburg Cir. R.H. Burns; R.N. Tarrant, Sup.
Madrid Bend Cir. To be supplied
Brownsville & Prospect, J.H. Evans; B.H. Bishop, Sup.
Brownsville Cir. R.A. Umsted, J.F. Armstrong; J.M. Scott, Sup.
Obion Miss. Henry B. Avery

Jackson District, Wm. H. Leigh, P.E.
Jackson Sta. A.C. Smith; L. Lea, Sup.
Jackson Cir. C.J. Mauldin, B.A. Hayes; T.G. Lane, Sup.
Mt. Pinson Cir. W.T.C. Young
Lexington Cir. B. Medlin; P.J. Kelsey, Sup.
Decaturville Cir. J.D. Slaughter
Denmark Cir. J.R. Sykes
Cageville Cir. N.P. Ramsay
Memphis Conf. Female Institute, A.W. Jones

Trenton District, E.E. Hamilton, P.E.
Trenton Sta. J.W. Mathis
Trenton Cir. H.B. Covington; N. Sullivan, Sup.
Paris Sta. J.B. Harris
Paris Cir. J.H. Witt; W.B. Ramsay, Sup.; B.F. Peebles [Peeples]*
Huntingdon Cir. F.M. Melugin; E.L. Fisher, Sup.
Pleasant Plains Cir. M.M. Taylor; T.C. Ellis, Sup.
Camden Cir. One to be supplied
Morgan’s Creek Miss. J.V. Fly

Dresden District, Finley Byrum, P.E.
Dresden Sta. R.L. Harris
Dresden Cir. John Randle
Hickman Sta. E.B. Plummer
Hickman Cir. J.M. Flatt, Jr., J.A. McClellan*
Clinton Cir. A.B. Sollers
Benton Cir. A.L. Hunsacker
Bryansburg Cir. J.R. Dycus, one to be supplied.
Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

J.H. Evans, Sec'y 

G.W.D. Harris

REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Conference in session at Cageville, Tenn., Oct. 28-30, 1863.

Board of Stewards

The amount of the Conference Collection, $605.30

Appropriated as follows, viz.
Sister Henderson, $84.00
Sister Cole, 64.00
Sister Gillespie, 97.00
Sister McFarland, 84.00
Sister Smotherman, 64.00
Sister Hubbard, 64.00
Sister Peebles [Peeples], 67.00
Bro. Covington by the direction of the Conference 17.00
Bishop’s Fund 67.00
Oct. 29th 1863. M.H. Cullom, Ch’n

Sabbath-Schools

We, the committee appointed by this Conference upon Sabbath-Schools, respectfully beg leave to make the following report, being the aggregate of the statistics furnished us. 25 Schools, 29 Superintendents, 110 Teachers, 869 Students, 1485 vol’s in Lib’ry.

Your committee would say that indications prove to us that our Sabbath-School interest was, in common with other church interests suffered by the paralyzing effect of the times, and that we commend a faithful husbanding of every means that looks to the promotion of this important branch of our church.

All of which we respectfully Submit.

Oct. 30th 1863 C.J. Maudlin, Ch’n

Missions

The committee on Missions beg leave to submit the following report.

The fields of Missionary labor lying within the bounds of the called session of the Memphis Conference, with but one or two exceptions, are in a dilapidated condition. We barely need advert to the causes which have led to the present deplorable condition of these once fair and beautiful fields of the Lord’s vineyard. The facts are known to and will be duly appreciated by this body.

Our Colored Missions have suffered an almost total wreck, and will be doomed to suffer yet more perhaps till this cruel war is over, and peace restored to our
unhappy, bleeding country. With all the lights and facts before your committee, we recommend for adoption the following resolutions.

1. That the Obion, Morgan’s Creek, and Randolph White Missions are in a healthy condition, and that they be continued.

2. That, whereas Bro. Robinson has traveled the two past years on the Obion Mission, and has failed to receive any appropriations during that time from the Missionary Board, we recommend an appropriation of $200.00 of the funds in our hands for his benefit.

3. We recommend an appropriation of $150.00 for the benefit of Bro. J.M. McKelvey, who traveled the present year on the Morgan’s Creek Mission and has failed to receive any funds from the Missionary Board.

   Our receipts of missionary money for the present conference year are $570.35.

4. We recommend the continuation of the Cypress Mission.

5. We recommend an appropriation of $46.00 for the benefit of L.D. Mullins whose assessment was unpaid on the Cypress Mission.

6. We recommend an appropriation of $50.00 to W.M. McFerrin, Missionary on Cypress Mission.

7. We recommend an appropriation of $50.00 to E.E. Hamilton.

Cash on hand $44.25.

Oct. 30th 1863

J.B. Harris, Ch’n

W.C. Johnson, Sec’y
THE MINUTES

of the

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Twenty-fifth Session

held in

Aberdeen, Mississippi

Nov. 9-14, 1864

and of the

Advisory Session

held in

Brownsville, Tennessee

Nov. 9-12, 1864
Aberdeen, Miss., Nov. 9th 1864

The twenty-fifth session of the Memphis Annual Conference met in the Methodist Church in Aberdeen, Miss., Wednesday morning, Nov. 9th 1864, and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by Bishop Paine and L.H. Davis.

The chair was taken by Bishop Paine, who favored the Conference with some suitable observations in reference to the labors, trials, and blessings of the past year.


The Bishop stated that arrangements had been made for an advisory session of the Conference composed of the preachers in West Tennessee and Southern Kentucky in Brownsville, Tenn., Oct. 26, but on account of some misunderstanding, that session was not held at the time appointed, but was expected to meet this day. It was also stated that the session would be brief; and it was thought the minutes thereof would reach us before adjournment.

W.C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary, and John Barcroft, Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary informed the Conference that the journal containing the minutes of the last five sessions was carried off and destroyed by the enemy during the invasion of North Mississippi, by the forces of Maj. Gen. Smith in August last.

The Secretary stated further that in the midst of this misfortune, he had fortunately saved the first rough draft of the minutes of the sessions in 1862 & 1863.

The Financial Plan, with Standing committees, and a committee of the whole, was on motion, suspended during the session.

The following committees were appointed, viz:

Stewards: Amos Kendall, H.D. Howell, and James M. Spence.


Memoirs: Hudson D. Howell


Publishing Interests: W.T. Harris, C.D. N. Campbell, and Jno. F. Markham.

Bible Cause: John Moss, D.C. Johnson, and F.C. Pearson.


Conference resolved to meet at 9 o'clock A.M. and adjourn at 1 o'clock P.M.

Question Fifteenth was taken up: "Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?"


The character of A.P. Sage was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of C.B. Harris, Thos. Joyner, and L.B. Carson, were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The Report of Byhalia Female Institute was presented, and having been read was referred to the Committee on Education.

The Conference sermon which was appointed at last session to be preached tonight by M.J. Blackwell, was on motion, postponed until tomorrow night.

The Bishop introduced the Rev. D.M. Proctor of the St. Louis Conference.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

**Thursday Morning, Nov. 10th 1864**

Conference met according to adjournment—Bishop Paine in the chair—and was opened with religious services led by James Gaines.

The roll was called and besides those presented yesterday R. Ellis responded to the call of his name.

The minutes of yesterday’s session were read amended & approved.

The calling of the roll was, on motion, dispensed with during the remainder of the session.

*Question Fifteenth* was resumed: “Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?”

The characters of W.T. Harris, J. Gaines, T.J. Gooch, Henry Bell and R.G. Rainey, were examined and passed.

The character of Reuben Ellis was examined & passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of J.T. Meriwether, A.J. Lee, Jno. Young, C.D.N. Campbell, T.J. Lowry, J.T.C. Collins, H.D. Howell and J.M. Spence were examined and passed.

The character of M.J. Blackwell was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of C.C. Glover, M.M. Dunn, & W. McMahon, & F.C. Pearson were examined and passed.

The characters of F.A. Owen and T.P. Davidson were examined and passed and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of W.B. Owen, J.B. McCutchen, and W.C. Johnson were examined and passed.

The character of J.M. Hampton was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of M.D. Fly was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

A communication from the army mission committee of the M.E. Church, South, was presented; and having been read was referred to the Committee on Missions.

C.C. Glover, chairman of the Committee on Missions, was requested and authorized to act in place of Saml Watson, Missionary Treasurer, until the annual meeting of the Missionary Society.

*Question First* was taken up: “Who are admitted on trial?”

Thos. G. Freeman, Ripley Cir., Holly Springs District.

Baylor B. Parker, Aberdeen Cir., Aberdeen District.

Henry C. Morrison, Pontotoc Circuit, Aberdeen District.—having been recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences and having satisfied the Annual Conference as to their literary qualifications, were admitted on trial.
Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop to meet at 6½ o’clock, p.m.

Thursday Evening, Nov. 10th 1864

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair.
Conference adjourned with the benediction.

Friday Morning, Nov. 11th 1864

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious exercises led by J.M. Spence.
The minutes of yesterday’s session were read and approved.
The Committee on Sunday Schools presented their Report, which having been read, was adopted.
The Committee on Education presented their Report, which having been read, was adopted.
The Rev. S.M. Cherry of the Tennessee Conf., and the Rev’ds. J.B. Stone and W.H. Leith, of the Alabama Conf., all chaplains in the Army of Tennessee, were introduced by the Bishop.

Question Sixteenth was taken up: What is the number of preachers and members in the several circuits stations and missions of the Conference?

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<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Probationers</th>
<th>Colored Members</th>
<th>Colored Probs.</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<td>75</td>
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Holly Springs District

| Holly Springs Sta.    | 164           | 00                 | 41              | 10            | 3               |
| " Circuit            | 184           | 3                  | 65              | 10            | 2               |
| Byhalia Cir.          | 220           | 62                 | 33              | 29            | 3               |
| Chulahoma Cir.        | 664           | 112                | 55              | 10            | 3               |
| " Col. Miss.         | -             | -                  | -               | -             | -               |
| Sardis Cir.           | 256           | 3                  | 209             | 00            | 0               |
| Marshall Cir.         | 387           | 25                 | 55              | 00            | 3               |
| Salem "              | 225           | 81                 | 50              | -             | 22              |
| Ripley "             | 261           | 55                 | 25              | 00            | 4               |
| Hickory Flat "       | 250           | 40                 | 20              | 8             | 6               |
### Iuka District

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### Aberdeen District

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### Mississippi Bottom District

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(47)

*Question Fourth* was taken up: "Who are readmitted?"

Philip R. Hoyle and Archibald C. Allen in elders' orders and Wm. E. Ellis in deacon's orders were readmitted.

*Question Second* was taken up: "Who remain on trial?"

Wilbur F. Mister having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed and he remains on trial.

*Questions Third and Seventh* were taken up: "Who are admitted into full connection?" And "What travelling preachers are elected and ordained deacons?"

John W. McIver being absent as chaplain in the army, the Conference dispensed with the requirement to be examined by a committee and his character was passed, and he was admitted into full connection and ordained a deacon.

*Question Sixth* was taken up: "Who are deacons of one year?"

Bascom S. Pearson and John C. Lowe, having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed.

*Question Eighth* was taken up: "What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?"

Thomas G. Freeman, J.J. Hunter, J.W. Wilson, J.W. Ferrell, Thos. J. Young, [Hickory Flat] Circuit, Oxford " " Grenada " " Calhoun " "
having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, were ordained elders. [deacons]

*Question Ninth* was taken up: "What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders?"

G.W. Bachman, W.L. Kistler and W.W. Pearson having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were elected elders.

Y.L. Duke, R.G. Porter, Thos. H. Davenport, and T.C. Ellis, being connected with the army, and therefore absent, the Conference dispensed with the requirement to be examined by a committee, and their characters were passed and they were elected elders.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

**Saturday Morning, Nov. 12th 1864**

Conference met according to appointment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services by D.M. Proctor.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved. Jno. Young and W.T. Jones appeared and took their seats.

The Committee on Memoirs presented the following report which having been read was adopted, viz:

Our beloved brother, Alexander S. Hamilton, died during the month of October, 1863, a prisoner on Johnson's Island - no tidings of his death having reached the Conference at its last session.

He was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference in the fall of 1856, and filled the following appointments, viz: Richmond, Eastport, Rienzi, and Ripley circuits.

He enlisted in the year 1861 in defense of his country's cause, was elected Captain, and afterward Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Reg't Mississippi Volunteers, which position he occupied till his death.

He, with his command, was captured at Fort Donelson, and after long confinement in a northern prison, was finally exchanged and stationed at Port Hudson, which with its garrison surrendered to the enemy in July, 1863. He was carried from there to Johnson's Island where he breathed his last.

Our information in regard to his last illness and death, is necessarily meagre; but we have the satisfaction to learn that he preached often to his fellow prisoners, formed and led a large Bible class, and was eminently useful.

He never comprised [sic] his Christian or Ministerial character but maintained his integrity to the last.

He was an able, faithful expositor of God's holy word, and preached with acceptability and usefulness.

Respectfully Submitted,

W.D. Howell, Chairman

The Committee on the Bible Cause presented their report upon which, having been read was adopted.

The vote by which the character of S.B. Carson was passed, was on motion reconsidered, and M.J. Blackwell, A.C. Allen, and L.H. Davis, were appointed to inquire into certain alleged objections to his character.

*Question Tenth* was taken up: "What local preachers were elected & ordained elders?" Wm. E. Ellis, Rienzi Circuit, Iuka District, having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference, and having certified his belief in the
doctrines of our church; and his willingness to conform to the discipline thereof, was elected an elder.

Question Thirteenth was taken up: ‘‘Who are superannuated?’’ The characters of W.R. Dickey, Elias Tidwell, Jno. Hunter and D.C. Wells, were examined and passed and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

D.M.K. Collins and Elias Jackson were granted a supernumerary relation. The character of W.C. Green was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of J.M. Barton and J.T. Talley were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

Question Eighth was resumed: ‘‘What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?’’

Cuthbert B. Shelton, Salem Circuit, Holly Springs District, having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference, was elected deacon.

Question Fifth was taken up: ‘‘Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?’’

The Bishop announced the transfer of D.M. Proctor from the St. Louis Conf. The report of the Committee on the State of the Church was presented, and having been read, was amended and adopted.

The report of the Committee on the ‘‘Support and Education of the Orphans of Soldiers’’, was presented and read; also a communication from the Governor of the State to Bishop Paine, respecting the proceedings of the Convention at Jackson on the same subject. The report was discussed at some length on a motion to recommit, and a substitute to adopt - M.J. Blackwell in the chair. Pending the discussion, the session was extended.

Bishop Paine resumed the chair and Conference adjourned with the benediction.

Monday Morning, Nov. 14th 1864

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services led by C.C. Glover.

The minutes of Saturday’s session were read and approved.

The Committee in the case of S.B. Carson presented their report which was adopted.

The committee appointed to solicit a copy of Brother Blackwell’s Sermon - the committee consisting of J.T. Meriwether, J. Moss, and A. Kendall -- presented their report which was received.

The Stewards presented their report which was read and adopted.

Leave of absence was on motion, granted J.A. Fife during the remainder of the session.

The Bishop reported the names of the following persons ordained deacons by him in the Methodist Church yesterday morning, viz: J.W. Bonnell, Thos. G. Foreman, Jno. J. Hunter, Jno. W. Wilson, Jasper W. Ferrell and Cuthbert B. Shelton.

The Bishop reported the names of the following persons ordained elders by him in the Methodist Church, yesterday afternoon, viz: G.W. Bachman, W.L. Kistler, W.W. Pearson, David M. Proctor, And Wm. C. Ellis.

The report of the Committee on the ‘‘Support and Education of Soldiers’ Orphans’’ was taken from the table and the discussion resumed. Several speeches having been made, the report of the Committee was adopted.

Bishop Paine, W.C. Johnson, and Jno. Moss, were appointed a committee to memorialize the Legislature in reference to the policy of the State as to the Support and Education of Soldiers’ Orphans & c. [children?]

A call was made for a meeting of the Executive Committee tomorrow morning at 9 o’clock in the preacher’s study.

The society adjourned to meet at the time and place of the next session of the Annual Conference unless sooner convened by the Executive Committee.

The report of the committee on Publishing interest was presented and after
some remarks by the Rev. S.M. Cherry, in behalf of the "Soldiers’ Tract Association", was adopted.

The Presiding Elder of the Holly Springs District was, on motion, granted a copy of the minutes in the case of S.B. Carson.

James Gaines was, on motion, granted a supernumerary relation.

Conference resolved to hold its next annual session at such time and place as may be designated by the Bishop appointed to preside.

Conference resolved to meet tonight after preaching, and then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Monday Night, Nov. 14th 1864

Conference met according to adjournment-Bishop Paine in the chair-having been preceded by a sermon and other religious exercises.

The minutes of the Morning Session were read and approved.

The Committee on Missions presented their report which was read & adopted.

The amount reported for Missions is $8742.30. The amount necessary to meet the claims of superannuated preachers, widows, and orphans of deceased preachers and the deficiencies of travelling preachers in the five Districts represented is--$3705.00.

The amount collected on the above is $4215.00 applied to the claims of Bishop Soule, superannuated preachers, widows, and orphans of deceased preachers and deficiencies of travelling preachers.

It was resolved that John Moss be appointed to preach the Conference Sermon on the first night of our next annual session.

It was resolved that the missionary money in the hands of the acting treasurer be placed in the care of Bishop Paine.

The following resolution was adopted by a rising vote, viz:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the citizens of Aberdeen for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained us during our session.

It was resolved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet upon the call of Bishop Paine, after the reception of the minutes of the Advisory Session of the Conference at Brownsville, Tenn.

The following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we hereby express our deep affection for, and warm sympathy with our brethren, members of our Conference, in West Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, and we earnestly pray for the day when we may be reunited with them.

The Bishop made a brief and impressive address to the members, when the Conference joined in singing a hymn, which was followed by prayer led by W.C. Johnson.

The Bishop announced the following appointments for the ensuing year, viz:

Grenada District, T.P. Holeman, P.E.
Grenada Station, S.W. Moore
" Circuit, John F. Markham; W.C. Green, Sup.
Coffeeville " Col. Mission, D.M. Proctor
" Circ., John Barcroft
Oxford Station, John Barcroft
" Circuit, W.L. Jones
Charleston ", A.K. Miller

Holly Springs Circuit, John Moss, P.E.
Holly Springs Station, J.H. Brooks; E. Jackson, sup.
" Circuit, W.L. Kistler; C.B. Harris, Sup.
Byhalia Circuit, R.A. Neblett
Chulahoma Cir., W.S. Harrison, one to be supplied; A.P. Sage, sup
Sardis Cir., A. Kendall, one to be supplied.
Salem Cir., to be supplied; L.B. Carson, Sup.
Hickory Flat Cir., Thos. G. Freeman.

_Iuka Mission District_, H.D. Howell, P.E.

Iuka Circuit, to be supplied.
Corinth Circuit, to be supplied; J. Gaines, Sup.
Ripley Cir., B.W. Stubbs.
Rienzi Cir., P.R. Hoyle.
Middleton Cir., W.E. Ellis.
Marietta Cir., J.W. Honnell.
Rock Spring Cir., to be supplied.
Montezuma Cir., R.G. Rainey.
Jack's Creek Miss., to be supplied.
Good Spring Cir., T.J. Gooch, one to be supplied.

_Aberdeen District_, J.T. Meriwether, P.E.

Aberdeen Sta., A.J. Lee.
Aberdeen Col. Miss., B.B. Barker, John Young.
Aberdeen Cir., W.T. Harris.
Prairie Col. Miss., J.A. Fife
Houston Cir., James M. Spence
Okolona Cir., A.C. Allen, J.M. Barton, Sup.
Fulton Cir., D.C. Johnson
Baldwin Cir., W.W. Pearson; J.T. Talley, sup

_Mississippi Bottom District_, C.C. Glover, P.E.

Tunica Cir. and Col. Miss., M.M. Dunn; F.A. Owen, Sup.
Friar's Point Cir., A.C. Lowe, one to be supplied; T.P. Davidson, Sup
Concordia Cir., F.C. Pearson, B.T. Pearson.
Richland Cir., G.W. Bachman.
and D.C. Wells, Superan.
Byhalia Female Institute, P.J. Eckles
S.L. Duke in C.S. army, and connected with Pontotoc Cir.
R.G. Porter, Chaplain of 10th Miss. Regiment.
W.B. Owen, " 17th "
W.F. Mister, " Co. Denis' Regt. Reserves
J.B. McCutchen, Chaplain 7th Kentucky Regt.
T.H. Davenport, " 3rd Tennessee "
N.C. Morrison, " 8th Kentucky "
J.W. McIver, Chaplain 12th Miss. Regt.
H.C. Johnson, Missionary Chaplain to Cavalry troops in North Miss.
Isaac Ebbert, General Superintendent for the Soldiers' Orphans Aid Society
Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

_W.C. Johnson Sec'y_  
W.C. Johnson, Sec'y  
R. Paine
REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Conference in session at Aberdeen, Miss., Nov. 9th 1864.

Sabbath Schools

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following:

In consequence of the disturbed condition of our country, the number of appointments heard from is very limited. We have, however, reports from twelve circuits and stations, with the following results, viz: 34 schools, 1194 pupils, 172 officers and teachers with 1630 Vols. in library.

We are happy to say that there are some prosperous schools in our Conference. Nearly all the pupils in the Grenada Station, have embraced religion and joined the church.

From Byhalia Circuit also, 19 conversions were reported. The scarcity of books is a great difficulty in the way of our Sabbath School enterprise; nevertheless, on some works, schools are successfully conducted without regular libraries.

We are as much as ever convinced of the great importance of Sabbath Schools as a means of doing good; and trust we shall feel more and more this importance, and be led by a sense of duty, to regular and persistent efforts in behalf of our Sabbath School interests.

Nov. 11th 1864

Respectfully Submitted

T.J. Lowry, Ch’n.

Education

The Committee on Education would report generally, that the educational interests within the bounds of our Conference, have suffered very greatly by the unsettled state of the country. In only a few places has it been found practicable to keep our schools open at all; and where they are in operation it is only on a limited scale.

The committee have received reports from only two of our conference schools—the Byhalia Female Institute, and Marshall Female Institute.

The former is still under the care of Rev. P.J. Eckles; and considering the troubles by which it is surrounded, arising out of the uncivilized doings of our enemies, is still maintaining its former reputation, and doing good service to the church and community.

There are in attendance some thirty pupils, and all is going on harmoniously. The trustees desire the continuance of Bro. Eckles, and the committee recommend that the request be granted.

The Marshall Female Institute. This old and well-tried establishment has its full quota of the troubles of the times, but with Rev. J.E. Douglas at its head, it is still marching on in its career of usefulness. The Institute reports forty pupils, most of whom are in the advanced classes.

It affords us pleasure to affirm again our confidence in and respect for the Marshall Female Institute; and we cordially recommend the appointment of Rev. J.E. Douglas as its President.

From the Bascom Female Seminary your committee has no report. We know, however, that it has been closed for more than two years—most of the time in the hands of the Government, and used for a hospital.

We think it could now be reopened; which for many and strong reasons ought to be done.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution; viz:

Resolved. That the Trustees of the Bascom Female Seminary be, and hereby,
are respectfully requested to use their earnest endeavors to put the Seminary in motion at the earliest practicable period.

All of this which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

Nov. 11th 1864

Isaac Ebbert, Ch’n.

Conference Sermon

Resolved 1. That it is the sense of this body that the Conference Sermon delivered by the Rev. M.J. Blackwell on last night ought to be published.

Resolved 2. That a committee of three be appointed to wait on Bro. Blackwell, and solicit said sermon for publication.

The committee who were appointed to wait on Bro. M.J. Blackwell and request for publication the Conference sermon delivered by him, submit the following report.

Aberdeen, Miss., Nov. 14th 1864

Rev. M.J. Blackwell:

Dear Brother,

The Conference having listened with pleasure and profit to the Conference Sermon delivered by you on Thursday evening, although it may contain some thoughts about which divines may differ, have appointed us a Committee to wait on you, and solicit its publication.

We hope you will find it consistent with both your health and feelings to grant this request of the Conference.

Your brethren,

J.T. Meriwether
Jno. Moss
Amos Kendall

Aberdeen, Miss., Nov. 14th 1864

Rev’ds J.T. Meriwether, Jno. Moss, and Amos Kendall,

Dear Brethren,

Your note of this morning requesting a copy of the sermon delivered before the Memphis Annual Conference on the 10th inst., is before me.

I confess it is with some reluctance that I comply with the wishes expressed in your note; but as the judgement of the Conference may be better than my own, I will, therefore, if I can remove a difficulty, of which you are apprised, furnish you a copy in substance, as it has not yet been written.

Respectfully Yours,

M.J. Blackwell

The Presiding Elder of Aberdeen District, the preacher in charge of Aberdeen Station, and Rev. W.C. Johnson were appointed a committee to publish the sermon—the sermon and the funds to publish to be obtained by the first-named, and forwarded to W.C. Johnson, who is to procure the publication, and place the copies in their hands for distribution.

Nov. 14th 1864

Case of S.B. Carson

The committee to whom was referred the case of S.B. Carson beg leave to report:

That after careful examination, we feel compelled to entertain some fears as to the propriety of our brother’s conduct as a minister, and yet the evidence before us does not justify the bringing of grave charges against him.
We, therefore, in view of all circumstances, recommend that his character be passed.

November 14th 1864

M. J. Blackwell, Ch'n.

State of the Church

The committee appointed to report on the *State of the Church*, temporal and spiritual, beg leave to submit that the subject presents itself to them in the following phases of the case.

The damages sustained as resulting from the condition of the country, and the course of our enemies in the prosecution of the war-how the church has borne herself in the conflict, and what, by the Divine blessing she has accomplished, and-what are our duties in the premises?

These leading thoughts a little elaborated, will, perhaps constitute the best report that under the circumstances, the committee ought to be expected to make.

The first injury to the church that we think it important to mention, results unavoidably from the war and consists in the deranging and breaking up of our church organizations, by taking so many of our male members to the field. There are few charges that have not had their official boards seriously dismembered; while in many cases, not only officers, but the entire male membership have left their places and gone into the service, leaving what remains of the church to the preacher to do the best he can in the midst of discouragements and difficulties surrounding.

Next to this, the committee would mention the vandal-like course of our enemies in regard to the property of the church.

Not content with despoiling our people of what they have, leaving them in many instances without food to eat, or even raiment to put on, these rabble hordes must, as they have in many instances done, destroy or desecrate our churches whenever they felt it safe to go.

Eleven church edifices have been burnt to the ground, and many others desecrated in a manner too abominable to mention. Alas for creatures in human shape, who can stable their horses in the temple of God, or display their beastly orgies in the Sanctuary of the Most High!

We have been further robbed by the same inglorious hands, of Church records, Sunday School papers and libraries. Neither the altar nor the furniture of the Solemn Sacrament, nor has the Holy Bible itself escaped their vindictive hate. Our Conference Journal has also gone the way of Yankee thieving.

That book was stolen from a private trunk in a private room of a private house in Oxford, Mississippi.

Owing to the state of things, and perhaps to some extent, to the fact that many of the preachers have gone to the war, either as chaplains, or into the ranks, it has occurred that some charges have been without pastors-a sad dispensation to the churches so afflicted-leaving the fold to be uncared for, or scattered as the winds may blow.

It might have been expected that under these unfavorable circumstances the progress of the church would have been greatly retarded, if not, for the time, positively arrested; and but for the Divine blessing these or worse results would have followed. But our people being firm in tribulation and even joyful in distress, the Lord has brought them by a way they knew not. Some indeed have fallen entirely away, and but too many are indifferent and secure; but for the most part, our members within our bounds have neither been allured from duty by excitement, nor discouraged by the troubles of the times. They seem distinctly to apprehend and appreciate their true religious status; and there is reason to believe that with a good degree of unanimity, they betook themselves to the strong for strength, and as the result of strong faith and fervent prayer, the Church has not only held her
own but in many places has strengthened her stakes and enlarged her borders. Revivals, genuine powerful and extensive, have been realized in many parts of our work, and hundreds of precious souls have been gathered into the fold of Christ.

From the best information we can obtain, there have not been less than twelve hundred conversions and more than that number added to the church within the five districts our report represents; and we rejoice to know that the religious prosperity of our brethren in other parts of the Conference is at least equal to ours.

The personal piety of many of our members is undoubtedly improving; and we hear of prayer and praise wherever we go, and of altars - private altars and family altars - long since broken down, but now re-erected and smoking with the incense of a grateful offering to God.

The preachers are as well supported as, under the circumstances could be expected; and they are joyfully content, while a delightful harmony pervades their brotherly councils.

In Missionary Contributions, our people have been quite as liberal as heretofore, and the other monied interests of the church are in good condition. We only regret that our Sabbath Schools, more perhaps, on account of the condition of the country than anything else, are not as flourishing as in former days. In due time it is hoped, the Conference and the Church will see to this.

In the midst of the blessings we are permitted to enjoy, we recognize it as our first duty, to be devoutly grateful to God for His Mercy, and then we may glance at the future and see what can be done in the way of preparation for its trials and its toils.

Besides our general work, we have some definite ends to accomplish, and it were well to cast around, and see how their objects may be best reached. In view of the wants and - we may add - of the wishes [of] the Church, while we do not think it is a good policy to increase the number of Church organizations, the Committee nevertheless feel that it is their duty to recommend to the Conference, whenever it can be done, a renewal of the old practice of neighborhood preaching - in private houses if need be. The people need more preaching than Sabbath and Sabbath Churches afford them.

Night preachings are, in many portions of the country, unpracticable, and were they not so, they would be imprudent. The female portions of our congregations with none to accompany them, and nothing to ride - the horses and carriages having been generally taken from the country - cannot now attend church as formerly, and the need is occasional preaching nearer home.

By holding small meetings in the day-time the preachers would have a better opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with the people, of visiting the members of the church and of instructing the children, which in the judgment of the Committee would be attended with incalculable good.

Another item of interest which we feel it our duty to bring to the notice of the Conference is the proper care of the young people brought into the church in the revivals with which we have been recently favored. These lambs of the flock must not be neglected. When young converts or seekers fall away from their religious purpose, it is with greatly increased difficulty that we prevail upon them to renew the effort; and if we, succeed, they are often inclined to look to other communions for that encouragement and assistance they have failed to find with us. Their salvation is in an important sense committed to us, and who shall cover our heads in the great day of reckoning, if we do not care for them as we ought?

The committee would remind all the Conference that everything indicates that the ensuing year is to be one of peculiar sacrifice and toil; and since it must be a year of unusual trial, may we not hope, and will we not labor and pray that it may be one of signal success?

Nov. 12th 1864

J.T. Meriwether, Ch'n.
Bible Cause

We are, as heretofore, deeply impressed with the importance of disseminating the word of life among all classes of men, and fully recognize the obligation of the church to employ his means and energies in this work.

We regard the Confederate States Bible Society as an institution well calculated to promote this work, and are gratified to learn that it has been industriously engaged in furnishing the Holy Scriptures for distribution in the army. This is noble work and ought not to be neglected.

The Committee therefore recommend for adoption the following resolution, viz: Resolved That we have unqualified confidence in the Confederate States Bible Society, and will cordially cooperate with its duly appointed agents with whom we may meet in our respective charges.

Nov. 12th 1864

Board of Stewards

Amount of Conference Collection $4215.00

Apportioned as follows, viz:

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<th>Amount</th>
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Nov. 12th 1864

Support and Education of Soldiers’ Orphans.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the “Support and Education” of the indigent children of deceased and disabled soldiers of our country beg leave to report:

Our country is involved in an awful struggle for independence, and hundreds of thousands of the bravest and best men of the land have died and are dying for the maintenance of civil and religious liberty. Many leave behind them children needing a "helping hand", that being supported and educated, they may be qualified for the duties of life as well as they would have been if their natural protectors had survived the fortunes of war.

The needy children also of those soldiers disabled by violence or disease, belong properly to the same class as those whose fathers have given their lives for their country. This large class, increasing every day, have unusual and peculiar claims upon the public for support and education-claims which should be promptly met by the great body of the people. These claims are imperative. They are enforced by gratitude to our noble army of martyrs, pity for their helpless offspring, and by those higher considerations which relate to the future welfare of society, and the progress and triumph of Christianity, as they are connected with the nurture and training of the youth of our Country.

Besides, the anxious eyes of our soldiers are often fixed upon the people at home. And what is so likely to animate and strengthen them in the performance
of duty, and console them when dying, as the assurance that their dear children
will not be neglected by their surviving countrymen?

There are, and will be many just claimants of support and education, we are
well aware that voluntary liberality alone will not be sufficient for the accomplishment
of the work, and it will be necessary for the state by taxation to furnish a large
share of the means requisite to effect without failure the object in view. Therefore
we pledge ourselves in favor of early and efficient legislation in this behalf. But
we believe, in view of present and pressing necessities it is neither just nor generous
to wait for the action of the state; and besides, it is wrong to depend wholly thereupon
on account of the heavy public indebtedness of the country, and the consequent
uncertainty and probable insufficiency of legislation in favor of these needy children.

The people should go to work in this cause immediately, and hereafter the
state should, upon an equitable basis, extend aid in part, at least, to such
instrumentalities as may be put in successful operation by the churches jointly, or
singly, and by other voluntary associations.

The Methodist E. Church, South, has been for some time fully alive to the
importance of this subject. The council thereof, held in Montgomery, Ala., in May
last, recommended that conventions in reference to it be held in the bounds of the
Annual Conferences.

Such have been held in almost every part of the country, and plans have been
adopted and put in motion, giving fair promise of effecting much good. In our
bounds, and in this place, a convention was called by the Rev. Bishop Paine, and
held in July last-the first movement in this cause in this state, as we believe.

Citizens, not of our communion, were specially invited, and participated with
us in the convention.

A provisional organization was effected, and it resulted in a call for another
convention in Columbus during the past month, to be composed of citizens of the
state irrespective of denominations. This convention assembled, and was attended
by gentlemen from the Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches,
and others not of any church.

Harmony and deep interest in the cause were displayed, but the Convention
did not perfect an organization, as it was thought advisable to wait the action of
other meetings soon to be held in Jackson and Crawfordsville; to which delegates
were appointed in the hope of securing at no distant day, the earnest and general
cooperation of the whole people of the state. We have not heard from the meeting
in Jackson. We have learned that the meeting in Crawfordsville took such actions
as indicates the purpose of the Baptists to work by themselves in this cause; though
we would express here our strong desire that they and all others, as we are ready
to do, may yet be induced to unite in a Christian and patriotic organization for
the promotion of this Christian and patriotic enterprise.

We are prepared at any day to join such an organization, and are willing to
adopt any proper measures to induce as many as possible to cooperate with us.

Meanwhile, as the Church is the steward of God's poor, and they are now
needing His means, which He has placed in our hands for them, we propose to
make a very simple, and yet, we hope, efficient organization-to be temporary or
permanent as may be determined by the events of the future, and especially by
the course in reference to cooperation which may be hereafter adopted by the people
of the state. If others assume the responsibility of separate action in a great matter
of common interest, we must yield to the necessities of the case, and proceed to
the performance of our part of the work, as a denomination, avoiding, however,
the offensiveness of Sectarianism, and seeking the cooperation of all Christian and
patriotic citizens.
We submit the following Constitution for a Society:

**Constitution**

I. This Society shall be called the "Soldiers' Orphans' Aid Society of the M.E. Church, South, in North Mississippi," and shall be composed of the ministers of said Church in North Miss., and, of all other persons who shall contribute to its funds and affix their signature to this Constitution.

The Society shall elect such officers as are usual and necessary; and shall meet according to adjournment, or upon the call of the Executive Committee-(hereafter provided for) of which due and timely public notice shall be given.

II. The object of the Society shall be the support and education of the indigent children of deceased, disabled and needy soldiers of our country in North Mississippi.

All funds given to the Society shall be held as a sacred trust to be devoted to this object only, so long as such children remain in need of aid; and if, thereafter, any values such as bonds, or other securities remain in hand, they shall be applied to the education of other orphans in North Mississippi.

III. The Society shall appoint an Executive Committee of seven persons (subject to change at any meeting of the Society, and in the interim, vacancies to be filled by the Executive Committee) one of whom shall be designated as the Treasurer of the Society. He shall hold all funds of the Society committed to him, subject to the order of the Executive Committee, through the chairman thereof.

The Executive Committee shall adopt its own Rules and By-Laws for the purpose of effecting the object of the Society, which though, must be consistent with this Constitution.

The Executive Committee shall have special supervision and control of the several superintendents and social agents hereafter provided for, and shall arrange all needful matters in relation to their operations, holding them strictly responsible for the performance of their work-dismissing or suspending therefrom, if they are not faithful to their duties. The Executive Committee shall make full written report of all operations at every meeting of this Society.

IV. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the duty of endeavoring to secure the co-operation of the people generally, in behalf of this cause, and shall have authority within the next twelve months, to merge this Society into any association having the same work in hand, and likely to secure the harmonious support of the public for its accomplishment.

V. There shall be a General Superintendent-elected by the Society and if a travelling preacher, appointed by the President of the Annual Conference.

It shall be his duty, publicly and privately, by addresses and through the press, to present this cause to the people, and solicit funds for its advancement. Funds specially directed by the donor, shall be applied accordingly. All other funds shall be placed by him in the hands of the Treasurer of the Executive Committee, except such as the General Superintendent may apply under the direction of the Executive Committee to the support and education of the proper beneficiaries. All funds coming into his hands must be strictly accounted for to the Executive Committee; and disbursements must be proved by proper vouchers according to regulations made by the Executive Committee, to whom also he must make written reports of all his operations.

VI. The General Superintendent shall appoint local agents to be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

These agents are expected to employ their time of leisure from their regular business in collecting funds for the Society, for which they must account to the Executive Committee through the General Superintendent, making their reports and forwarding all funds obtained to him, except such as, under the direction of
the Executive Committee, through the General Superintendent, they may apply to the support and education of proper beneficiaries.

They shall perform such other duties as may be desolved upon them by the Executive Committee through the General Superintendent.

VII. This Constitution may be altered by a two thirds vote of the members present at any meeting, except Article VI.

Respectfully Submitted,
W.C. Johnson, Ch’n.

Aberdeen, Miss.; Nov. 12th 1864.

The Society proceeded to organize, and elected the following officers, viz:

A.C. Allen, President
C.C. Glover, Vice President
W.C. Johnson, Secretary
R. Paine
B.B. Barker, Treasurer
R.C. Clark
W.C. Johnson
W.A. Sykes
W.H. Clopton
F.G. Henley

Isaac Ebbert, General Superintendent.

Publishing Interests

The committee to whom was referred the state of the publishing interests of the M.E. Church, South, beg leave to report.

That they are gratified to learn through information furnished by the Bishop, of the continued safety of the Publishing House in Nashville, and that the Southern Christian Advocate, the North Carolina Christian Advocate, and the Richmond Christian Advocate are still afloat, and promise by the cordial support of the church and her ministers, to outride the storm of war.

The Soldiers’ Tract Association of the M.E. Church South, has been doing a good work during the past year. Their consolidated report shows, 1. that they have published and distributed to the Soldiers this year 575,000 papers; 4,000,000 pages of tracts; 70,000 hymn books, and 83,000 purchased Bibles and Testaments. 2. That the estimated value of all these distributions is $300,000. 3. That the yearly receipts of the society amount to $190,000. 4. that the expenditures have been $187,000. 5. that the Army of Tennessee has been furnished during the past year with the average of 50 papers, 100 hymn books, and 1000 pages of tracts to the regiment.

In view of all which, we recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved That the Conference receives with devout gratitude to God, and hearty appreciation of the efforts of the principal and subordinate agents of the Soldiers’ Tract Association, the cheering intelligence contained in their report, and pledges its cordial co-operation with their agents, whenever and wherever practicable.

Nov. 13th 1864
W.T. Harris, Ch’n.

Missions

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report their unabated confidence in our domestic missionary operations, and their continued hopes and ardent prayers for more abundant success. From our colored missions we have reports only in part.

Aberdeen Colored Mission has been served by Rev. John Young, who reports 303 members and 24 probationers. Amount paid the missionary $640.00.
That part of the mission in the city reported to be in very good condition—the portion in the county not so good.

The Missionary recommends that the mission be continued.

Prairie Colored Mission served by Rev. T.J. Lowry, who reports 386 members and 19 probationers.

This mission, though somewhat disturbed by the enemies' raids is reported as an interesting and promising field. Its continuance is recommended.

In reference to our Army Mission, our Conference has but one missionary in the field, Rev. W.C. Johnson whose labors are confined to the Cavalry of North Miss. Bro. Johnson gives encouraging accounts of his labors; and we learn from other sources that they have been abundant.

He has distributed a good many Testaments and about 120,000 pages of tracts, besides some other religious reading.

The Committee think this work ought to be prosecuted with all the vigor and means the Conference can command; that additional laborers should, if possible, be put into the field.

There is another item of importance the Committee would specially recommend, that is, that provision be made for supplementing the salaries of those brethren appointed to chaplaincies from this body. The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

1. Resolved That the Conference approve the appointment of as many army missionaries and chaplains as it can raise means to support.

2. Resolved That the preachers be required to take up two collections during the year for this purpose; the first in January and the second in June.

Respectfully submitted,
C.C. Glover, Ch'n.

W.C. Johnson, Sec'y

Brownsville, Tenn. Nov. 9th 1864

The advisory session of the Memphis Annual Conference met in the Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tenn., Nov. 9th, 1864, and was called to order, and opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer led by Thos. Joyner.

G.W.D. Harris, having been appointed by Bishop Paine to preside, he was called to the chair.

The roll was called and the following members answered to their names, viz:


J.H. Evans was nominated and elected Secretary, and J.W. Mathis, Assistant Secretary.

The Conference resolved to meet at 8½ o'clock, AM, and adjourn at 12½ o'clock, P.M.

J.T.C. Collins was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Financial Board.

The bar of the Conference was fixed at the second pillar from the pulpit.

The following Committees were appointed, viz:

Missions: B. Medlin, F.M. Morris, R.S. Harris
Sabbath Schools: T. Joyner, A.C. Smith, J.B. Harris
To Examine Candidates for Admission: J.H. Evans, B.H. Bishop

" 1st year's class: A.C. Smith, C.J. Mauldin.
" 2nd " J.T.C. Collins, J. Perry
" 3rd " B. Medlin, Jos. B. Harris
To Examine 4th year's class: B.H. Bishop, J.W. Boswell

Memoirs: J.T.C. Collins

Education: B.H. Bishop, J.T.C. Collins, A.C. Smith

Stewards: W.D.F. Hafford, J.W. Knott

Public Worship: J.H. Evans, B.H. Bishop

The vote by which J.W. Boswell was appointed on the committee for the examination of candidates was reconsidered, and R.H. Burns elected in his stead.

Question Fifteenth was taken up: "Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?"

The character of S. Watson was examined and passed.

The character of D.J. Allen was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation. The characters of J.W. Knott and G.K. Brooks were examined and passed.

The character of J.L. Denton was examined and passed, and he was granted a location.

The character of F.A. Wilkerson was examined and passed. The character of E.J. Williams was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of W.C. Green was examined and passed.

The character of P. Tuggle was examined and passed, and he continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of L.D. Mullins was examined and passed.

The character of R.V. Taylor was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of G.S. Boswell, W.D.F. Hafford, and J.W. Walkup were examined and passed.

The character of J.T. Baskerville was examined and passed, and he continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of F.M. Morris, J.H. Garrett, W.M. McFerrin, and J.W. Shelton were examined and passed.

The characters of W.H. Leigh, J. Perry, A.C. Smith, C.J. Mauldin, B.A. Hayes, T.G. Lane, B. Medlin, P.J. Kelsey, J.R. Sykes, A.W. Jones, N.P. Ramsey, J.D. Slaughter, and J.T.C. Collins were examined and passed.

Conference adjourned.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 10th 1864

Conference met according to adjournment - G.W.D. Harris in the chair, and was opened with religious exercises led by W.D.F. Hafford.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: "Are all the preachers blameless in their lives and official administration?" The character of N.A.D. Bryant was passed.

On motion T.S. Boswell was granted a supernumerary relation.

On motion G.K. Brooks was granted a location.

The characters of E.E. Hamilton, J.W. Mathis, H.B. Covington were examined and passed.

The character of N. Sullivan was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of J.B. Harris and J.H. Witt were examined and passed.

The character of W.B. Ramsey was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of J.P.[V.] Fly was examined and passed.

The character of J.D. Slaughter was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.
The character of Lorenzo Lea was examined and passed, and he continued in a supernumerary relation. The characters of G.W.D. Harris and R.H. Burns were examined and passed. The character of R.M. Tarrant was examined & passed, and he continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of J.H. Evans, B.H. Bishop, and R.A. Umstead were examined and passed.

The character of J.M. Scott was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of W.J. Mahon was examined and passed.

Question First was taken up: "Who are admitted on trial?"

Isham L. Burrow from Trenton District, and W.W. Fawcett from the Trenton District, having stood a satisfactory examination before the committee, were admitted on trial.

Question Eighth was taken up: "What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?"

J.W. Mitchell, from Capers Chapel, Memphis District
J.P. Stewart " Greenwood Station " " "
Warren B. Seward " Trenton Cir., Trenton District " " "
Isham L. Burrow " " " " "
Wm. Christenberry " Pleasant Plains, " " "
J.L.W. Browning " Brownsville Cir., Dyersburg " " "
A.C. Ray " " " " "
Daniel H. Kass " Lagrange " Somerville District " "
J.F. Williams " Denmark " Jackson " "
J.W. Randolph " Mt. Pinson " " " "
Auburn J. Curtis " Cageville " " " "
J.R. Brewer " " " " "
A.M. Smith " Dresden " Dresden District " "
Martin Shikle " Hickman Cir. " "
Harvey M. Ramsey " Obion " Dyersburg " "
Henry Buchanan " " " " "
John J. Smith " " " " "

Were severally elected to deacons' orders.

Question Sixteenth was taken up: "What is the number of preachers & members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memphis District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Colored Mem's</th>
<th>Colored Prob's</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Chapel</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absury &amp; Col. Miss.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capers' Chapel</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernando and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinds' Chapel</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Branch Cir.</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

<p>| Somerville District              |               |              |               |               |                |
| Somerville Station              | 112           | -            | 100           | -             | -              |
| Lagrange Circuit                | 368           | -            | -             | -             | 5              |
| Lagrange Col. Miss.             | -             | -            | 198           | -             | -              |
| Macon Circuit                   | 269           | 13           | -             | -             | 3              |
| Macon Col. Miss.                | -             | -            | 145           | 40            | -              |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Colored Mem's</th>
<th>Colored Prob's</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Circuit</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>403</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Mt. Zion Circuit</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Zion Col. Miss.</td>
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<td>194</td>
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<td>Randolph Circuit</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Cypress Mission</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raleigh Circuit</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>-</td>
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**Dyersburg District**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>White Members</th>
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<td>Dyersburg Circuit</td>
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<td>Brownsville and Prospect</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>130</td>
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<td>Brownsville Circuit</td>
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<td>126</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obion Mission</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>8</td>
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**Jackson District**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Station</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>Jackson Circuit</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Mt. Pinson Cir.</td>
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<td>107</td>
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<td>Lexington Circuit</td>
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<td>Decaturville Cir.</td>
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<td>Cageville Circuit</td>
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**Trenton District**

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<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Camden Circuit</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<td>Morgan’s Creek Miss.</td>
<td>397</td>
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<td>6</td>
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**Dresden District**

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<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Benton Circuit</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Bryansburg Cir.</td>
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<td>Murray Circuit</td>
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</table>

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.
Conference met according to adjournment-G.W.D. Harris in the chair—and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by W.H. Leigh.

The minutes of yesterday’s session were read and approved.


The vote by which Wm. Christenberry was elected to deacon’s orders was reconsidered.

The President presented a report from the agent of the Book and Tract Depository which was read and received.

Question Second was taken up: “Who remain on trial?”

W.T.C. Young and J.F. Armstrong, having stood a satisfactory examination, their characters were passed and they continued on trial.

The Financial Board presented their report which was adopted.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their lives and official administration?” The characters of R. Bynum and R.S. Harris were examined and passed.

The character of Jno. Randle was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of E.B. Plummer, J.M. Flatt, A.B. Sollers, and A.L. Hunsaker were examined and passed.

The character of M.D. Robinson was examined and passed and a supernumerary relation was granted him.

The character of E.C. Slater was examined and passed.

The character of S. Weaver was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of B.B. Risenhoover was examined and passed, and a supernumerary relation was granted him.

Question Third was taken up: “Who are the deacons of one year?”

The character of J.A. McClellan was examined and passed—he having travelled three years—but not being last year, or the present—he was not elected to deacon’s orders.

The character of T.M. Melugin was examined and passed, and a supernumerary relation was granted him.

M.H. Cullom and H.B. Avery having stood a satisfactory examination their characters were examined and passed.

Question Ninth was taken up: “What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders?” R.N. Mahon, having stood a satisfactory examination, his character was passed & he was elected to elder’s orders.

Joseph W. Poston,* having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed and he elected to elder’s orders.

The name of J.R. Dycus was called, and there being some complaints against him, his case was referred to a committee consisting of T. Joyner, Wm. M. McFerrin, and James M. Scott.

M.M. Taylor having stood a satisfactory examination on the third year’s studies, his character was passed, and he elected to elders orders with the understanding that he be examined on the fourth year’s studies at the next Conference.

The characters of B.F. Peebles [Peeples] and T.C. Ellis, preachers of five years’ standing but not elected to elder’s orders, were examined and passed.

*Elected to deacon’s orders at Grenada Miss. in 1862, but unordained.
The character of J.W. Boswell—an elder—was examined and passed, he having stood an examination on the fourth year’s studies.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made their report which was adopted. Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 12th 1864.

Conference met according to adjournment, Thos Joyner in the chair, and was opened with reading from the Scriptures, singing, and prayer led by the Chairman.

The President having arrived took the chair.

The minutes of yesterday’s session were read and approved.

The committee appointed to investigate the complaints against J.R. Dycus presented their report which was adopted.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted, viz:

Whereas This end of the Memphis Conference for three years past has been without a Bishop to perform the ordination services, and whereas, the Church is suffering from the want of ordained ministers; and whereas, there is a number of local and travelling preachers in our midst who have been before elected to Deacon’s and Elder’s orders, therefore

Resolved That Bishop Paine be requested at his earliest convenience to meet the preachers elected to these orders at Corinth, Miss., and ordain them.

Resolved That the station preacher at Jackson, Tenn., be directed to send the above resolution to Bishop Paine, and that he also inform the Presiding Elders and preachers in this end of the Conference as to the time of the meeting at Corinth as soon as he gets information from the Bishop.

Question Fourth was taken up: “Who are readmitted?”

A.R. Wilson from Wesley Circuit, Memp [sic] Somerville District, being properly recommended, he was readmitted into the traveling connection.

It was ordered that $26.00 in the hands of the Financial Board be appropriated to T.M. Melugin.

The Committee on Education presented their report which was received.

Question Tenth was taken up: “What local preachers are elected and ordained elders?”

W.L. Gattis from Mt. Pinson Circuit Jackson District

Leroy D. Webb ” Lexington ” ” ”

Robt. S. Kirkman ” Denmark Cir. ” ” ”

Wm. W. Fawcett ” Bryansburg Cir Dresden Cir. [Dist.]

Being duly recommended from their respective Quarterly Conferences and certifying their belief in the doctrines of the M.E. Church, South and their willingness to conform to the form of discipline thereof, were elected to elder’s orders.

Question Thirteenth was taken up: “Who are superannuated?”

The character of J.A. Vincent, W.D. Scott, Jeremiah Moss, and J.M. Major were examined and passed and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The Committee on Mission presented their report, which was received.

The Committee on Memoirs presented the following report which was adopted, viz:

The Committee on Memoirs beg leave to submit the following report: Death has deprived us of the presence, advice and labors of our esteemed brother, Alexander S. Hamilton, who closed his earthly mission Nov. 3rd 1863. He was a native of South Carolina—was born June 16th 1822; embraced religion and identified himself with the Methodist E. Church, in the tender years of youth, and was licensed to preach in Mississippi, September 1850.

He became a member of the Memphis Conference in the fall of 1855 and from that time till the breaking out of the war, he received appointments regularly, which
he served with universal acceptability and great usefulness. In the charges where he labored, and lived he was not only beloved and honored, but he always succeeded in building up the church.

Impelled by a sense of duty, in the early part of the war, in 1861, he joined the Confederate Army, and was soon after elected Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Mississippi Regiment Volunteers, in which position he rendered much valuable service to his Country, at Fort Donelson during three days' desperate fighting in command [sic] of his regiment. Here he distinguished himself as an officer of bravery and skill.

Here he and his men were captured, whence he was taken to Fort Warren, where he remained in prison several months.

After being exchanged he and his command were sent to Port Hudson, whereupon he was put in command of a Brigade. After passing a siege of forty-two days he, with his command was again captured and carried to Johnson's Island where he remained in prison up to the time of his death.

Brother Hamilton was a true man, a faithful Christian, and a devoted patriot. He was not only a brave, energetic, and skillful officer, but he was a pious, earnest, and useful minister of the gospel. During his connection with the army, he frequently preached to his brother soldiers, in camps and in prisons, evincing great solicitude for their salvation.

In the death of Bro. Hamilton, our Conference has lost one of its most worthy and useful members.

J.T.C. Collins, Com.

B.H. Bishop and E.L. Fisher were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The Committee on Public Worship were on motion, constituted a committee to make arrangements for the Missionary Anniversary tonight at candlelighting.

The Committee of Examination on the several year's studies being imperfect, the President made the following appointments-retaining such of the standing committees as may fall in this portion of the Conference-the Committees being appointed for one year only.

To examine Candidates for Admission, J. Perry, R.H. Burns, and I.L. Burrow

1st years Class: W.D.F. Hafford, H.B. Covington, and B.

Medlin

2nd " J.H. Evans, J.T.C. Collins, and B.H. Bishop

3rd " J.H. Garrett, A.C. Smith, and J.W. Mathis

4th " A.W. Jones, J.M. Scott, and N.P. Ramsey

Question Twenty-First was taken up: "Where shall the next session of your Conference be held?" Answer, Covington, Tenn.

The sum of $882.85 is reported on the Cause of Missions.

The amounts necessary for the superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowances in their respective districts, circuits, and stations is $2,265.00.

On the above, the amount collected is $1,067.00

The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

Whereas the disciplinary allowance is not sufficient owing to the depreciated state of the currency and high prices of goods, to bear the expenses of the preachers

Resolved, That we recommend to the Stewards respectfully to adhere strictly to the gold basis in providing for the preachers, and to pay them accordingly. That, the Presiding Elders be requested to bring this resolution before the Quarterly Conference of their several circuits and stations.

It was moved and seconded that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at the Baptist Church, at 7 o'clock this evening.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.
Conference met according to adjournment, and was called to order by the President.

The minutes of the morning's session were read and approved.
The character of N. Bell was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The following resolution was adopted:
Resolved, That we return our thanks to the Rev. G.W.D. Harris for the dignified, prompt, faithful, and satisfactory manner in which he has presided over our deliberations during the session of our Conference.
The usual resolution of thanks was adopted by a rising vote.
The President proceeded to announce the following appointments for the ensuing year, viz:

**Memphis District**, S. Watson, P.E.
- Memphis
  - Wesley Chapel, J.W. Knott, E.J. Williams, sup.
  - Asbury and Col. Miss., to be supplied; D.J. Allen, sup.
  - Greenwood and Collins' Chapel, to be supplied.
  - Capers' Chapel, to be supplied.
- Hernando and Hinds' Chapel, to be supplied.
- Olive Branch Circuit, P. Tuggle.
- Book & Tract Depository, S. Watson, Ag’t.
- State Female College, Charles Collins.

**Somerville District**, L.D. Mullins, P.E.
- Somerville Station, W.D.F. Hafford; R.V. Taylor, sup.
- Lagrange Station, N.A.D. Bryant.
- Lagrange Circuit, J. Perry, J.H. Garrett; W.N. Morgan, sup.
- Lagrange Col. Miss., to be supplied.
- Macon Circuit, W.M. McFerrin; T.S. Boswell, sup.
- Wesley Circuit, A.R. Wilson, R.A. Umsted; J.T. Baskerville, sup.
- Wesley Col. Miss., Bryant Medlin.
- Mt. Zion Circuit, M.H. Cullom; J.D. Slaughter, sup.
- Mt. Zion Col. Miss., to be supplied.
- Randolph Circuit, Jos. W. Poston.
- Raleigh Circuit, to be supplied.
- Covington Station, J.W. Mathis.

**Dyersburg District**, G.W.D. Harris, P.E.
- Dyersburg Circuit, C.J. Mauldin; R.M. Tarrant, sup.
- Gibson Circuit, N.P. Ramsey.
- Brownsville and Prospect, E.E. Hamilton; B.H. Bishop, sup.
- Brownsville Circuit, J.H. Evans; J.M. Scott, sup.
- Cageville Circuit, Andrew C. Smith.

**Jackson District**, W.H. Leigh, P.E.
- Jackson Station, J.T.C. Collins; L. Lea, sup.
- Jackson Station Col. Miss., T.G. Lane.
- Jackson Circuit, John W. Boswell.
REPORTS

Adopted by the Advisory session of the Memphis Conf. at Brownsville, Tennessee, Nov. 9th 1864.

Board of Stewards

Your Financial Board beg leave to submit the following report; viz:
We find the claims to be $2,265.00
while the collections for the present year are 1,067.00
Appropriated as follows, viz.

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>R.J. Collins’ Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Soule and Bishop Paine</td>
<td>$244.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respectfully submitted

W.D.F. Hafford, Ch’n.

Nov. 11th 1864

Sabbath Schools

The Sunday School Committee beg leave most respectfully to make their report to the Conference.

We consider the subject of vital importance to the church; and deplore the circumstances that have retarded the work, and pray that they may be removed out of the way. We exhort that the Brethren apply themselves more attentively and ardently to the promotion of this work of so great interest.

The numbers of schools in operation 53, with 50 superintendents, 378 teachers; 2739 pupils; and 6942 volumes in the Libraries.

Respectfully submitted

Thos. Joyner, Ch’n.

Nov. 11th 1864

Case of J.R. Dycus

The committee appointed to investigate the case of Bro. J.R. Dycus beg leave to submit the following report:

From the best information we could obtain in reference to the brother, we find that he left his work to visit his mother with the consent of his Presiding Elder; but when he contemplated returning, such were the difficulties in the way that he was advised by his friends to remain at home. He did so; and not willing to be idle, he was employed on Bryansburg Circuit, which work he served faithfully and efficiently.

We, therefore, recommend that his character pass.

Thos. Joyner, Ch’n.

Nov. 11th 1864

Education.

The following as a report from the Committee on Education is respectfully submitted:

To educate the rising race in a proper way would be to exert [sic] an influence that would do good in time, and send its blessing into the everlasting ages. To open up the resources of the country, national and moral, as well as individual, we need men whose minds and hearts have been properly and thoroughly cultivated. The walks of enterprise and the adornments of society call for strong minds and courageous hearts. Our staple wealth is buried in the unpolished minds of our...
people; hidden in the vales of obsenity among the masses; and it can never be made available until all the people can analyze and elaborate by science and research, all the treasures that lie beneath their feet. The experience of the past; the crowding phenomena of the present; and all the best hopes for the future, require that every child should be educated.

As regards our future hopes and prospects, nothing can be relied on save the individual intelligence, and virtue of the people. We would be untrue to the cause of religion, civilization, and a common race, did we neglect at any sacrifice to educate the rising generation.

Let the avenue to position, wealth, and power be opened to every log cabin, by ample, munificent, elementary training. The name of the man who does most for the cause of education will be inscribed on the exalted domes of the temple of science, when those of contemporary philosophers and poets, warriors and rulers, will be lost in oblivion.

Your committee takes pleasure in stating that there is a greater interest taken in the cause of education than at any former period in our history. And while schools are springing up all around us, let the church be awake to her duty, and let preachers and people lend a helping hand in this good work.

The injurious influences of war upon the educational interests, suspended for a time nearly all the schools under our immediate care. Andrew College, located in Trenton, Tenn., has been suspended for three years past or nearly so. The Trustees, however, design its resurrection. They have made arrangements to that effect-have Rev. Isham L. Burrow to the Presidency, and request that he be appointed to that position. The committee respectfully suggest that this request be granted.

The Memphis Conference Female Institute at Jackson, Tenn., is under the management of its former president, Rev. A.W. Jones. He is sustained by an efficient corps of teachers. One hundred and fifty pupils are in attendance.

There is a boarding house connected with the Institute, under the immediate control of the President and his lady. This department numbers sixty-five with a prospect of others coming in. Last, but not least, the town has been blessed with a gracious revival of religion, in which the pupils participate largely. Nearly all the irreligious among them, gladly embraced salvation and are now on the way to heaven.

Your committee request that Rev. A.W. Jones be continued as President.

B. H. Bishop, Ch’n.

Nov. 12th 1864

Missions.

We the committee to whom was referred the cause of Missions, submit the following report:

The Morgan’s Creek Mission was served the past year by Rev. J.V. Fly, who reports the mission in good condition with 300 members, and desires its continuance. Receipts $90.00.

The Macon Colored Mission was served this past year by Rev. J.W. Walkup and is reported in a healthy condition. We recommend its continuance. Receipts $190.

The Mount Zion Colored Mission was served the past year by the Rev. Lewis Adams. The mission is in good condition with 194 members. Amount received $264. We recommend its continuance.

The Obion Mission was served the past year by Rev. H.B. Avery. The mission is in good condition, numbering 328 white members, 57 probationers, and 14 colored members. We recommend its continuance.
The Cypress Mission was served the past Conference year by Rev. W.M. McFerrin who reports it to be in a tolerably good condition with 22 members. We recommend its continuance.

The Wesley Colored Mission served the past year by Rev. L. Parham is reported in a prosperous condition with 391 members, 33 probationers. We recommend its continuance.

Resolved, That the circuit and station preachers take up missionary collections in all their congregations during the Summer and Fall months.

Nov. 12th 1864

W.C. Johnson, Sec’y

B. Medlin, Ch’n
THE MINUTES

of the

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Twenty-sixth Session

held in

Covington, Tennessee

Oct. 4-10, 1865
Covington, Tenn., Oct. 4th 1865.

The twenty sixth session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the M.E. Church, South, met in the Baptist Church, Covington, Tenn., Wednesday morning, Oct. 4th 1865; and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by the Rev. Bishop Paine, D.D.

The chair was taken by Bishop Paine.


W. C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary, and John Bancroft, Assistant Secretary.

Conference fixed the hour of meeting at 8 1/2 o’clock, A.M. and of adjourning at 12 7/12 o’clock, P.M.

L.D. Mullins and J.W. Mathis were appointed as the committee on Public Worship.

The Financial Plan of the Conference was on motion suspended during this session with the understanding that any lay delegates, who may attend, are hereby invited to cooperate with the Board of Stewards.


Question Second was taken up: Who remains on trial? Isham L. Burrow, and Wm. W. Fawcett having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were continued on trial.

Thos. G. Freeman being unprepared for an examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed, and he was continued on trial, with the understanding that he be examined next session on the studies of the first year.

Henry C. Morrison being absent, and there being reason to suppose he does not expect work in this Conference, his character was passed, and he was discontinued on motion of his friend Findley Bynum.

Questions Third and Seventh were taken up: Who are admitted into full connection? and, What travelling preachers are elected and ordained deacons?

W.T.C. Young having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed and he was admitted into full connection - was as a local preacher elected a deacon at one session in 1862.

Jno. F. Armstrong having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed, and he was admitted into full connection, and elected a deacon.
Question Fifth was taken up: Who are received by transfer from other conferences? There were none.

Question Sixth was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year? J.W. McIver not being prepared for an examination on the prescribed studies his character was passed, and he was required to prepare himself for examination at our next session on the studies of the third and fourth years.

Question Fifteenth was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of Sam'l Watson, J.W. Knott, Philip Tuggle and Charles Collins were examined and passed.

The characters of E.J. Williams and D.J. Allen were examined and passed and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.


The characters of R.V. Taylor, W.N. Morgan, T.L. Boswell, and J.D. Slaughter were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

Conference appointed the following committees, viz:­

Books and Periodicals: D.J. Allen, J.H. Evans, and J.E. Douglas
Bible Cause: Philip Tuggle, Thos Joyner, and J.T.C. Collins
Sunday Schools: J.W. Shelton and R.A. Neblett
Education: P.J. Eckles, E.C. Slater, and J.E. Douglas

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, Oct. 5th 1865

Conference met according to its appointment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with the religious services conducted by Thomas Joyner.

The roll was called, and the following members in addition to those present yesterday answered to the call of their names, viz: J.W. Knott, M.H. Cullom, T.P. Holeman, L.H. Davis, S.B. Carson, J.T. Meriwether, W.W. Pearson.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

The report of the Trustees of Marshall Female Institute was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.

The report of the Trustees of Andrew College was read presented and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education; except that part of it relating to E.C. Slater, which, at his request was referred to a special committee; and M.J. Blackwell, J.M. Shelton, P.J. Eckles, D.J. Allen, and M.H. Ford were constituted that committee.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of G.W.D. Harris, C.J. Mauldin, N.P. Ramsey, E.E. Hamilton, B.H. Bishop, J.H. Evans, and A.C. Smith were examined and passed.

The characters of R.M. Tarrant and J.M. Scott were examined and passed; and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of W.H. Leigh, J.T.C. Collins, T.G. Lane, J.W. Boswell, B.A. Hays, J.R. Sykes, R.H. Burns, and A.W. Jones were examined and passed.

The character of Lorenzo Lea was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.
The character of P.J. Kelley was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of Henry Bell, E.L. Fisher, and Nathan Sullivan were examined and passed, and they were granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of R.S. Harris, Jno. Randle, J.W. Witt, and E.B. Plummer were examined and passed.

The name of W.B. Ramsey was called and it was announced that he had died during the year.

The characters of Findley Bynum, E.C. Slater, H.B. Covington, F.A. Wilkerson, J.M. Flatt, Simpson Weaver, J.B. Harris, F.M. Morris, A.L. Hunsaker, and W.J. Mahon were examined and passed.

The character of M.D. Robinson was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of T.P. Holeman, S.W. Moore, J.F. Markham, Rob't. Martin, D.M. Proctor, T.J. Lowry and J.H. Davis were examined and passed.

The character of W.C. Green was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of J.M. Hampton was examined and the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the character of J.M. Hampton pass, and that a matter of business with Jesse Addington, believed not to involve his character, but his reputation only, be referred to the Presiding Elders of Grenada District.

The report of the Managers of the Book and Tract Society was presented, and having been read, was referred to that committee on Books and Periodicals.

Philip Tuggle and J.W. Knott were, on motion, added to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

The following lay delegates, under the Financial Plan of the Conference were announced as present and were recognized in their official capacity, viz: Alexander Jackson from the Jackson District, B.W. Williamson, from Somerville District; J.B. Driskill, from Trenton District.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.
Questions Third and Seventh were resumed: Who are admitted into full connection, and, What travelling preachers are elected and ordained deacons? James A. McClellan, and Wilbur F. Mister having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were admitted into full connection and elected deacons.

Question Ninth was taken up: What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders? Marcus H. Cullum, Thos. M. Melugin, Henry B. Avery, Bascom T. Pearson, John C. Lowe, having stood a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they were elected elders.

The character of Rob't H. Mahon, Jos. W. Poston, Matthew M. Taylor, Thos. L. Duke, Jasper V. Fly, and James W. Mathis, elders elect heretofore but not ordained were examined and passed.

It was resolved that the Conference hold a session this afternoon for the purpose of making the call for the numbers in Society.

The report of Col. R.C. Clark, Treasurer of the Conference Relief Society, was presented, and having been read was referred to the Board of Stewards.

W.C. Johnson was appointed to act for the Treasurer in his absence.

Conference resolved to remit the interest accruing during the Federal Army's occupation of our territory, on the notes held by the Relief Society against A.W. Jones of the Memphis Conference Female Institute and Thos. Joyner and others of the Marshall Female Institute, except for the last year, which is to be paid now in currency; and that the interest on the notes held against the Marshall Female Institute be fixed at six per cent - the same required heretofore of A.W. Jones of the Memphis Conference Female Institute.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of W.S. Jones, A.H. Thomas, and Joseph Johnson were examined and passed.

The character of John Barcroft and A.K. Miller were examined and passed, and they were each granted a supernumerary relation.

The character of J.W. Bates was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.


The characters of C.B. Harris, Thos. Joyner, and S.B. Carson were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

John Moss was granted a leave of absence.

The characters of H.D. Howell and B.W. Stubbs were examined and passed; and they were each granted a supernumerary relation.

The character of James Gains was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of P.R. Hoyle, W.E. Ellis, R.G. Rainey, and T.J. Gooch were examined and passed.


The character of John Young was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The character of J.M. Barton, and J.T. Talley were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of C.C. Glover was examined and passed and he was granted a superannuated relation.

The characters of M.M. Dunn, T.P. Davidson, F.G. Pearson, G.W. Bachman and Wm. McMahon were examined and passed.
The character of Francis A. Owen was examined and passed and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of R.G. Porter was examined and passed.
Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 6th 1865.

Conference met according to adjournment - Thos. Joyner in the chair by the appointment of the Bishop - and was opened with reading from the Scriptures and prayer led by A.W. Jones. The minutes of the morning’s session were read and approved.

Question Sixteenth was taken up: What is the number of preachers and members of the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?

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<th>White Prob's</th>
<th>Col’d Members</th>
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<td>Hernando and Hines Chapel</td>
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<td>228</td>
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| Somerville District       |               |              |               |              |                 |
| Somerville Station        | 75            | -            | 80            | -            |                 |
| Lagrange Sta.             | 75            | -            | 60            | -            | 1               |
| Lagrange Cir.             | 760           | 76           | 65            | 28           | 12              |
| Lagrange Colored Mission  | -             | -            | -             | -            |                 |
| Macon Circuit             | 271           | 89           | -             | -            | 3               |
| Macon Colored Miss.       | -             | -            | 56            | 16           |                 |
| Wesley Circuit            | 600           | 70           | -             | -            | 7               |
| Wesley Colored Mission    | -             | -            | 397           | 43           |                 |
| Mt. Zion Circuit          | 416           | 37           | -             | -            | 6               |
| Mt. Zion Col. Miss.       | -             | -            | -             | -            |                 |
| Randolph Circuit          | 157           | 24           | 6             | ---          | 21              |
| Cypress Mission           | 26            | -            | -             | -            |                 |
| Raleigh Cir.              | 138           | -            | 34            | -            | 2               |
| Covington Sta.            | 90            | 5            | 21            | -            | 1               |

| Dyersburg District        |               |              |               |              |                 |
| Dyersburg Circuit         | 475           | 24           | -             | -            | 9               |
| Gibson                    | 365           | 30           | 25            | -            | 6               |
| Brownsville and Prospect  | 133           | 19           | 145           | 11           |                 |
| Brownsville Cir.          | 765           | 127          | 148           | 28           | 9               |
| Cageville Circuit         | 722           | 42           | 59            | -            | 7               |

<p>| Jackson District          |               |              |               |              |                 |
| Jackson Station           | 210           | 15           | -             | -            | 1               |
| Jackson Station Col. Miss.| -             | -            | 119           | 11           |                 |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
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<th>Col'd Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson Circuit</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Obion Miss.</td>
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<td>Panola Cir.</td>
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<td>Chulahoma Cir.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall Cir.</td>
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<td>Col'd Members</td>
<td>Col'd Prob's</td>
<td>Local Preachers</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Salem Cir.</td>
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**Iuka Mission District**

<table>
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<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iuka Cir.</td>
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<td>74</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Middleton Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marietta Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Springs Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montezuma Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack’s Creek Miss.</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Spring Cir.</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>31</td>
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**Aberdeen District**

<table>
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<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Sta.</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Col. Miss.</td>
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<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Col. Miss.</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Cir.</td>
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<tr>
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**Mississippi Bottom District**

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<th>Col'd Prob's</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunica Cir. and Col. Miss.</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Friar’s Point Cir.</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>Richland Cir.</td>
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<td>Hushpuckany Miss.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

Conference on motion resolved itself into the Missionary Society, and after the transaction of the business thereof - Conference resumed - Thos. Joyner in the chair.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by Thomas Joyner.

**Saturday Morning, Oct. 7th 1865**

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with prayer led by L.H. Davis.

The following members were reported present for the first time, viz:- L.W. Moore, W.N. Morgan, and J.A. Vincent.

The minutes of yesterday afternoon [sic] session were read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the Sunday School in connection with the Jackson Station was at the insistance of the Committee on Sunday Schools read to the Conference on account of its interesting character.
**Question Ninth** was resumed: What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders? Thos. C. Ellis and B.F. Peeples not having been examined on the prescribed studies, on account of having been absent in the Southern Army, were required to be examined next session on the studies of the Fourth Year - and their characters having been passed they were elected to elders orders.

**Question Eighth** was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry B. McGowan</td>
<td>Lagrange Cir.</td>
<td>Somerville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew G. Buffaloe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Luton</td>
<td>Decaturville</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard L. West</td>
<td>Gibson</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. A. Yancy</td>
<td>Cageville</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armisted L. Pritchett</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry P. Lowry</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Christenberry</td>
<td>Pleasant Plains</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Diggs</td>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>Paducah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. Hogard</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finis E. Bonds</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Futrell</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.W.D. Hall</td>
<td>Hickman</td>
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<td>John W. Wright</td>
<td>Byhalia</td>
<td>Holly Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James T. Cunningham</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences were elected deacons.

**Question Fourth** was taken up: Who are readmitted: Geo. K. Brooks, an elder elected, but not ordained.

**Question Tenth** was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W.W. Butt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. Adkins</td>
<td>Mt. Zion</td>
<td>Somerville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robt. Guthrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaston G.B. Freeman</td>
<td>Lagrange Sta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Myers</td>
<td>Lagrange Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Adams</td>
<td>Wesley</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Blackman</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. R. Gardner</td>
<td>Huntingdon</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences - and having certified their belief in our Doctrines and their willingness to be governed by our Discipline were elected elders.

The Rev. G.W. Horn of the St. Louis Conference was introduced by the Bishop and was welcomed to a seat on the floor.

**Question First** was taken up: Who are admitted on trial?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colin S. McDougald</td>
<td>Trenton Cir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.S. Pritchett</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jno. R. Peeples</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and having stood a satisfactory examination on the [ ] as to their literary qualifications, and having answered the questions required by the Discipline were admitted on trial.
Question Fourth was resumed: Who are readmitted? D.C. McCutchen and Thos. J. Neely in elders' orders.

The resolution of yesterday morning, that is, so much of it as remitted the interest for year before last, due on the note of A.W. Jones for $5000 - belonging to the Relief Society - was, at the request of A.W. Jones, reconsidered, and the interest was paid to the Chairman of the Board of Stewards in state money or its equivalent.

It was resolved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 O'clock this afternoon for the election of Delegates for the General Conference.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday Afternoon Oct. 7th 1865

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with prayer led by J.E. Douglas.

The minutes of the morning's session were read and approved.

The Rev. James Grant of the Arkansas Conference was introduced by the Bishop and invited to a seat with the members.

A preamble and resolutions instructing our delegates to the General Conference to make every laudable effort to prevent any alteration of the laws of the Discipline respecting class meetings and the limitation of the term of the Pastorate, and embracing other points, having been read, was on motion laid on the table.

Conference proceeded to the election of nine Delegates to the General Conference - there being one hundred and fifty seven members of this body.

On the first ballot, T.L. Boswell received 73 votes, G.W.D. Harris 72, Guilford Jones 71, M.J. Blackwell 65, Sam'l Watson 58, Jno. Moss 58, W.C. Johnson 44 and they receiving a majority of the votes cast were elected.

On the second ballot, Findley Bynum received 43 votes and he receiving a majority of the votes cast was elected.

On the third ballot, L.E. Mullins received 55 votes, and he receiving a majority of the votes cast was elected.

S.W. Moore, J.H. Brooks, and Thos. Joyner on the last ballot received the next highest votes to the one elected, were according to a previous resolution, declared the Reserve Delegates.

The Rev. G.W. Horn addressed the Conference in behalf of the St. Louis Advocate.

Three papers containing resolutions respecting the perpetuation of our organization as a Church - and other subjects germane [sic] to the changed order of things in our country, were read, and on motion, laid on the table.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by G.W.D. Harris.

Monday Morning, Oct. 9th 1865

Conference met according to appointment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services led by Samuel Watson.

The minutes of Saturday afternoon's session were read and approved.


**Question Thirteenth** was taken up: Who are superannuated? The name of Dan'l F. Tabb was called and there being some complaints against him, a committee consisting of Thos. Joyner, R.V. Taylor & J.E. Douglas was appointed to inquire and report to the Conference.

The character of J.A. Vincent was examined, and passed and he is effective.

The character of Jeremiah Moss, W.D. Scott, James M. Major, W.R. Dickey, Elias Tidwell, Jno. Hunter, D.C. Wells and Reuben Ellis were examined and passed, and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The vote by which C.C. Glover was superannuated was reconsidered and he is effective.

The character of D.M. K. Collins, J.B. McCutchen, Isaac Ebbert, and W.C. Johnson were examined and passed.

The character of R.S. Swift and J.R. Dycus, who is a deacon was examined and passed and they were granted a supernumerary relation.

B.A. Hays, James Perry, N.A.D. Bryant, B. Medlin, M.M. Taylor, M.D. Fly, W.J. Mahon, M.D. Robinson and Jos. Johnson were each granted a supernumerary relation. J.T. Baskerville was granted a supernumerary relation.

The following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to devise ways and means for the education and support of needy orphan children, and that they report at our next session. The Conference appointed as the committee: W.C. Johnson, D.J. Allen, Sam'l Watson, Jno. T. Meriwether, S.W. Moore, E.C. Slater, and A.W. Jones.

**Question First** was resumed: Who are admitted on trial? James C. Crews from the Dresden Circuit, Paducah District, having been duly recommended by his Quarterly Conference and having given satisfaction as to his literary qualifications, and having properly answered the questions in the Discipline before the Conference, was admitted on trial.

The Committee on Memoirs presented their report, which having been read, was adopted and is as follows, viz:

Your committee regret that they have not been able to obtain any specific information, with regard to the early life of our dear, beloved brother, Wm. B. Owen. It was, however, while preparing for the practice of Medicine, that God's Spirit touched his heart, and he was convinced that a far more important [ ] was required of him.

He soon entered the ministry; and for eight or ten years filled various appointments in this Conference with acceptability and usefulness.

In April 1861, he joined the Confederate Army, and was appointed Chaplin of the 17th Mississippi Regiment; and he now entered a field which required more of service than even his ardent and active spirit could perform. Unappalled however, by the magnitude of the work, or the hardships, privations, and sufferings to be endured in its performance; he steadily, patiently, and faithfully labored on, preaching, praying, exhorting all to seek the great salvation - visiting the hospitals, ministering to the wounded and dying, even in the very whirlwind of battle.

Never tiring in his labor of love, he remained with his Regiment, many of whom were wounded at the battle of Gettysburg and sent to Northern prisons, to comfort, strengthen and cheer our sick and wounded there; and by his untiring
devotion to them in his one work of a Minister of Christ; he extorted the praise
and admiration of even his enemies, who were so thoroughly convinced of his
simplicity of purpose, and consecration to his work, that they wished to detain him
that in like manner he might minister to them.

Glorious Christian hero! thou art now reaping in the mansions of the blessed
the full reward for all thy labors and suffering. Many did well but thou didst excell
them all.

Bro. Owen had returned home, weary and wounded, to see his father, and
to recruit his health; after spending a short time there he started on his return to
the army, and on his way called on Bishop Paine to ask that he appoint a fast day
for the church, and spent his last night on earth, in the company of our Bishop.
The next day, passing through Aberdeen, he called on several of his friends, who
remembered afterward, that they saw in him some slight signs of mental aberation,
[sic] an affliction with which he had suffered to some extent years before. They
did not, however, attach any importance to them, and he soon took leave of them
and went his way, never alas, to be seen by them again on earth.

He seems to have entered the Tombigbee river, and been drowned—though
a most laborious search failed to recover his body.

Farewell, dear brother. Though loving hands had not the privilege of wrapping
thy shroud about thee; though no requiem has been said over thy resting place,
yet we doubt not that angels have borne thy glad spirit home; and that if we are
faithful, we shall, at last, meet thee among those who have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

William B. Ramsey was born in Rutherford County, Tenn., March 12th 1831.
His father, Jefferson Ramsey, moved to Gibson County, Tenn. in 1833. Brother
William embraced religion at Clement Camp Ground in 1846, in the fifteenth year
of his age, and joined the M.E. Church, South. He was licensed to preach by the
Quarterly Conference of the Dyersburg Circuit in 1853, and was admitted on trial
in the Memphis Conference in the fall of that year; and was appointed to the
Cageville Circuit where he labored acceptably. In the fall of 1854, he was appointed
to the Coffeeville Circuit, where he labored a few months, until his health became
so feeble that he yielded to the advice of his friends and went home. After returning
home, Brother Ramsey entered Andrew College and pursued a regular Course of
Study and graduated in 1858, with a class of nine young men, and taking the first
honors of the class.

He was readmitted to the Memphis Conference in the Fall of 1858 and
appointed to the Panola Circuit; the next year to Beulah, thence to Camden Circuits,
and in 1861 to Paris Station. At the next Conference - 1862 - he was granted a
supernumerary relation, in which relation he served the church till his death.

In the Spring of 1863, Brother Ramsey left a flourishing school at Connersville,
Tenn.; and volunteered in the service of the Confederacy, serving as Chaplain in
the army for four months, when his health failed and he returned home, anxiously
desiring to gather strength, and return to his labors in his regiment; but the
destroyer, Consumption, had fastened upon him; gradually the strong man wasted
till death ended the struggle in July last.

Brother Ramsey was a sweet-spirited man - modest and unassuming - was
much beloved in College by his fellow students, and equally so by his brethren
in the ministry.

He died in peace - full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. He leaves a wife and
three children, for whom we must have a kind care.

Of him it may be said as is generally said of our preachers: "He died well."

D.J. Allen, Chairman
The report of the Board of Stewards was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

*Question Seventeenth* was taken up: What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowance in their respective Districts, Circuits, and Stations? $5070.00

*Question Eighteenth* was taken up: What has been collected on the foregoing account and how has it been applied?

- Collected $1988.00
- Applied to the claims of Bishop Paine, Widows and Orphans of preachers, and superannuated deficient preachers.

The Bishop read to [ ] a communication from Rev. J.R. Walker now [on] the verge of eternity.

The report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was taken from the table, and after discussion and amendment was laid on the table.

Conference adjourned with the benediction, to meet this afternoon at 2½ o’clock.

### Monday Afternoon Oct. 9th 1865.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with prayer led by Isaac Ebbert.

The minutes of this morning’s session were read and approved.

The committee in the case of D.F. Tabb presented their report, stating that the complaints require an investigation according to law, and the report was adopted. Thereupon it was resolved that the complaints be referred to the Presiding Elder of the Somerville District for investigation according to the Discipline.

D.F. Tabb was then continued in a supernumerary relation.

The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

Philip Tuggle was granted a supernumerary relation.

Richard A. Roach having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Hickory Flat Circuit, Holly Springs District for the restoration of his credentials as a deacon, Conference after discussion declined to restore his credentials.

The Committee appointed last year to publish the Conference Sermon preached by the Rev. M.J. Blackwell report their inability to effect the publication, on account of the distracted condition of the country, and the uncertainty of the currency; and the report having been read was received.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz:

1. That the Conference sermon preached last year by the Rev. M.J. Blackwell and this year by Rev. John Moss, be published by the Conference.
2. That W.C. Johnson, Sam’l Watson, and A.J. Lee, be appointed a Committee of Publication, and that one of their members apply to the members of this body for subscriptions to pay for an edition of 1000 copies.

The report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was taken from the table, and after discussion and amendment was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Education was presented and having been read and amended was adopted.

The character of B.B. Risenhoover, a deacon of some years standing now absent was examined and passed.

M.M. Dunn was granted a supernumerary relation.

The report of the special committee called for by E.C. Slater on account of
the report of the Trustees of Andrew College was presented and having been read was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Missions was presented, and having been read was adopted.

It was resolved that the preacher in charge of each circuit and station be requested to take up a collection in his bounds to defray the expenses of the delegates to the General Conference, and remit the money obtained, to the nearest delegate by the first day of March.

*Question Twentieth* was taken up: Where and when shall the next session of the Conference be held? Jackson, Tenn.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz:

1. Being convinced that for some years past, quite too much levity and jesting have been indulged at our Missionary and other Anniversaries, Therefore,

   *Resolved.* That we enter our most solemn protest against all such, believing it to be incompatible with the right spirit that should prevail on such occasions, and justly reproachful to us as Ministers of Christ.

2. That hereafter we will discourage all such, and give our efforts and influence on all such occasions to secure such order, propriety, seriousness, and Christian earnestness as become the house and worship of God.

*Question Eighth* was resumed: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons? Benjamin Bullard having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference held for Collin’s Chapel, Memphis District, was elected as a deacon.

Henry Hamlin having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference held for Greenwood Station, Memphis District was elected as a deacon.

The minutes of this afternoon’s session were read and approved.

Conference adjourned to meet in the morning at 8 o’clock - benediction by D.J. Allen.

**Tuesday Morning Oct. 10th 1865** (97)

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services led by Robt. Martin.

The vote by which F.A. Owen was continued in a supernumerary relation was reconsidered and he is effective.

J.P. Dancer was, on motion, granted a supernumerary relation.

A supplementary report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was presented, and having been read, was adopted.


Conference resumed business - Bishop Paine in the chair.

*Question Eighth* was resumed: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons? Riley Mitchell, having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference held for Collins Chapel, Memphis District was elected a deacon.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz:

*Resolved,* first, That we tender our hearty thanks to the citizens of Covington for their abundant hospitality and kindness with which they have received and treated us during our session.

*Resolved,* secondly, That we likewise offer our thanks to the Ministers and members of the different churches in Covington for the Christian courtesy with which they have placed their churches and pulpits at our disposal.

*Resolved,*thirdly, That we also present our thanks to those who have taken care of our horses.
The following resolutions heretofore laid on the table were taken up and adopted, viz:

Resolved, 1st, That as a Conference we are decided in our purpose to maintain intact our present ecclesiastical relations; believing that our membership desire no change; and that any action of this Conference looking to a union with another church would be highly prejudicial to Methodism.

Resolved, 2d, That we heartily approve, and fully endorse the address of our Bishops.

Resolved, 3d, That we accept the present status of the country, and will, in all respects be loyal to the Constitution and Government of the United States as we are in duty bound by the 23rd article of our religion, which is as follows:

"The President, the Congress, the General Assemblies, the Governors, and the Councillors of the State, as the delegates of the people, are the rulers of the United States of America, according to the division of power made to them by the Constitution of the United States, and by the Constitution of their respective States. And the said States are a Sovereign and independent nation and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction."

The vote by which H.D. Howell was granted a supernumerary relation was reconsidered, and he is effective.

The Treasurer of the Missionary Society reported that the sum of [ ] had been contributed to the missionary cause during the past year.

The sum of [ ] has been contributed to the Sunday School Cause.

The Mission Committee reported the following appropriations for the ensuing year approved by the Bishop, viz:

- **Memphis District**: $300.
- **Iuka District**: 250.
  - Iuka Cir.: 50.
  - Corinth Cir.: 50.
  - Rienzi Cir.: 75.
  - Marietta Cir.: 50.
  - Ripley Cir.: 50.
  - Middleton Cir.: 50.
  - Fulton " 100.
  - Rock Spring" 100.

- **Paris District**: 50.
  - Morgan’s Creek Mission 100.

- **Paducah District**: 200.
  - Troy Mission 50.

- **Holly Springs District**: 50.
  - Salem Cir.

**Total**: $1525.

B.H. Bishop was granted a supernumerary relation.

The minutes of the morning’s session were read and approved.

An appropriate and impressive, though brief address, was made to the preachers by the Bishop; after which the Conference joined in singing and prayer led by Thos. Joyner. The Bishop then announced the following appointments of the preachers for the ensuing year, viz:

- **Memphis District**, Sam’l Watson, P.E.
- Memphis:--
  - Wesley Chapel, A.H. Thomas, E.J. Williams, sup. W.C. Johnson Agent for the American Bible Society
Wesley Chapel Col'd Miss., To be supplied
Asbury Chapel, Guilford Jones
Capers' Chapel, J.T.C. Collins; D.J. Allen, sup.
Collins Chapel, To be supplied
Greenwood, J.W. Knott, J. Bancroft, sup.
Hernando and Hinds' Chapel, To be supplied (by Tilman Page)
State Female College, Charles Collins
Olive Branch, T.P. Holman, P. Tuggle, sup.
Samuel Watson, Agent of the Book and Tract Depository and Editor of the
Memphis Christian Advocate

Somerville District
John Moss, P.E. (99)
Somerville Sta., Benj. F. Peeples; R. V. Taylor, sup.
Wesley Cir., W. T. Harris, D. M. K. Collins; J. Perry, sup.
Wesley Col'd Miss., R. A. Unstead; J. T. Baskerville, sup.
Mt. Zion Cir., M. H. Cullum [Cullom], A. C. Smith; D. J. Slaughter, sup.
Mt. Zion Col'd Miss., To be supplied
Raleigh Cir., L. D. Mullins
Cypress Miss., J. W. Walkup, W. M. McFerrin, sup.
Macon Cir., J. W. Shelton, T. L. Boswell, sup.
Macon Col'd Miss., To be supplied
Lagrange Sta., J. H. Garrett; N. A. D. Bryant, sup.
Lagrange Cir., A. R. Wilson, J. F. Armstrong; W. N. Morgan, sup.
Lagrange Col'd Miss., Thos. J. Neely
Covington Sta., J. W. Mathis; T. M. Melugin, sup.

Jackson District
W. H. Leigh, P. E. (100)
Jackson Sta., John C. Lowe; B. A. Hays, sup.
Jackson Sta. Col'd Miss., J. R. Sykes
Jackson Cir., J. A. Vincent; E. L. Fisher, sup.
Jackson Cir. Col. Miss., T. G. Lane
Denmark Cir., J. T. Meriwether; B. H. Bishop, sup.
Mt. Pinson Cir., R. G. Rainey; P. J. Kelsey, sup.
Decaturville Cir., To be supplied (by P. Ivey;) R. S. Swift, sup.
Lexington Cir., D. C. McCutchten.
Trenton Cir., R. H. Burns; N. Sullivan, sup.
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. W. Jones.

Dyersburg District
G. W. D. Harris, P. E.
Dyersburg Cir., C. J. Mauldin; James A. McClellan
Brownsville and Prospect, E. E. Hamilton; B. Medlin, sup.
Brownsville Cir., J. H. Evans, J. M. Scott, sup.
Cageville Cir., J. B. McCutchen, W. T. C. Young
Madrid Bend Cir., J. B. Harris, R. M. Tarrant, sup.
Trenton Sta., R. H. Mahon
Andrew College, Isham L. Burrow

Paris District
R. S. Harris, P. E. (100)
Paris Station, L. H. Davis
Paris Cir., N. P. Ramsy [Ramsey]; H. Bell, sup.
Camden Cir., J. R. Peeples
Murray Cir., J. H. Witt
Pleasant Plains Cir., J. Randle; M. M. Taylor, sup.
Huntingdon Cir., E. B. Plummer
Morgan's Creek Miss., J. V. Fly
Dresden Sta., A.L. Pritchett
Dresden Col’d Miss., J.C. Crews

**Paducah District**, F. Bynum, P.E.

Paducah Sta., E.C. Slater.
South Paducah, J.M. Spence.
Paducah Cir., A.L. Hunsaker.
Hickman Sta., F.A. Wilkerson.
Hickman Cir., Simpson Weaver.
Clinton Cir., H.B. Avery
Bryansburg Cir., W.W. Fawcett; J.R. Dycus sup.
Benton Cir., B.B. Risenhoover
Troy Miss., J.M. Flatt; M.D. Robinson, sup.
Dresden Cir., H.B. Covington.
Columbus Sta., A.B. Sollers.

**Holly Springs District**, J.H. Brooks, P.E.

Holly Springs Sta., G.K. Brooks.
Holly Springs Cir., P.J. Eckles; C.B. Harris, sup.
Salem Cir., F.M. Morris; S.B. Carson, sup.
Hickory Flat Cir., T.G. Freeman.
Byhalia Cir., M.H. Ford.
Chulahoma Cir., Elias Jackson.
Cold Water Cir., W.S. Harrison.
Sardis Cir., A.J. Lee, Colon S. McDougald
Marshall Cir., R.A. Neblett; T. Joyner, sup.
Byhalia Female Institute, P.J. Eckles
Marshall Female Institute, J.E. Douglas

**Iuka District**, W.D.F. Hafford, P.E.

Iuka Cir., Thos. C. Ellis.
Corinth Cir., Wm. W. Ellis; James Gains [Gaines], sup.
Rienzi Cir., J.A. Fife
Marietta Cir., J.W. Honnell
Ripley Cir., P.R. Hoyle
Middleton Cir., To be supplied
Fulton Cir., W.L. Kistler.
Adamsville Cir., To be supplied.
Rock Spring Cir., J.W. Poston

**Aberdeen District**, M.J. Blackwell, P.E.

Aberdeen Sta., Amos Kendall.
Aberdeen Col’d Miss., B.B. Barker.
Aberdeen Cir., Thos. H. Davenport
Prairie Col’d Miss., To be supplied
Houston Cir., R.G. Porter.
Pontotoc Cir., T.L. Duke; J.P. Dancer, sup.
Pontotoc Col’d Mission, H.D. Howell.
Okolona Cir., A.C. Allen; J.M. Barton, sup.
Richmond Cir., D.C. Johnson; J.T. Talley, sup.
Baldwin Cir., B.W. Stubbs.

**Grenada District**, Isaac Ebbert, P.E.

Grenada Sta., S.W. Moore, W.F. Mister
Grenada Cir., Robt. Martin; J.M. Hampton, sup.
Mississippi Bottom District, T.P. Davidson, P.E.
Friar’s Point Cir., J.F. Markham; W. McMahon
Concordia Cir., A.P. Sage, C.C. Glover
Bolivar Col’d Mission, F.C. Pearson
Cassida Cir., J.W. McIver.
Tunica Cir., F.A. Owen; M.M. Dunn, sup.
Beulah Cir., B.T. Pearson
David M. Proctor transferred to the St. Louis Conference.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

W.C. Johnson, Sec’y
R. Paine

REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Annual Conference, at Covington, Tenn., October 4-10, 1865.

Special Committee in the Case of E.C. Slater

The special committee to whom was referred a part of the Report from the Trustees of Andrew College ask leave to report, that after diligent search for information, and careful investigation they have determined to advise the Conference to adopt the following:

First, That they regard the transaction between the Trustees and Rev. E.C. Slater as intended to secure the latter the sum of twelve hundred dollars per annum for his services as President of the College; but that they evidently believed the tuition fees would be sufficient to meet the claim for the second year and relieve them of all personal responsibility.

Secondly, That the Trustees are persuaded that the course pursued by Bro. Slater in the Fall of 1860, the Winter of 1860-1 and the Spring of 1861, caused the loss of some students and others from entering and therefore caused a decrease in the revenues of the College.

We therefore advise Bro. Slater to submit a reduction of the unpaid remainder of his claim for the session 1860-1, as we believe that the consideration for which the note of the Trustees was given, at least partially failed.

In the next place, we require Bro. Slater to repeat before this body the statement made by him before the Committee, that in his remarks upon the Report of the Trustees he did not intend to impugn their veracity - which however, he has already voluntarily done. All of which is respectfully submitted

Oct. 9th 1865
M.J. Blackwell, Chairman
Board of Stewards

Amount necessary to meet the claims of "Superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers": $5010.00
Collected from circuits and stations- $1347.30
Interest on Preacher's Relief Fund- 408.50
Miss. Society for Bishop's claim 120.
Collections on Sabbath 112.20

Total $1988.00

Applied as follows:-
Bishop Paine $400.
Traveling expenses 30.
Sister Crouch 100.
Sister McFarland 100.
Sister Henderson 95.
Sister Hubbard 50.

$775.

Amount brought over $775 delivered to:
W.R. Dickey 100. M.H. Ford
Jno. Hunter 75. " T.P. Holeman
Sister Hamilton 100. " W.W. Pearson
Sister Cole 75. " R.S. Harris
Sister Campbell 75. " M.H. Cullom
Sister Robb 50. " P. Tuggle
Sister Ramsey 50. " J. Randle
T.M. Melugin 100. Present
C.B. Harris 100. " J.H. Brooks
H.D. Howell 150. " A.J. Lee
R. Ellis 100. " W.L. Kistler
M.J. Blackwell 46. Present
Jno. Young 46. " Bishop Paine
T.L. Boswell 100. Present
W.W. Pearson 46. Present


The report of the Treasurer, Col. R.C. Clark, to the Memphis Conference Relief Fund Society, which was referred to the Committee on Finance for investigation, has been duly considered with the view of discovering any errors that might be in the statement of assets; and to elicit and suggest any information which could be obtained likely to be useful to the Treasurer, who, owing to the late disturbances of the country has been for some years deprived of that free intercourse with members from the various portions of the Conference, necessary to a right and familiar understanding due of the society. The call made by the Treasurer for the aid of a committee of two to be appointed by this body to confer with him; and aid in revising the claims, shows his distrust of his present knowledge of the business entrusted to his care; and is a request which should be granted.

To this end, we recommend that Brothers W.C. Johnson and W.D.F. Hafford be appointed a committee for this purpose with instructions to obtain all of the information possible as to the condition of the debts stated in the Treasurer's Report, and especially to trace up and ascertain what disposition has been made of the $882. - proceeds of two notes of Henning which amount J.D. Williams wished to obtain the use of, from Treasurer Palmer in April 1860 - for the use of the Book and Tract Society, Memphis; which information the Treasurer especially desires.

The Committee have only one error to report in the list of assets, viz: The
note of P. Tuggle and W.M. McFerrin should be stricken off, as a receipt of J.T.C. Collins, Chairman of Finance Committee, dated Nov. 7th 1862 at Grenada, shows that $18 of interest was paid on said note; and a receipt of J.W. Knott, Treasurer pro-tem, dated Nov. 8th 1862, shows that $275. principal, was paid and the money loaned to Bro. McMahon.

Amount necessary to meet the claims of the ensuing year ------------------------ $5000.

Apportioned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis District</td>
<td>$700.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>700.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyersburg</td>
<td>400.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson District</td>
<td>500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trenton District</td>
<td>300.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah District</td>
<td>400.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>400.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Springs District</td>
<td>500.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iuka District</td>
<td>100.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>700.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi Bottom District</td>
<td>300.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Oct 9th 1865

P. Tuggle, Chairman

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Sunday Schools

On examining the Sunday School statistics by the Memphis Conference your Committee find the following aggregate results, viz: 110 Sabbath Schools; 688 Teachers & Superintendents, 3860 pupils, 7965 volumes in Libraries; 181 Conversions, $328.00 collected and appropriated.

Though the reports from the different fields are very meagre and imperfect, the result is gratifying in view of our troubles and indicates a a hopeful state of the work. The number of conversions is certainly encouraging. Libraries have been greatly reduced; and many have been utterly scattered or destroyed by the ravages of war. Efforts have been made to restore these libraries in a few places; but great difficulties have been in the way. Regarding Sunday Schools as the nursery of the Church, and that from them the best material has been furnished it; it is heartily recommended that earnest and prompt attention be given to the Rule of our church on this subject. This Rule is found in our Discipline, Sec. IV: Ch. 3, pp. 114-115. The brethren are earnestly entreated to spare no opportunity to carry out in faithfulness the plan recommended. Do this in the spirit of our Master and the young will rise up and call you blessed.

In order that no time be lost, and proper interest awakened [and] maintained, it is recommended that all arrangements be made during the winter, if practicable, to procure books, ready for organizing Sunday Schools early in the spring.

It is also recommended that vocal music be introduced and taught the pupils as far as can be; that tickets for promptness and good deportment and premiums for rapid progress in studies be given to the deserving.

We trust the Sunday School Visitor will soon be revived and circulated among the children of the church. Meanwhile we recommend the patronage of the “Sunday School Bell” published at St. Louis by the Rev. P.M. Pinckard. It is also recommended that the Committee on Sunday Schools prepare at each session of Conference a full tabular Report of Sunday Schools for record on the Journal by the Secretary - also a separate record to be made and kept by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Oct 8th 1865

J.W. Shelton, Ch’n
The Committee on Books and Periodicals ask to report that they have had this important interest of the Church under most careful and anxious consideration. Its present state shows that it has shared a like fate with many other great institutions of our desolate country. But shall we fold our arms, weep and do nothing because we may not be able to do all that we desire? Nay, verily; but as men and especially as ministers to whom God has committed the care of His Church, and whose highest duty it is to provide for her wants we should with determined will, and laborious, unceasing effort, endeavor to rebuild this and all other waste places of our Zion.

The present is a reading age; the people will read and will be influenced by what they read. To the extent of our ability, in past years, we have striven to create, foster, and excite this disposition, and to supply them with such reading as would be profitable to mind and heart; but alas! the mighty river which was beginning with its streams to fertilize the land, has been suddenly dried up, and in its stead, floods of mixed-up truth and error and deadly moral poison are inundating the country. We must supply our own people at least. Our faithful weekly sentinels must again be placed on their watch-towers, that they may warn us of surrounding danger from the hosts of Romanism, Ritualism, and sin, who are all hoping to profit from the great upheavals of the foundations of Society, and who have already succeeded in beguiling many unwary and unstable souls.

Solemnly impressed with the truth and importance of these thoughts, we offer for the consideration of the Conference the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st. That we will reestablish the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate. (106)

Resolved 2nd. That in order to do so we pledge our word to each other to do all we can, as soon as we can to obtain subscribers for the paper.

3d. That the price of the paper be three dollars annually in advance, and that no one shall receive it gratuitously except those hereafter mentioned. 4th. That we will send to the Editor a list of all the subscribers we can obtain, their post office, county and State together with all the money by the first of December next, so that the paper may be issued by the first of January, 1866.

5th. That the editor be instructed to retain all moneys sent, and not to commence the publication of the paper until he has received fifteen hundred names with the money; and if that amount has not been received by the first of June next, that he refund the money to the subscribers as soon as he can do it with safety.

6th. That a copy of the paper be sent to each of the Bishops, and to such editors as it may be desirable to exchange with, free of charge: and that for every thirty dollars received from any preacher eleven copies shall be sent.

7th. That we cordially invite our brethren of the Arkansas and Ouachita [Wachita] Conferences to unite with us in this enterprise on the same terms as ourselves.

8th. That the editor be required to present to each session of this body a faithful report of the state of the paper, and of all its receipts and expenditures for the preceding year; and to send the same to the two Conferences above named, should they unite with us.

9th. That we request the Bishop to appoint Rev. Samuel Watson editor.

The following is the Supplementary Report of the Committee referred to in the minutes:

The Book and Tract Depository at Memphis has passed through a protracted scene of suffering and loss-its entire business suspended, and all its sources of revenue cut off; yet notwithstanding, much of its indebtedness has been paid, and we doubt not it will speedily resume operations. When this is done, we expect the dividends to the stockholders will be regularly paid, and that they will provide for the payment of their notes to the society.

We recommend that the Bishop be requested to appoint Rev. Watson agent, and that the Conference elect S. Watson, A.H. Thomas, G. Jones, and D.J. Allen managers in its behalf.
We would say that we have heard nothing from the Publishing House at Nashville, but have no doubt those who have charge of its interests are laboring to put it into speedy operation, and we are ready now, as heretofore to do all we can to secure its success.

Oct. 9th 1865

Respectfully submitted,
D. J. Allen, Chairman

Education

The Committee on Education beg leave to present the following as their report:

We deem it altogether unnecessary at this time to employ any labored arguments to convince you of the great and increased necessity of encouraging and building up our schools and of promoting the cause of education.

The late disastrous war having seriously interrupted, and in many cases entirely suspended the operations of so many schools, our sons and daughters have been deprived of the opportunity and advantage of proper instruction.

Although war’s destructive storms have passed away, leaving us paralyzed in energies and means, we feel assured that by timely and earnest effort we may soon remove the rubbish and erect more glorious temples.

By the energetic and efficient labors of our young and worthy Brother, Isham L. Burrow, Andrew College has been resuscitated within the past year and now has one hundred students.

The Trustees request the Conference to give them an Agent, and inasmuch as it is impracticable at this time, to comply with their request, your committee recommend that they be authorized to employ one at such time as they may deem necessary.

As Andrew College is the only male school that comes before us at present, we should the more forcibly feel it our duty to encourage our people to aid it, both with money and patronage; and should the more cheerfully assist the agent in procuring the means to relieve it of its present pecuniary embarrassment.

The Memphis Conference Female Institute, at Jackson, Tenn., under the praiseworthy management of Rev. A. W. Jones, is now in a prosperous condition - numbering one hundred and twenty-five students with seven assistant teachers, all of whom, we are informed are, more or less, under religious influence.

The daughters of the members of this Conference in any of the regular College Classes, pay no tuition fees, and a number of poor children, from year to year, receive instruction gratuitously.

Your committee cordially commend This Institution to your fostering care.

The Marshall Female Institute - once so prosperous and useful - was reopened the fourth of last month, under the superintendence of its old President, Rev. J. E. Douglas assisted by Mrs. Douglas, and other competent teachers. Brother Douglas has charge of the large boarding house contiguous to the Institute and can accommodate forty boarders.

The Institute has already quite a flattering number of students and is destined to do well.

We most heartily commend it to your patronage, and to that of the public generally.

The Byhalia Female Institute, at Byhalia, Marshall Co., Miss., under the Rev. P. J. Eckles and his wife, resumed its exercises the 18th of last month with brightening prospects.

We commend it to your favorable notice.

In conclusion we propose the adoption of the following resolutions, viz;

I. That the Bishop be, and is hereby requested to reappoint Rev. Isham A. Burrow,

II. That the Bishop be, and is hereby requested to appoint the Rev. J.J. Wheat to a Professorship in the University of Miss., and the Rev. Charles Collins to the State Female College.

Oct 9th 1865

P.J. Eckles, Chairman

Missions

The Committee on Missions report the following from the mission fields in our Conference bounds:

1. Aberdeen Colored Mission, served by Rev. B.B. Barker, reports a membership of two hundred and twenty-five; probationers, 25. They own a lot on which their church stands. It is in a prosperous state, and is regarded as self-sustaining.

2. Wesley Colored Mission, served last year by the Rev. Smith Parham. He reports eight appointments, three hundred and ninety-seven members, forty­three on probation and access to about three thousand.

3. Macon Colored Mission. Rev. J.W. Walkup, the Missionary, reports seven appointments, fifty-six members, and sixteen probationers. Numbers have been converted during the year, and, though the work has had to struggle through great difficulties, it is in a fair way to overcome them all.

4. Collins’ Chapel, at Memphis, has a large congregation, one hundred and seventy-eight members and sixty probationers.

5. Greenwood Colored Mission, two miles from Memphis, has twenty-five members and should be sustained.

6. Morgan’s Creek Mission, served by Rev. J.F. Armstrong; who reports two hundred and forty white members, ten colored; thirty-five white probationers and five colored, and two preachers.

7. Obion Mission. Rev. H.B. Avery has been on this mission the past year; reports it in a flourishing condition, with four hundred and one members, forty-seven probationers, and five preachers.

8. Bolivar Mission. This is a new field in Mississippi bottom. The colored people are anxious to have a preacher and promise his support. Brother W.C. Johnson was appointed last year Missionary to the cavalry in North Mississippi. He found it a pleasant and fruitful field, and labored, not without success in pointing them to the Lamb of God.

The above are all the reports received. We are sorry to have heard nothing definite from more than half the missions in our bounds.

Our work among the negroes we regard as far the most important of our Missionary fields. We are bold to assert that the best friends the black man ever had, or will have, are the Ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. For them we have labored and prayed; and the fruit of our honest, untiring efforts in their behalf has been seen in the thousands converted and saved, brought into the Church, made happy here, and prepared for endless happiness hereafter. As a church we have always felt that we owed them the Gospel, and in every possible place and way we have striven to meet the debt. As long as they exist among us, and exist as a church, so long shall we consider ourselves as bound to preach to them the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their altered condition in this world does not lessen, but fearfully increases our obligation to them.

In the licentiousness of their new-born freedom, thousands of them will stay away from Christ and perish, unless we faithfully and patiently watch for their souls as those that must give account! Ignorant men of their own color will everywhere aspire to become teachers, and by learning the demands of God’s Holy Law, to
accomodate their sensual desires, pervert them from the right ways of the Lord. Unprincipled white men, seeking to make merchandise of them, will, by flattering word and seducing speeches, try to draw them away; and the false and foolish ideas thus instilled into them, will not only make them unfaithful to their God, but unruly and disorderly members of civil society.

Against the accumulating dangers which threaten to draw them in perdition, we feel called upon to provide, and to do all that lies in us to keep them in the way of the Lord. We should occupy every field, enter every opening door, and prove to them our love for their souls, by doing all we can to promote their present and eternal welfare.

In the altered state of society in the South, there is constant danger arising from sources already hinted at, and we know of nothing more efficacious in preserving peace and good order, than the pure and peaceable influences of the Gospel. With such teachers as may be relied on, and who will speak only according to the oracles of God, and not teach for doctrines the commandments of men, these dangers will cease to exist. We feel called upon, therefore, by every consideration which should influence the Christian and the patriot to be instant in season, and out of season in laboring to avert evil from our country, and from the Church of God. In this work we fear that from mistaken views, many who have heretofore been ready to assist in supporting the preachers sent to the blacks, will feel no longer under obligation to do so; but surely, if we give to send the Gospel to heathen thousands of miles away, we should give with ten-fold liberality to prevent millions in our very midst from perishing for lack of knowledge. True, they should be taught that as far as they are able, they should support their own ministers; but, at present in most places they cannot do this, and Southern Christians should not fail to do for them as they do for the Lord’s poor elsewhere and supply them with the bread of life.

We would suggest, in connection with the subject, that our Presiding Elders, whenever they can, put three or four Colored Congregations together, under the care of our supernumeraries or laborious local preachers, form them into a distinct organization, and have them preached to at least one Sabbath in the month.

Next in importance to those of which we have spoken, stands our Missions to the Indians. From these we have not heard. Prospering they were when the war began, and from its blighting effects we trust they will soon recover. The M.E. Church South we know will never abandon the Red Man; but with renewed zeal will engage in spreading among them the blessings of Christianity and Civilization.

Our Mission to China has also a strong hold on our hearts; and, though for several years we have heard but little from it, yet our noble-hearted Missionaries are still there engaged in their blessed work, and we trust that we shall hear good tidings from that far-off land. Let us always find a place in our prayers for it and them.

There are thousands of poor scattered over our country and in our large cities, whose souls must be cared for, and to these numerous and inviting fields, we earnestly ask the prayerful attention of our Bishops, our Presiding Elders, and our Missionary Societies; believing that an immense amount of good may be done to these patient, faithful men of God.

The beginning of the war found the Parent Society involved in debt which was largely increased during its continuance.

Let us bear this fact in remembrance, and as God may prosper, let us do what we can to replenish his treasury.

All of which is respectfully submitted

T.L. Boswell, Chairman

Oct. 9th 1865.
The Committee on the Bible Cause beg leave to report:

We are deeply impressed with a sense of the duty of the Church to bestow the word of God upon all men, and at this time particularly, upon the people within the bounds of our own work, where, we doubt not, in view of the unhappy events of the past years, very many families, and individuals are now living without the precious treasure.

During the late war, earnest efforts were made by the Southern States, in behalf of this Cause through organized associations; by which means great good was effected, especially among the soldiers in the South, and in these efforts we have participated, as far as was practicable under the unfavorable circumstances.

But now that peace again smiles upon our wasted country, we feel that it is our duty as well as our privilege to renew our connection with the American Bible Society; which we are happy to know can be done upon the principles and conditions which have always been proposed by that excellent evangelical institution.

Unparalleled prosperity has recently characterized the operations of the American Bible Society; and now that the war has ended, the Managers are prompt and liberal in taking steps to supply all the wants of the Southern people, greatly increased as they have been, during the past four years.

In entering upon this work, the society presents a good and fair record toward its friends in every part of our country. During the war, besides its work in the Northern states and abroad, it has made, principally within the last two years, frequent and large grants of Bibles and Testaments for gratuitous distribution among the Armies and people of the Southern States. These amount in the aggregate to more than three hundred thousand volumes. Besides, tens of thousands of prisoners of war have been furnished with Testaments, and thousands of them with Bibles during their Confinement at the North. And now in view of the distressed condition of the Southern States, the Society are expecting the people to do what they can in this work, is prepared, willing, and anxious to make all needed grants of Bibles and Testaments, so as to place the blessed Book in the hands of every person, white and black in the Southern States, willing to receive and able to read its divine teachings which are ordained to make them wise unto Salvation.

In view of these facts and many others needless to enumerate, the following resolutions are submitted.

Resolved 1. That we have great confidence in the American Bible Society; and we will constantly cooperate with its auxiliaries in our bounds, and with its duly authorized agents with whom we may meet in our respective charges, and particularly in the important and pressing work of resupplying the destitute families and individuals within our bounds.

Resolved 2. That we request the Bishop to appoint the Rev. W.C. Johnson Agent of the American Bible Society - the Managers desiring that he should reenter their service - in which he was engaged at the beginning of the war.

Oct. 9th 1865. P. Tuggle, Chairman.

W.C. Johnson, Sec'y
THE MINUTES

of the

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Twenty-seventh Session

held in

Jackson, Tennessee

November 14-20, 1866
The twenty-seventh session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the M.E. Church, South, met in the Sunday School room of the Methodist Church in Jackson, Tenn.; and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing and prayer conducted by the Rev. Bishop Paine, followed by singing and prayer, which was led by Thomas L. Boswell.

The chair was taken by Bishop Paine, who, upon the occasion submitted some very practical and suitable remarks.

The roll was called by the Secretary of the last Conference and the following members responded to the call of their names, viz:


W.C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary, and John Barcroft Assistant Secretary.

Conference fixed the hour of meeting at 8½ o’clock, A.M. and of adjourning at 12½, P.M.

J.H. Brooks, John Moss, and W.H. Leigh were appointed to nominate persons as members of the usual Committees.

The Rev. Mr. McNair, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in this city was introduced by the Bishop.

The Rev. J.J. Clark of the Mississippi [_________] was introduced by the Bishop.

The Bishop reported the names of the following transferred preachers, viz: Denison Mason, from the Missouri Conference, Jesse Luter from the Tennessee Conference, both of whom are present; H.H. Thacker from the Tennessee Conference, A.H. Kenneday and T.B. Allerbury from the Little Rock Conference.

The bar of the Conference was fixed at the facing of the third window from the Chair.

**Question Fifteenth** was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

It was resolved that the rule requiring the doors to be closed during the consideration of this question to be suspended during the session; and that each preacher shall retire as heretofore, during the examination of his character.

The characters of Saml Watson, A.H. Thomas, W.C. Johnson, Guilford Jones, J.T.C. Collins, J.W. Knott, Jno. Barcroft, T.P. Holeman, Philip Tuggle and Charles Collins were examined and passed.

The characters of Edmund J. Williams and D.J. Allen were examined and passed and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of R.V. Taylor, J.T. Baskerville, J.D. Slaughter, W.M. McFerrin, T.L. Boswell, and W.N. Morgan were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of James Perry was examined and passed; and he was granted a location at his own request.

The name of T.M. Melugin was called, and it was announced that he had died in the faith.

The committee appointed for the purpose, reported the following nominations for the various committees; and the report was adopted, viz:

**Public Worship:** W.H. Leigh, J.C. Lowe, and J.H. Brooks;

**Education:** Guilford Jones, A.H. Thomas, J.T. Meriwether, A. Kendall, and Wilbur F. Mister.

**Books, Tracts and Periodicals:** S.W. Moore, L.D. Mullins, W.T. Harris, W.S. Harrison and A.J. Lee.

**Bible Cause:** E.C. Slater, M.H. Ford and A.C. Smith.

**Sunday Schools:** J.T.C. Collins, R.A. Neblett, and J.W. Mathis.

**Missions:** Thos. Joyner, Robt. Martin and M.H. Cullom [Cullom].


**Memoirs:** G.W.D. Harris, A.W. Jones and J.W. Mathis.

**Statistics:** Elias Jackson, J.W. Boswell, and D.M.K. Collins.


The following District Stewards were reported to be present at or on the way to Conference, viz: Gen. B.W. Williamson, Somerville District; Dr. Alexander Jackson, Jackson District; Thos. F. Lilly, Paris District; E.S. Anderson, Paducah District; J.W. Walker, Iuka District; R.C. Clark, Aberdeen District; and Dr. A.S. Campbell, Grenada District.

It was resolved that the Presiding Elders nominate and the Conference elect substitutes to fill the vacancies; and thereupon Z.H. Whitemore was nominated and elected for the Memphis District; Josephus Loving for the Dyersburg District; A.M. Barrington for the Holly Springs District.

The District Steward for the Mississippi Bottom District was reported absent, and not to be present; and the Presiding Elder declined to nominate a substitute, as he did not know any one from that District who would be present.


Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

**Thursday Morning, Nov. 15th 1866**

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with devotional exercises conducted by William McMahon.

The roll was called, and the following members, not present yesterday, responded to the call, viz: R.V. Taylor, R.S. Harris, W.D.F. Hafford, R.H. Burns, J.B. McCutchen, D.C. Johnson, R.H. Mahon, J.H. Witt, T.C. Ellis, H.B. Covington, J.B. Harris, J.R. Dycus, W.J. Mahon, J.M. Hampton, H.D. Howell, Dennison Mason, and Jesse W. Luther.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Robt. A. Neblett was appointed a special agent for the Christian Advocate at Memphis during the session.

Rev. S.P. Whitten of the Tennessee Conference and agent for the American Bible Society was introduced by the Bishop.
John Moss, Presiding Elder of the Somerville District, reported that the complaints against D.F. Tabb at the last session which were referred to him for investigation by a committee of travelling preachers, had been investigated, and as the result, he submitted a paper containing charges against D.F. Tabb.


The Bishop appointed S.W. Moore chairman of that committee.

J.W. Mathis was nominated and elected Second Assistant Secretary.

Leave of absence, at any time, was granted to the members of the above Committee.

S.W. Moore was excused from serving on the Board of Stewards and Robt. Martin appointed in his place.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of W.H. Leigh, J.C. Lowe, B.A. Hayes, J.R. Sykes, E.L. Fisher, T.G. Lane, J.T. Meriwether, B.H. Bishop, R.G. Rainey, P.J. Kelsey, R.S. Swift, D.C. McCutchen, R.H. Burns and A.W. Jones were examined and passed.

The character of Nathan Sullivan was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The name of John A. Vincent was called, and it was announced that he had departed in peace during the year.

The characters of G.W.D. Harris, C.J. Mauldin, E.E. Hamilton, J.H. Evans, J.B. McCutchen, J.B. Harris, and R.H. Mahon were examined and passed.

The characters of W.J. Mahon, J.M. Scott, and R.M. Tarrant were examined and passed, and they were continued in a Supernumerary relation.

The character of Bryant Medlin was examined and passed, and he was granted a Supernumerary relation.


The character J.E. Douglass was examined and passed, and he was granted a Supernumerary relation.

The characters of W.D.F. Hafford, T.C. Ellis, W.E. Ellis, J.A. Fife, W.L. Kistler and J.W. Poston were examined and passed.

The character of James Gaines was examined and passed, and he was continued in a Supernumerary relation.
The character of P.R. Hoyle was examined and passed, and he was granted a location at his own request.

The Bishop called G.W.D. Harris to the chair.

The Board of Stewards called for claims and receipts - pending which, the term of the session was extended twenty minutes. The Bishop resuming the chair, introduced the Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions.

Conference adjourned with the benediction, to meet, upon motion, this afternoon at four o’clock.

Thursday Afternoon, Nov. 15th, 1866

Conference met according to adjournment - T.L. Boswell in the chair - and was opened with religious services conducted by Rev. Thos. Taylor of the Local Ministry.

The minutes of this morning’s session were read and approved.

The Board of Stewards resumed the call for claims and receipts of the preachers.

Conference adjourned with the benediction.

Friday Morning, Nov. 16th 1866.

Conference met at 8½ o’clock in the Presbyterian Church - the room before occupied needing some repairs.

Religious services were conducted by M.J. Blackwell - Bishop Paine in the chair.

The further calling of the roll was dispensed with, during the session; and the following members now present for the first time were reported to the Secretary, viz: J.W. Shelton, N.P. Ramsey, N.A.D. Bryant, J.V. Fly, Charles Collins, P.J. Eckles, J.E. Douglass, M.D. Robinson, W.L. Kistler, J.W. Walkup.

The minutes of yesterday afternoon were read and approved.

The bar was fixed at the facing of the third window from the chair as in the other room.

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?


The character of J.T. Tally was examined and passed; and the following preamble and resolution, were adopted, viz:

Whereas J.T. Tally has been absent for some time from our bounds and during the short time he did work except for one year was inefficient and unacceptable upon the testimony of M.J. Blackwell and the concurring opinion of this body,

Resolved, That he be now located upon the above grounds.

The characters of Isaac Ebbert, S.W. Moore, Robt. Martin, J.J. Wheat, W.S. Jones, T.J. Lowry, W.C. Green, W.W. Pearson, M.D. Fly, J.W. Boswell, G.W. Bachman, A.K. Miller were examined and passed.

The characters of Joseph Johnson and J.W. Bates were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of T.P. Davidson, J.F. Markham, A.P. Sage, F.C. Pearson, B.T. Pearson, T.J. Gooch and Wm. McMahon were examined and passed.

Father McMahon made some very affecting remarks to the Conference respecting his long life in the travelling ministry, and the trials and afflictions through which he had been graciously brought by Divine Providence - alluding particularly to his recent wonderful escape from drowning upon the occasion of the sinking of
a steamer, on which he was a passanger [sic]. He further exhorted the brethren in favor of the old paths of Methodism - his exhortation meeting with their hearty responses.

The character of M.M. Dunn was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of C.C. Glover was examined and passed, and he was granted a superannuated relation.

N.P. Ramsey whose character has been passed, was granted a supernumerary relation.

The Rev. Dr. McFerrin suggested the propriety of appointing a temporary treasurer to receive missionary money until the Conference shall have organized a Board of Missions in place of the Missionary Society.

Samuel Watson was appointed said Treasurer.

Question First was taken up: Who are admitted on trial?

Tilman Page, Hernando and Hinds Chapel, Memphis District; Joseph P. McCall, Mt. Zion Circuit, Somerville District; and Jno. E. Beck, Clinton Circuit, Paducah District, having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and by the Examining Committee before whom they had appeared, were admitted on trial.

Moses L. Martin, coming from the Protestant Methodist Church, of which he has been a Travelling Elder, as his credentials show, and having been duly recommended [sic] by the Quarterly Conference, Marietta Circuit, Iuka District, and certifying his belief in our doctrines and approval of our form of discipline, was admitted into full connection in the Memphis Conference, with his office of Elder to be recognized upon his taking upon him our ordination vows, which was arranged by the Bishop to be done Sabbath next.

W.C. Johnson presented his report, as Editor of the Christian Advocate at Memphis, and it was referred to the Committee on Books, Tracts and Periodicals.

The Rev. A.H. Redford, Agent of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, and the Rev. P.M. Pinckard of St. Louis, were introduced by the Bishop.

The Annual Exhibit of the Publishing House, and a communication from the Book Agent in reference to the Nashville Christian Advocate and the Sunday School Visitor, were read and referred to the Committee on Books, Tracts and Periodicals.

W.C. Johnson, Treasurer of the Delegates from the Memphis Conference to the General Conference at New Orleans, presented his report, showing a surplus of $125.45/100 which was ordered to be paid to the Board of Stewards for the benefit of the necessitous cases.

Saml. Watson, Agent of the Book and Tract Society presented his report which was referred to the Committee on Books, Tracts, and Periodicals.

Reports from the officers of the State Female College, Bascom Female Seminary, and the Byhalia Female Institute were presented, and referred to the Committee on Education.

Question Fourth was taken up: Who are readmitted:

W.T. Plummer, F.S. Petway, Gideon H. Bransford, and Elias M. Baker, were readmitted in elders' orders.

A communication from the Trustees of the West Tennessee College was presented and referred to the Committee on Education.

The Rev. Dr. McFerrin gave to the Conference a brief account of Bishop Soule's health and religious state and great concern felt for the church. This account was heard with much interest.

Conference adjourned with the benediction.
Saturday Morning, Nov. 17th 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services conducted by M.H. Ford.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

*Question Ninth* was taken up: What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders? John W. McIver not having passed a satisfactory examination, and B.B. Risenhoover, and J.R. Dycus not having [been] present for their examination, their characters were passed, & they were continued in the class of deacons for one year.

*Questions Third and Seventh* was taken up: Who are admitted into full connection?, and What travelling preachers have been elected and ordained deacons? Isham L. Burrow, who is a deacon, and W.W. Fawcett, who is an elder, having previously answered the questions prescribed by the Discipline, and having been examined and recommended by the Examining Committee; their characters were passed, and they were admitted into full connection.

The character of James M. Barton, who is a deacon, was examined and passed, and he was granted a location on his own request.

*Question Sixth* was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year? James M. Honnoll [Honnell], having passed a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies, his character was passed.

The Rev. J. Ditzlen of the St. Louis Conference, the Rev. F.M. English of the Louisville Conference, the Rev. B.H. Malone of the Tennessee [Conference], the Rev. Saml Patterson and the Rev. B.F. Larrabee of the Local Ministry were introduced by the Bishop.

*Question Sixth* was resumed: Who are the deacons of one year? W.T.C. Young and J.F. Armstrong passed a satisfactory examination and their characters were passed.

The character of James A. McClellan was passed, and he was required to stand an examination at the next session on the studies of the third year.

The Rev. J.J. Clark addressed the Conference respecting the Jackson Methodist.

Rev. A.H. Redford was heard at length in reference to our general publishing interests at Nashville.

*Question Eighth* was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained deacons? The following local preachers having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences were elected deacons, viz:

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<td>Henry C. Lock</td>
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A local deacon, coming from the Methodist Protestant Church, having been recommended, was recognized as a local deacon in the church, upon his taking upon him the ordination vows according to the Discipline.

Pending the Consideration of the above question; the session was extended indefinitely, as to time.

**Question Tenth** was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders? The following local preachers having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and having certified their belief in our doctrines and their willingness to be governed by our Discipline, were elected to elders orders., viz:

- Josephus Loving, Brownsville & Prospect, Dyersburg District
- Jno. C. Poyner, Murray Circuit, Paris District
- Jno. F. Collins, " Paris " " " "
- Richard J. Newton (not elected) " " " " "
- Thomas M. Ragsdale, Clinton " Paducah "
- Robt. T. Wright, " " " " "

A Local Elder from the Methodist Protestant Church, recognized upon his taking the ordination vows.

- Abram L. Brown, Briensburg Circuit, Paducah District
- Jesse H. Bottom, Byhalia " Holly Springs "
- Samuel A. Nicholson, Rienzi " Iuka "
- Thomas Martin, Iuka Circuit " "

An elder from the Primitive Baptist Church recognized, upon taking ordination vows.

Conference adjourned to meet at three o'clock.

**Saturday Afternoon, Nov. 17th, 1866** (122)

Conference met according to adjournment - Thos. Joyner in the chair, by whom the session was opened with religious services.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

**Question First** was resumed: Who are admitted on trial? Warner Moore having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Cold Water Circuit, Holly Springs District, and having stood a satisfactory examination, and been recommended by the Examining Committee, was admitted on trial.

**Question Tenth** was resumed: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders? Sion Tatum, Montezuma Circuit, Iuka District, having been duly recommended by his Quarterly Conference, and having certified his belief in our Doctrines, and willingness to be governed by our Discipline was elected to elders orders.
The report of the Committee on Missions was presented, and having been read, the first part was, on motion referred to the Committee; and thereupon, the second part - relating to the organization of a Branch of Domestic Missions, was amended and adopted, and is as follows, viz:

As our last General Conference so modified the plan of conducting the Missionary Operations of our Church, as to require a “Domestic Board”, your committee, in view of cooperating and working on a said plan, would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Constitution to wit:

**Article I.** This Board shall be denominated and known as the Board of Domestic Missions of the Memphis Annual Conference of the M.E. Church, South.

**II.** The object of this Board is to cooperate with the Parent Board of Domestic Missions of the M.E. Church, South, in support of missions, especially within the territory occupied by this Conference.

**III.** The officers of this Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and nine Managers, who shall be chosen quadrennially by the Memphis Conference.

The managers shall consist of five members of the Conference and four laymen. In case of vacancy by death, or resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall fill such vacancy subject to confirmation by Conference.

**IV.** The President, and in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

**V.** The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds and property of the Board subject to the order of the Board, and shall make an accurate and full report annually of all the receipts and disbursements of the Board to the Memphis Annual Conference.

**VI.** The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of the Board.

**VII.** It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge in the beginning of the Conference year, to enroll in a book provided for that special purpose, the names of all the members of his charge, and enter in said book the amount of money each one is willing to contribute to the Missionary Cause, and to collect the same as early as possible, giving due credits, and remit the same so collected, quarterly to the Treasurer of the Board.

**VIII.** Each preacher in charge shall take up a collection annually, in support of Foreign Missions, and transmit the amount so collected to the parent Board of Domestic or Foreign Missions, and report the same to this board.

**IX.** One-tenth of all the collections made for Domestic Missions and whatever balance may be in the Treasury depaying the expenses of its own Missions, shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the parent Board, to be appropriated as the Discipline directs.

**X.** There shall be a public annual meeting of the Board, at the time and place of the Sessions of the Annual Conference, in aid of Missions.

Philip Tuggle, M.J. Blackwell and J.E. Douglass were appointed a committee to nominate suitable officers, and the following were nominated and elected, viz: P. Tuggle, President, A.W. Jones, Vice-President, J.H. Evans, Secretary, S. Watson, Treasurer; T. Joyner, S.W. Moore, E.C. Slater, A. Kendall, L.D. Mullins, Gen. B.W. Williamson, R.C. Clark, Esq., Dr. A.S. Campbell, and Thos. F. Lilly, Managers.

Saml Watson, Treasurer of the Memphis Conference Missionary Society made his final report, which, having been read, was received.

Conference adjourned with the benediction.

**Monday Morning, Nov. 19th 1866.**

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services led by W.D.F. Hafford.
The minutes of Saturday afternoon were read and approved.

Bishop Paine reported the names of the following preachers as having been ordained deacons by him Sabbath Morning in the Methodist Church, viz: James R. Dycus, Wm. B. Veazy, Jno. D. Scarborough, Senior D. Carroll, Jarratt Presson, Henry P. Lowery, John E. Beck, Joseph W. Mitchell, Clark Brown, N.O. Blake, James M. Baxter, Davis A. Freeman, Wm. M. Hicks, Jno. J. Smith, Elias C. McElyea, Marion J. Holifield, Willis Hall, Francis M. Mason, Martin Shikle, Noah G. Holifield, Wm. H. Phipps, Thos J. Hutchison, Reuben R. Nelson, Jonathan Luton, Wm. A. Higgins, Nathaniel Futrell, Benj. F. Wallace, Robt M. Foster, J.N.D. Hale, Joshua D. Jones, Sterling A. Ellis. At the same time Henry C. Lock, a local deacon from the Methodist Protestant Church, took on himself the ordination vows, in order to recognition by us according to the Discipline.

Bishop Paine reported the names of the following preachers as having been ordained elders by him Sabbath afternoon in the Methodist Church, viz: Josephus Loving, Sion Tatum, Wm. B. Gattis, Thomas M. Ragsdale, Jno. F. Collins, Jno. C. Poyner.

At the same time, Robt. T. Wright, a local Elder from the Methodist Protestant Church, and M.L. Martin, a travelling elder from the same Church, took on themselves the ordination vows in order to recognition by us according to the Discipline.

Bishop Paine reported the names of the following colored preachers as having been ordained deacons by him Sabbath-night, at the Colored Methodist Church, viz: Silas Phillips, Stepney Graves, and Isaac Lane.

James N. Spicer having been duly recommended by the Quarterly Conference for Clinton Circuit, Paducah District, his credentials as a deacon were ordered to be restored to him.

Question Thirteenth was taken up: Who are superannuated? The characters of W.D. Scott, James M. Major, W.R. Dickey, Elias Tidwell, Jno. Hunter, D.C. Wells, and Reuben Ellis were examined and passed, and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The character of Jeremiah Moss was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The character of Jno. Young was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The committee on the case of D.F. Tabb presented their report of the trial of said D.F. Tabb, on the charges brought against him, which charges with the specifications may be found in the appendix.

Whereupon his character was passed, and he was granted a location at his own request.

The Bishop announced Richard H. Rivers as a transfer from the Mobile Conference, and his character was examined and passed.

The committee in the case of A.B. Sollers presented their report which was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

After a due consideration of the statements and evidence presented by several brethren, in reference to Brother Sollers, together with his explanations, we find the case to be such as not to justify, in our judgment, a trial, before the Conference. We therefore recommend that it be referred for trial to the Presiding Elder of the District in which he resides, and where the charges originated, and the necessary evidence can be obtained.

P. Tuggle, Chn.

The motion by which James Perry was granted a location was reconsidered and withdrawn.

The vote by which W.M. McFerrin was continued in a Supernumerary relation was reconsidered and he is effective.

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N.A.D. Bryant and J.W. Knott were granted a Supernumerary relation.

The report of the Committee on Books, Tracts, and Periodicals was presented, and having been read and discussed, was adopted.

The Bishop presented from the Journal of the General Conference at New Orleans the actions of that body referring the plan of the Lay Representation in the Annual and General Conferences.

The session was prolonged until this question should be disposed of, and it was resolved that the voting be *viva voce*. The roll was called and the vote stood. For concurrence, sixty-five - against fifty-one.

Conference adjourned with the benediction, to meet again this afternoon at two and a half o'clock.

**Monday Afternoon, Nov. 19th 1866**

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in his chair - and was opened with devotional exercises led by Rev. S.P. Whitten of the Tennessee Conference.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The subject of the change of the name of the church to the Episcopal Methodist Church was presented by the Bishop, and the action of the General Conference was read from the Journal thereof. The vote for concurrence required by the General Conference was taken *viva voce* [sic], and it is as follows, viz: For concurrence seventy-eight - Against, forty-three.

The report of the Joint Board of Stewards was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

It was resolved that the subject of devising a plan for raising the amount of money apportioned to this Conference, as one part of the Bishop's Fund, be referred to the Joint Board of Finance.

The Bishop announced the transfer of Rev. F.M. English, from the Louisville Conference.

The report of the Committee on Education was presented and having been read, the first part relating to Andrew College was adopted.

Pending the consideration of the second part of the report - relating to West Tenn. College, Conference adjourned with the benediction.

**Tuesday Morning, Nov. 20th 1866**

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious services led by Francis A. Owen.

Yesterday afternoon's minutes were read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Education was taken up, and the second part relating to West Tenn. College, after discussion was adopted.

The other parts of the report were then considered and adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted.

The report of the Committee on the Education and Support of Needy Orphan Children, appointed at the last session, was presented, and having been read was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Memoirs was presented, and having been read was, after some impressive remarks by the Bishop, adopted; and each of the memoirs unanimously, and by a rising vote.
Your Committee on Memoirs, beg leave to submit the following as the result of our labors. We find that death has invaded our ranks, and two of our esteemed brethren have fallen.

John A. Vincent was born in Maury County, Tennessee, Sept. 24, 1811. He was the child of strictly pious parents who trained him up in the way he should go. His early youth was characterized by singular modesty, and freedom from the vices that usually beset most young men; and as might have been expected, he was hopefully converted to God in the 14th year of his age, and soon thereafter united himself to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He was licensed to preach, Oct. 2, 1837, and admitted on trial as a travelling preacher in the fall of 1838; and thenceforth served the Church with great acceptability in the capacity of a circuit-preacher and Presiding Elder until 1855, at which time his health failed, and he was honorably located at his own request.

He continued in his local relation for three years; then believing his health sufficiently restored, returned to the travelling connection in the fall of 1858.

During the next two years, he travelled in the Denmark Circuit and was then appointed Presiding Elder of the Trenton District soon after which his health failed, and he received a superannuated relation in which he continued until the fall of 1865: then trusting to better health, was a second time made effective, and appointed to the Jackson Circuit.

He entered at once upon his work under hopeful auspices; for no man could have been more acceptable than he was.

On Sabbath before his lamented death, he preached twice, and on Monday reached his home. As was his custom in the evening, he called his family together for prayer, he read and prayed as usual; but before he retired, he knelt by his bedside and commended himself to God in secret prayer, continuing on his knees much longer than usual, his faithful wife, who was kneeling by his side, discovered that he was seized with a spasm, and calling for assistance, she laid him on the bed in a state of unconsciousness.

He, however, soon recovered partially, but by a return of spasms, he, on the following day breathed his last and went to his reward in heaven, in the 55th year of his age.

His talents as a preacher were highly respectable; his character was untarnished by a single blot; and a better man we honestly believe we never knew. This is no empty, gaudy, eulogy paid to his memory; but will be accorded to him by the thousands to whom he ministered. May we, as ministers, emulate his virtues, and follow his footsteps as he followed as Christ.

G.W.D. Harris, Chairman.

Thomas Maddin Melugin departed this life at his father's residence near Covington, Tenn., April 20, 1866.

Brother Melugin was born Sept. 17th 1838; professed religion and joined the Methodist Church, South in 1853, in which he lived a pious, consistent member until his death.

In August, 1861, he was licensed to preach, and at the session of the Conference held at Jackson, Tenn., in November of that year he was admitted on trial in the travelling connection and was sent to the Lagrange Circuit. In the fall of 1862, he was assigned to the Randolph Circuit. In 1863, he was sent to Huntingdon Circuit, where his health failed; and he was compelled to leave the work in consequence. In the fall of 1864 he asked for and obtained a supernumerary relation, in which relation he was assigned to Randolph Circuit. In October, 1865, his health not having improved, he was continued a supernumerary and assigned to the Covington Station, where he fell at his post.

Brother Melugin was an upright, pious Christian gentleman. Having enjoyed
the advantages of pious training, he was always moral; and, having many years since sought the favor of God he was found ready when the summons came. J.W. Mathis one of our committee visited him often during his protracted illness, and found him patiently awaiting his Master’s call.

Several times during his sickness, he spoke of death, and said, ‘‘The Lord’s will be done.’’ Thus has another of our ministerial band - young in years, but rich in experience and faith - been taken from his labors on earth to his reward in heaven.

G.W.D. Harris, Ch’n.

The report of the Religious Interests of the Colored People, was presented, and having been read and considered at length, was adopted. During the consideration of this subject, the Bishop announced that it was his purpose to appoint the Rev. Thos. Taylor, of the Local Ministry, superintendent of the work among the Colored People in our bounds; and Bro. Taylor was introduced by the Bishop.

The report of the Committee on Missions, No. 2, was presented, and having been read was adopted.

Conference resolved when we adjourn, it be to meet at two and a half o’clock this afternoon.

The report of the Committee on the General Spiritual Interests of the Church, was presented, and having been read and discussed was adopted.

Question Twenty-First was taken up: What has been contributed for the Missionary and Tract Societies? Samuel Watson, Memphis Conference Missionary Treasurer reports the amount of Missionary Money collected within our bounds to be $2796.60 - $588.05 for the old debt.

Conference adjourned with the benediction.

Tuesday Afternoon, Nov. 20th 1866

Conference met according to adjournment - T.L. Boswell in the Chair - and was opened with devotional exercises conducted by Moses L. Martin.

The minutes of the forenoon’s Session were read and approved.

A motion was made and lost to reconsider the action of the Conference in adopting the report of the General Spiritual Interests of the Church.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted, viz:

Whereas, the practice of dancing and attending dancing parties, balls, and tournaments; and theatres on the part of members of our Church is uniformly detrimental to the maintenance of Christian character and usefulness, and in contradiction of the General Rules of our Church, especially that on taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord; and whereas, the Church in many localities within our bounds, has been seriously injured by such practices; and whereas, the good of the Church demands an explicit official expression of the views of this Conference on the subject:

Resolved, that we the members of this Conference, in Conference assembled, do hereby heartily disapprove and emphatically condemn such practices.

The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read was, after some suitable remarks by the Rev. S.P. Whitten, agent for the American Bible Society, adopted.

The following persons were nominated and elected Trustees of Andrew College for the next two years, viz:


Col. R.C. Clark was nominated and elected Treasurer of the Preacher’s Relief Fund for the next year.
Report No. 2 of the Joint Board of Finances, was presented, and having been read, was adopted.

Question Nineteenth was taken up: What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their salaries in their respective districts, circuits, & stations? The report of the Joint Board of Stewards shows it to be $5181.50.

Question Twentieth was taken up: What has been collected on the foregoing accounts and how has it been applied? The report of the Joint Board of Stewards shows it to be $2903.15 - applied to the claims of widows & orphans of preachers, of superannuated and deficient preachers.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was presented, and having been read was adopted. In answer to Question Eighteenth, the report presents the following items viz: 147 Sunday Schools, 1,010 officers and teachers; 6802 pupils; 13,421 Volumes in Libraries, 457 Conversions, and $1217.20 collected for Sunday School purposes.

The report of Hervey Brown, Esq., Secretary of the Jackson Station Sunday School was presented and read for information and encouragement.

Question Twenty-Second was taken up: Where and when shall the next Session of Conference be held?

Paducah, Memphis, and Paris, were nominated, and upon the third voting, Paducah, Ky., was selected as the place for holding our next Session.

The following resolution was adopted, after remarks by Hon F.P. Scruggs and several members of the Conference, viz:

Whereas, there is an open door for the introduction of the Gospel in Mexico, by Protestant Churches; and, whereas we have many North-American friends in that interesting country, who are calling for a missionary; and, whereas we believe our worthy and beloved Bro. J.T. Meriwether is a suitable man for that work, therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend the Presiding Bishop of this Conference to appoint Br. Meriwether to a mission in Mexico, and that we as a conference pledge ourselves to his support.

Conference adjourned with the benediction to meet tonight immediately after preaching.

Tuesday Night, Nov. 20, 1866

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair. Conference having been preceded by a sermon by the Rev. Dr. McFerrin.

The minutes of the afternoon session were read and approved.

The following Committees of Examination to continue as such for the next four years were appointed, viz:

To examine Candidates for Admission on Trial - A.H. Thomas, John Barcroft, and Isham L. Burrow.

First Year - Guilford Jones, A.E. Douglass, and A.C. Allen.
Second Year - S.W. Moore, Amos Kendall, and A.J. Lee.
Third Year - E.C. Slater, B.H. Bishop, and Wm. T. Harris.
Fourth Year - T.L. Boswell, A.W. Jones, and P.J. Eckles

Question Second was taken up: Who remain on trial? T.G. Freeman, J.C. Crews, and A.L. Pritchett having passed a satisfactory examination on the prescribed studies and recommended, their characters were passed and they were continued on trial.
The characters of C.S. McDougal and J.R. Peeples were examined and passed, and they were discontinued at their own request.

The votes by which W.J. Mahon, T.L. Boswell, and J.W. Bates were made supernumeraries were reconsidered and they are effective.


The following resolution was adopted by a rising vote, viz:

Resolved, That we respectfully and earnestly request our presiding officer, the Rev. Bishop Paine, if compatible with his duties to change his residence from Aberdeen, Miss. to Memphis, Tenn.

Thomas G. Lane was located at his own request.

Question First was resumed: Who are admitted on trial?

Theodore F. Brewer, Trenton Circuit, Jackson District, having been recommended by the Quarterly Conference of which he is a member, and by the Examining Committee before whom he had appeared, was admitted on trial.

The Bishop announced the following persons as the Joint Board of Stewards, viz:


The Bishop announced the following visiting committees, viz:


The following resolutions were adopted unanimously, and by a rising vote, viz:

1. That this body owes and gives the most profound thanks to the citizens of Jackson and vicinity for the bountiful, elegant, and cordial hospitality dispensed in behalf of the members and visitors during our sessions, and that we will cherish the most pleasant memories of our brief, but happy association with them.

2. That we tender the expression of sentiments of Christian fellowship and regard to our beloved brethren of the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, whose houses of worship were offered to us, and have been used by us during our session; and we pray for them, as well as for our own people, that peace may be within their walls and prosperity within their palaces.

3. That we are grateful to the officers of the different railroad companies, for their kind consideration in reducing the rates of fare required of us in coming to and going from the seat of our Conference.

The following persons were appointed to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund for Andrew College, viz: Dr. C.W. Malone, Dr. H.R. Branham, and Col. R.C. Clark.

R.W. Blew was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Board of Managers of the Book and Tract Society occasioned by the death of W.K. Poston, Esq.

The Bishop addressed the Conference briefly, but appropriately and impressively in relation to the great work before the preachers, and then a hymn was sung, "Jesus the Truth and Power Divine" and prayer offered by G.W.D. Harris.

The minutes of this session were read and approved.
The following appointments were announced by the Bishop, viz:

Memphis District, John Moss, P.E.

Wesley Church, to be supplied, J.W. Knott, Sup.
Asbury Church, Guilford Jones, E.J. Williams, Sup.
Central Church, J.T.C. Collins, D.J. Allen, Sup., F.A. Owen, Sup.
Collins Chapel, to be supplied
Greenwood Colored Mission, to be supplied
City Mission, A.H. Thomas.
Hernando Station, F.S. Petway.
Hernando Circuit, Tilman Page.
Olive Branch Circuit, T.P. Holeman, P. Tuggle, Sup.
Olive Branch Cir. Col’d. Charge, to be supplied by J. Williams.
Friar’s Point, J.F. Markham
Hushpuckany, Wm. McMahon
Tunica, to be supplied, M.M. Dunn, Sup.
Concordia, B.J. Pearson
Samuel Watson--Agent of the Book and Tract Society.
W.C. Johnson--Editor, Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate.
Charles Collins, President State Female College

Somerville District T.L. Boswell, P.E.

Somerville Station, R.H. Rivers, R.V. Taylor, W.N. Morgan, Sup.
Wesley Circuit, A.R. Wilson, J.P. McCall.
Mt. Zion Circuit, M.H. Cullom, A.C. Smith, J.D. Slaughter, Sup.
Randolph, James Perry
Covington Station, James W. Mathis
Macon, W.T. Plummer
Oakland, W.M. McFerrin.
Cypress, to be supplied by J.A. Manley.
LaGrange Station, B.H. Bishop.
Bolivar Station, J.H. Garrett.
Saulsbury, T.J. Neely, N.A.D. Bryant, Sup.

Jackson District, W.H. Leigh, P.E.

Jackson Station, J.H. Evans, L. Lea, Sup.
Jackson Circuit, Isham L. Burrow.
Denmark, E.E. Hamilton.
Lexington, J.R. Sykes.
Decaturville, R.L. Swift.
Trenton Circuit, R.H. Burns, N. Sullivan, Sup.
Humboldt Station, to be supplied.
A.W. Jones, President, Memphis Conference Female Institute
B.A. Hayes, Agent Memphis Conference Female Institute

Dyersburg District, G.W.D. Harris, P.E.

Dyersburg Station, Geo. B. Allen.
Dyersburg Cir. Colored Charge, J.A. McClellan.
Trenton Station, W.F. Mister, N.P. Ramsey, Sup.
Cageville, J.B. McCutchen, J.F. Armstrong, J.M. Scott, Sup.
Brownsville and Prospect, G.K. Brooks, B. Medlin, Sup.
Brownsville Circuit, C.J. Mauldin, one to be supplied.
Brownsville Cir. Colored Charge, to be supplied
Fulton and Bluff Springs, F.M. Morris
Madrid Bend, W.J. Mahon
S.W. Moore, President Andrew College
W.T. Harris, Agent for Andrew College

Paris District, R.S. Harris, P.E.
Paris Station, D.M.K. Collins.
Paris Circuit, W.T.C. Young, H. Bell, Sup.
Camden, E.M. Baker
Morgan's Creek, J.C. Crews
Huntingdon Station, E.B. Plummer
Huntingdon Circuit, B.F. Peeples
Pleasant Plains Circuit Colored Charge, J.V. Fly
Murray, J.H. Witt.
Boydville, to be supplied.
Dresden Station, D.C. Johnson.

Paducah District, F. Bynum, P.E.
Paducah Station, E.C. Slater, J.M. Spence, Sup.
Paducah Circuit, T.C. Ellis
Blandville, to be supplied by F. Mason
Benton, B.B. Risenhoover
Briensburg, W.W. Fawcett, J.R. Dycus, Sup.
Clinton, D. Mason
Palestine, J.E. Beck.
Mayfield Station, H.B. Avery
Columbus Station, F.M. English.
Hickman Station, A.L. Hunsaker, T.B. Atterbury, Sup.
Hickman Circuit, J.M. Flatt, S. Weaver, Sup.
Dresden H.B. Covington.
Troy, G.H. Bransford, M.D. Robinson, Sup.
Hickman Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied by D.J. Hale.

Holly Springs District, J.H. Brooks, P.E.
Holly Springs Station, L.H. Davis
Holly Springs Circuit, J.B. Harris.
Chulahoma Circuit, E. Jackson, C.B. Harris, Sup.
Chulahoma Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied
Sardis Circuit, A.J. Lee
Sardis Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied.
Harmony, G.W. Bachman
Cold Water, A.P. Sage
Cockrum, W.S. Harrison
Byhalia Circuit, M.H. Ford
Byhalia Circuit Colored Charge, To be supplied
Marshall, R.A. Neblett.
Early Grove, Thomas Joyner.
Salem, Warner Moore, S.B. Carson, Sup.
Hickory Flat, Thos. G. Freeman
P.J. Eckles, President Byhalia Female Institute
J.E. Douglass, President Marshall Female Institute
T.J. Gooch, President Sardis Female Institute

Iuka District, W.D.F. Hafford, P.E.

Iuka Station, John Barcroft
Iuka Circuit, Joseph W. Poston
Corinth Station, R.G. Rainey
Corinth Circuit, M.L. Martin
Rienzi Circuit, M.D. Fly, J. Gaines, Sup.
Rienzi Circuit Colored Charge, W.E. Ellis
Marietta, J.W. Honnoll [Honnell].
Purdy, to be supplied by W.P. Nance
Rock Spring, to be supplied by L.D. Webb
Middleton Circuit, J.A. Fife
Ripley, J.W. Luter

Aberdeen District, A.C. Allen, P.E.

Aberdeen Station, Amos Kendall
Gladneyville and Colored Charge, B.B. Barker
Aberdeen Circuit, A.L. Pritchett
Aberdeen Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied
Chickasaw, T.J. Lowry
Houston, R.G. Porter
Okolona Circuit, T.L. Duke
Okolona and Verona Station, J.C. Lowe, H.D. Howell, Sup.
Pontotoc Circuit, to be supplied by C.D. Fontaine, M.J. Blackwell, Sup.
Pontotoc Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied by R.H. Bonner.
Baldwin, B.W. Stubbs.
Richmond Circuit, W.L. Kistler
Richmond Circuit Colored Charge, to be supplied by W. Cooper
Fulton, H.H. Thacker
Lee Colored Charge, J.P. Dancer

Grenada District, Isaac Ebbert, P.E.

Grenada Staion, R.H. Mahon
Grenada Circuit, to be supplied.
Charleston, F.A. Wilkerson, one to be supplied.
Calhoun Circuit, W.C. Green, one to be supplied
Calhoun Circuit Colored Charge, J.M. Hampton
Water Valley and Coffeeville Station, W.W. Pearson, Jos. Johnson, Sup. (135)
Coffeeville Circuit, F.C. Pearson
Spring Dale, R. Martin
Oxford Station, J.J. Wheat.
Oxford Circuit, A.K. Miller
Cambridge, W.L. Jones.
Sarepta, A.H. Kennedy.
Panola, J.W. Bates.
Cassida, J.W. McIver
J.J. Wheat, Professor in University of Mississippi

Somerville Colored District, To be Supplied by Thomas Taylor
as Presiding Elder

121
Somerville Station, to be supplied.
Wesley Circuit, R.A. Umsted, J.T. Baskerville, Sup.
Mt. Zion, to be supplied.
Macon, J.W. Walkup
LaGrange to be supplied
Jackson Station, to be supplied.
Jackson Circuit, D.C. McCutchen
Denmark, to be supplied
Trenton, to be supplied by O.P. Parker
J.T. Meriwether recommended to the Board of Foreign Missions as a missionary to Mexico.
A.B. Soller's case referred to the Presiding Elder of the Paducah District.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

W. C. Johnson
Secretary

REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Annual Conference at Jackson, Tenn., November 14-20, 1866.

Books, Tracts, and Periodicals

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Books, Tracts, and Periodicals submit the following report:

1. Book Depository at Memphis.

The lights before the committee do not enable them to present a satisfactory statement of the condition of the Depository.

Its business, suspended by the late war, has not been resumed. It owes perhaps about three thousand dollars to parties, who need their money and ought to be paid. There remains on hand a small amount of stock worth, perhaps two thousand dollars, besides notes of stock-holders—to what amount we are not informed. These assets, whatever they may be, are now unavailable and must continue so, until business is resumed.

There are many urgent reasons why this should be done at the earliest practicable moment. It seems to us that the faith of the Conference is pledged to those who took shares, and to those who advanced money, to establish the institution, to set it in operation again.

The Church and the friends of the Church need a Methodist book store in Memphis; and our interest in the success of the Publishing House at Nashville urges us to reorganize this valuable auxiliary.

In view of these facts we make the following suggestions:

1. That Brother Samuel Watson be reelected Agent of the Memphis Conference Book and Tract Society.
2. That Brothers Thomas Joyner, L.D. Mullins, Guilford Jones, J. Moss, and Philip Tuggle be appointed a Commission, whose duty it shall be to meet the Board of Managers and the Agent at Memphis at the earliest possible date, and with them to ascertain the exact financial status of the Depository, and determine the time and manner of resuming its business - said Commission being invested with
connection with the managers and agent, with full power in the premises, and required to report their action to the next session of this Conference.

II. The Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate

The committee heartily approve the editorial conduct of this our organ. We, in common with the whole Conference, take pride and pleasure in commending it as a first-class religious journal.

We are gratified by the statement of the Editor, Bro. W.C. Johnson that the Advocate may be regarded as self-sustaining this year. And we hereby pledge him such cordial and active support as shall insure to him the success he richly merits.

We recommend that Brother Johnson be authorized to make such arrangements as he may judge best for the publication of the Advocate, on the condition that the Conference is not bound for deficits and expects none of the profits.

III. Southern Methodist Publishing House, and Papers - Nashville

The annual "Exhibit" of Rev. A.H. Redford, Agent, and his very impressive address to this body on Saturday, have so fully set forth the condition, prospects, and claims of the House, that we need not extend our report upon these topics. We are gratified by his assurance that the Publishing House is already doing a business far beyond the hopes of its best friends; and present indications are that it is entering on a prosperous career.

We approve the adoption of the cash system in his management of the House, as best for him and his customers. And we assure him of our hearty sympathy and cooperation in his endeavors to furnish the Christian public in the South with a literature adopted to their wants and their tastes.

The Nashville Christian Advocate, as the central organ of the Church, as well as by its intrinsic merits, deserve[s] a large and free circulation among us; and this we will cheerfully promote, next to our own Conference paper.

The Sunday School Visitor, we are happy to learn is soon to be sent forth on its mission, to instruct and gladden the children of the Church. The Committee earnestly recommend to the Conference that we pledge ourselves individually to make early, prompt, and energetic efforts to spread the Visitor throughout our charges - not only in the Sunday Schools, but to all the families to whom we have access. Let us endeavor to give to the young minds of our charges, moral health and tone, by meeting the first demands of intelligence with a pure, wholesome, truthful, and attractive literature.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nov. 19, 1866

S. W. Moore, Chairman

Joint Board of Finance

The Joint Board of Finance beg leave to submit the following report: We find the amount necessary for the superannuated preachers, the widows and orphan children of deceased preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those preachers who have not received their regular allowance to be $5,181.50/100.

There have been collected on the foregoing from the several circuits and stations $2,421; Interest from the Memphis Conference Female Institute, $300; interest from Marshall Female Institute, $56.70/100; our surplus of collection for General Conference delegates, $125.45/100-Whole amount received by us $2,903.15/100, which we have applied as follows: J.W. Walkup, $100; W.R. Dickey, $75; H. Bell, $125; C.B. Harris, $200; W.E. Ellis, $137.50/100; James Gaines, $100; W. McMahon, $50; Sister McFarland, $135; Sister Henderson, $110; Sister Robb, $110; Sister Crouch, $235; Sister Campbell, $210; Sister Melugin, $60; Sister Hubbard, $32; Sister Cole, $110; Sister Ramsey, $85; Sister Hamilton, $210; Sister Smotherman, $35; Reuben Ellis, $125; John Young, $75; John Hunter, $100; D.J. Allen, $100; H.D. Howell, $150; Elias Tidwell, $51.60/100; to defray expenses of Lay Delegates $32.05/100 - making a total of $2,903.15/100.
We have carefully examined the report of Col. R.C. Clark, Treasurer of Preachers’ Relief Fund, and find many of the claims in a very imperfect and disjointed condition, absolutely requiring speedy action, if we would save them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz;

That the Treasurer of the Preachers’ Relief Fund be, and is hereby ordered to take prompt measures to renew, secure, and compound or collect all notes and other claims held by him.

The probable amount necessary to meet the claims of the superannuated preachers, the widows and orphan children of deceased preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those preachers who will not receive their regular allowance on their Districts, Circuits, and Stations, is $5,500, which we have apportioned to the different Presiding Elders’ Districts as follows:

Memphis District, $770; Somerville District, $770; Dyersburg District, $440; Jackson District, $550; Paris District, $330; Paducah District, $440; Grenada District, $440; Holly Springs District, $550; Iuka District, $110; Aberdeen District, $770; Mississippi Bottom District, $330; Total, $5,500.

There has been collected for the support of Bishops, $1,217.30/100; which we have paid over to the Bishop Paine, our presiding officer, his receipt for the same being taken by us.

Respectfully Submitted

Supplementary Report.

The Joint Board of Finance met at the call of the chairman, Nov. 19th 1866, and apportioned the amount necessary for the support of the Bishops, to the different Districts as follows:

Memphis District, $228; Somerville District, $196; Dyersburg District, $112; Jackson District, $140; Aberdeen District, $196; Grenada District, $112; Iuka District, $80; Paducah District, $112; Paris District, $84; Holly Springs District, $140; Total, $1400.

Whereas, an average of twenty-five cents to each member of the church within our bounds, would be more than sufficient to meet the claims of superannuated preachers, widows, and orphans, and to make up the deficiencies of the preachers; and whereas it is believed the only reason why this amount is not collected, is that the preachers do not present their claims; therefore,

Resolved, That each preacher in charge who may fail to present their claims at each of his appointments, be required to pay five percent of his own receipts to said Fund.

Philip Tuggle, Chairman.

Statistics

The Committee on Statistics beg leave to submit the following report:

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<th>District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Colored Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<td>Adults</td>
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<td>40</td>
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</table>

| **Jackson District**      |         |         |                 |         |        |          |
| Jackson Station           | 250     |         | 3               | 4       | 14     |          |
| Jackson Station Col. Mission | 62    |         | 1               |         |        |          |
| Jackson Circuit           | 451     |         | 1               | 6       | 50     |          |
| Jackson Circuit Col. Mission | 263  |         |                 |         |        |          |
| Denmark Circuit           | 575     |         | 4               |         |        |          |
| Mt. Pinson Circuit        | 400     |         | 4               | 5       | 15     |          |
| Decaturville Circuit      | 548     | 28      | 11              | 15      | 80     |          |
| Lexington Circuit         | 414     | 15      | 6               | 3       | 65     |          |
| Trenton Circuit           | 830     | 170     | 12              | 13      | 167    |          |
| **Total**                 | 3468    | 538     | 42              | 46      | 433    |          |

| **Dyersburg District**    |         |         |                 |         |        |          |
| Dyersburg Circuit         | 1064    |         | 10              |         |        |          |
| Brownsville and Prospect | 150     | 176     | 2               | 3       | 27     |          |
| Brownsville Circuit       | 902     | 25      | 8               | 2       | 96     |          |
| Cageville Circuit         | 905     | 75      | 7               | 15      | 180    |          |
| Madrid Bend Circuit       | 200     | 4       | 4               | 3       | 37     |          |
| Trenton Station           | 145     | 80      | 4               | 12      | 25     |          |
| **Total**                 | 3,366   | 356     | 35              | 36      | 364    |          |

<p>| <strong>Paris District</strong>        |         |         |                 |         |        |          |
| Paris Station             | 91      | 54      | 2               |         | 10     |          |
| Paris Circuit             | 1225    | 200     | 13              | 12      | 300    |          |
| Camden Circuit            | 677     |         | 4               |         |        |          |
| Murray Circuit            | 1049    | 23      | 11              | 50      | 300    |          |
| Pleasant Plains Circuit   | 590     |         | 8               |         |        |          |
| Huntingdon Circuit        | 407     | 20      | 3               | 4       | 200    |          |
| Morgan’s Creek Mission    | 150     |         |                 |         |        |          |
| Dresden Station           | 67      | 25      | 10              | 18      |        |          |
| Dresden Station Col. Mission | 9      |         |                 |         |        |          |
| <strong>Total</strong>                 | 4,256   | 331     | 41              | 76      | 828    |          |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Colored Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<td>Baldwin Circuit-</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,877</td>
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### Grenada District.

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<tr>
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<th>White Members</th>
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<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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**TOTAL**

2,373 | 377 | 30 | 49 | 146

### Mississippi Bottom District.

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<tr>
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**TOTAL**

232 | 289 | 2 | 1 | 10

### Recapitulation:

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<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi Bottom District-</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>289</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

31,195 | 4,613 | 379 | 807 | 4,560

### Education.

Your Committee on Education have given careful thought to various matters referred to their consideration, and have done the best they could in the brief time to which they were necessarily limited. Of course it is not expected that we enter into elaborate remarks on the importance of education; or the imperative duty of the Church to foster and encourage the educational institutions of our country - these things you understand and appreciate.

It may be, however, that we are not as mindful as we should be of the magnitude of the responsibilities involved in the educational training of the youth of our land. It is important to have thoroughly trained educators, teachers, who are capable of imparting knowledge; but acquiring knowledge is but a small part of education; a more important point is the cultivation of the heart, and the training of the habits of thought and feeling, the forming of those imperishable elements of character that are to determine the individual’s usefulness for time and his destiny forever.

A work so vast in the sweep of its influences, we cannot overlook without a fearful dereliction of duty. In view of all that is involved in the educational training...
of youth, we may well question the propriety of intrusting [sic] such a work to any one, whose mind and heart are not imbued with the spirit, and baptized with the lights of our holy Christianity. To secure such instruction, the church should lay hold upon and foster and guide the educational institutions of our country.

Your committee would call attention to our own Andrew College. This institution, you know is the child of our own Conference, its origin and past history you know, its sufferings under the sweep of the war, and its present status you have in the elaborate report of the Trustees now before you. Two facts in that report we are much gratified to learn. First, the College is alive and in operation. Since the storm of battle ceased, our esteemed brother Rev. I.L. Burrow has been in charge of the institution, and under his labors it has been gradually growing in strength and prosperity. Second, the debt which, even before the war hung like an incubus upon the College, crippling its prosperity, has been lifted from it. The citizens of Trenton and vicinity, have nobly and generously come forward and met the debt, thus lifting the incubus from the College. That debt was near eight thousand dollars.

The Trustees now present the College before you out of debt, with a good substantial building on a beautiful hill, and in the bosom of a rich provision growing country - the building and grounds worth some twenty-five thousand dollars, and about twenty thousand dollars secured toward an endowment. They ask that an agent be appointed out of your body to canvass the bounds of the Conference in order to complete the endowment commenced before the war. They ask also, that you give them a head - a President for the College and that you, as a Conference, and as individuals heartily cooperate in advancing the interests of the College.

Your committee recommend that you grant all that the Trustees have asked, and that the Bishop be requested to appoint Rev. S.W. Moore, to the presidency of Andrew College.

Your committee have had before them a proposition from the Trustees of West Tennessee College, which we decline recommending the Conference to accept, because we think you cannot do so, and at the same time do for Andrew College what we have recommended in this report.

"The brief outline of the plan talked of by the Trustees and Faculty (of West Tennessee College), and which they would offer for consideration, not only to your honorable body, but also to all Protestant denominations, is - that each denomination raise twenty five thousand dollars of capital stock, or secure the interest on that sum, say fifteen hundred dollars to be paid annually into the College Treasury as an endowment for a Professorship. In consideration of this endowment, your honorable body is to have the privilege of nominating a Professor to fill one chair in the faculty; and also to have the privilege of educating twenty-five students free of College fees."

As a committee we deem it due to the Conference and all concerned, that lay the proposition before you that you may take direct action upon it; and to bring up that action, we propose the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That we are not prepared at present to accept the proposition from the Trustees of West Tennessee College.

Our esteemed brother, Rev. A.H. Redford appeared before your committee as a messenger from the Louisville Conference, bearing a proposition that our Conference unite with them in building up a first-class college. The same proposition had been laid before the Tennessee Conference, that the three Conferences unite in the enterprise.

One of your committee had talked with some of the Louisville brethren on that subject at the General Conference, and thought the idea a good one. The College proposed was to be located at some point to be mutually agreed upon. The Louisville brethren proposed Bowling Green, Ky. as the place. Yet, brother Redford stated that he was not wedded to any particular place; nor did he think the brethren
of his Conference were; any place where the greatest success in the main object can be attained, he thought would be the principle upon which they would act. While we appreciate the importance of uniting all the strength that can be gathered around such an enterprise, and would be much pleased to be united with our esteemed brethren of the Louisville Conference in such a work, yet - having Andrew College in our bounds with its appartenances and surroundings, and now relieved from debt, we can only offer to them a cordial invitation to unite with us, if they feel it to be their interest to do so, in making Andrew College the institution desired. We recommend that Brother Redford be requested to bear our greetings, together with this our decision in the matter spoken of, to the brethren of the Louisville Conference.

In regard to the Female institutions of learning under the patronage of the Conference, we are gratified to learn that they are rising up from the desolations of the war, and are rapidly regaining their former prosperity. We should foster and encourage them in their heaven-appointed work of training, adorning, and preparing the daughters of our land for their sphere in the great destiny of our race. We commend to the confidence and patronage of the Church and the community all these institutions.

The Conference Female Institute, under presidency of Rev. A.W. Jones, State Female College, under Rev. Charles Collins, D.D., Bascom Female Institute under Rev. S.W. Moore all report a growing prosperity.

We recommend that Revs. A.W. Jones, Charles Collins, J.E. Douglass, and P.J. Eckles be appointed by the Bishop to the Institutions over which they severally preside.

Your committee believe that more interest should be taken by the Church in primary schools, and in order to meet our responsibility in that direction, we propose the following for the adoption of the Conference, hoping that you will not only adopt, but remember and act upon it when you go to your several fields of labor.

Resolved. That all our preachers are urged to use their influence in encouraging primary and academic schools in their respective charges, and also to use their influence in promoting the interests of Andrew College.

We recommend that the Bishop be requested to appoint the Rev. Wm. T. Harris Agent for Andrew College.

Nov. 20, 1866

Respectfully submitted,

Guilford Jones, Chairman

Sunday-Schools

Your committee beg leave to report that they have had the subject of Sunday Schools under careful consideration. They are pleased to find that from the statistics, there has been a decided increase during the past Conference-year over the previous year. Feeling that our success as a Church greatly depends upon the attention we give the Sunday School cause, your committee earnestly urge upon the preachers, and through them, upon our people, prompt and faithful attention to the Sunday-School interest of the Church.

Only let Sunday-Schools be organized in every pastoral charge where ten children can be found, and we shall soon find that many of the waste places in Zion will begin to blossom as the rose, and we will bring in as the result of our labors a large revenue of young converts into the Church of Christ.

Your committee after a careful compilation of the statistics, from the different Stations, Circuits, and Missions, give the following as the result of the last year’s labors, viz: 147 Sunday Schools; 1010 officers and teachers; 6,802 pupils in Schools; 13,421 volumes in library; 457 conversions; and $1,217.20 collected for Sunday-School purposes.
We offer for your adoption the following resolutions:

1. That all our preachers and superintendents of Sabbath School be, and they are hereby instructed to use diligent efforts to introduce into our Sunday-Schools, *The Sunday-School Visitor*, and books of our own publication.

2. That the children in our Sabbath Schools should be taught sacred music as a part of their religious education in view of their participating in the singing of public worship.

3. That we will use our best endeavors to indoctrinate the children under our religious tuition in Wesleyan theology as set forth by our standard; also to instruct them in relation to the peculiar and distinctive features of our church government, usages and economy.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Nov. 20, 1866  J.T.C. Collins, Chairman

**Bible Cause**

The Committee on the Bible Cause submit the following report: We are grateful to God that after fifty years of successful labor, the American Bible Society is unfaltering in her high and holy mission. During the past year, nearly one million copies of the Holy Scriptures were issued by this Apocalyptic Angel. We are glad to know that after the peltings of the storm that has wasted our heritage, we have left to us the leaves of the tree of life, that are for the healing of the nations. With commendable spirit, the American Bible Society has made her largest donations to supply the destitute of the South. In the last Annual Report, we are assured that "the policy of the managers has been to follow Providence, to avoid complications, keeping the work as single as possible, while availing themselves of every proper channel of distributing the Holy Scriptures." This is well. And we are satisfied that the friends of this noble charity, within our Conference, will cordially sustain its accredited agents, and its holy mission. During the past year the Society has donated 62,618 copies of the Holy Scriptures to destitute people in the South, and 32,324 copies to freedmen. But for the difficulties of transportation more could have been done. They propose "to help us in this our time of financial prostration that we may help ourselves, to enable us to do our own Bible work and thus to foster the genial spirit of Christian union, and of evangelical cooperation for the spiritual and temporal welfare of all our millions." And as those who love the Bible, we gratefully respond to this Christian sentiment.

From the exhibit of the labors of Rev. W.C. Johnson, the Agent of the Society during the past year in Northern Mississippi, we feel assured of a permanent interest there for this noble charity. Old auxiliaries were visited and revived. He attended thirty-one Bible meetings, sent out letters and circulars to every part of the work, and his zeal and fidelity were fully approved by the Board at New York. For the last six months he has labored also in West Tennessee with similar results.

Your committee are of opinion that the American Bible Society has made a most judicious selection to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Brother Johnson. Rev. S.P. Whitten a worthy member of the Tennessee Conference, is well known to us as a man of ability, prudence, and energy; and we trust that his labors in this field, embracing West Tennessee and North Mississippi, will be abundantly blessed; therefore,

Resolved. That we will cordially and zealously cooperate with the agents and auxiliaries of the American Bible Society within our bounds, in their work of faith and labor of love.

Nov. 20, 1866  E.C. Slater, Chairman
Missions

The Committee on Domestic Missions reports as follows:-
LaGrange Colored Mission, Rev. T.J. Neely reports nine appointments, 120 members, one local preacher, and one exhorter.
Mt. Zion Colored Mission served by Rev. L. Adams, four appointments, 250 members, paid $180.90.
Macon Colored Mission, six appointments, seventy-three members, three class-leaders, three stewards, nine baptized. Paid $61.30
McLemoresville Colored Mission, four appointments, ninety-three members, paid $50. Rev. Wm. Christenberry, Missionary.
Richmond Colored Mission, Rev. Wm. Cooper reports four appointments, 150 members, baptized ten.
Olive Branch Colored Mission, Rev. Jerry Williams preached to about 800, 150 members, one local preacher. Paid $150.
Bolivar Colored Mission, Rev. F.C. Pearson, 105 members, one local preacher.
Dresden Colored Mission, Rev. J.C. Crews in charge, reports forty-five conversions, nine members.
Blandville White Mission, seven appointments, 42 members, 8 baptized. Paid $50. Rev. F.M. Lane, Missionary.
Morgan's Creek White Mission, ten appointments, 150 members, 55 accessions, baptized 38 adults, 4 infants. Paid $125.

In the foregoing there appear ten missionary charges among the colored people, and but two white missions.

Your Committee are under the conviction that there are more than two missions among the white people within our bounds, yet no others have been reported, and your committee can do no more on this subject than to urge the cultivation of such fields with greater energy than heretofore; and increased effort should be made to enlarge the work in this direction, extending to the people of our own race all the help in our power to furnish them the ministration of the Word of Life. This is no time to relax our energies in the great and good work. Souls are perishing, and the world is rushing on to its final destiny. We should awake to realize the importance of our situation, and acknowledge our responsibility to the "Lord of all" to preach the Gospel to the poor. The importance of the subject burdens your committee with concern that it should be, in any sense, lightly passed over or neglected. The whole Church most assuredly ought to feel that she is bound by her very constitution, as well as by her high-born commission to give, to labor, and to preach for the salvation of souls. The Gospel being essentially missionary and aggressive in its character, requires brave hearts, sacrificing spirits, and liberal hands, to bear its heaven inspired blessings to the poor. Therefore, it follows that if we would meet the wants of the perishing millions of earth, and fulfill our heaven-appointed destiny, we must cultivate, foster and generally support this vital power - the missionary work of our holy Christianity, both at home and abroad - domestic and foreign.

The missionary work among the colored people is embarrassed with very many difficulties - difficulties which appear almost, if not quite insurmountable. Yet we should not be intimidated. We should bring to the holy contest, resolution, energy, and divine grace sufficient to overcome all obstacles in the way of giving the pure Gospel of Christ to the perishing sons of Ham.

Your committee think, however, in view of the lights before them, that the
work among the colored people should be conducted on principles that would not require drafts on our general mission funds.

Therefore, the foregoing colored missions should hereafter be reported as colored charges, so that contributions for their support must be specified as such, or else cannot be used for such purposes. There are difficulties surrounding this subject, which your committee do not see how to get along with otherwise than as just stated.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Nov. 20, 1866. Thos. Joyner, Chairman.

General Spiritual Condition of the Church

The committee on the General Spiritual Condition of the Church have had the subject under careful consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

It has pleased the great Head of the Church, during the past year in His great mercy to preserve His people and prosper His Church in a most remarkable manner. The year has been one of great trial, and much suffering, but marked with signal triumphs. Success in a large measure has attended our efforts to win souls to Christ. Glorious revivals of religion have been enjoyed in all parts of our Conference, every Presiding Elder’s District sharing more or less of this gracious influence; sinners have been awakened and converted, and many added to our Communion, such as we trust, will be saved in heaven. Owing to the imperfect conditions of the statistical tables of last year we are unable to show the net increase within our bounds; but it is believed that it will not fall short of eight thousand. This might have been much larger, but it may be regarded as evidence that God has not forsaken us, and also presents cause for most devout gratitude and thanksgiving.

The crippled conditions of the Finances of the country is such, that, in many instances, the cause of religion has suffered from the want of pecuniary ability on the part of the people to support the ministry. But it is believed that a brighter day is dawning upon us, and that the future to us as a church is full of promise and hope. Indeed, we believe that the prospects of the Church, South, were never brighter.

While the revival influence has been general throughout our bounds, and our people in the main manifest a praiseworthy devotion to the cause of truth and holiness, yet we cannot ignore the fact, that, in many instances, there is an exhibition of avariciousness and worldly-mindedness which is destructive of happiness here and hereafter. Forgetting to lay up treasure in heaven, we strive to amass worldly treasure, and thus “fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown man in destruction and perdition.”

Seeking the happiness that is of earth, and not that which comes from God, we are too much conformed to the world in its spirit and practices; while the necessity of being “transformed by the renewing of our minds” is entirely overlooked. Our young members are led astray by the siren voice of the fashionable, worldly amusements of the age - such as the card table and the dance, - and our older members, the parents of the children of the church, give countenance and support thereto. Such practices cannot be too strongly condemned; for the injury resulting from them, is of a character more baneful in its results than that inflicted when persecution built funeral pyres for her martyrs.

Your committee regret to say that there is a general and growing neglect on the part of parents in dedicating their children to God in the holy ordinance of baptism; and that this neglect is mainly attributable to the failures on the part of the preachers to indoctrinate our people on that subject. We believe the baptism of children to be divine in its origin, and apostolic in its practice, and would therefore solemnly urge upon our people everywhere the faithful observance of this duty - and upon our preachers the importance of teaching it to their congregations. Your
committee believe it further desirable that the members of the church everywhere acquaint themselves with the regulations introduced by our late General Conference, as embodied in our Book of Discipline, and that they do their part faithfully in having those regulations carried into practice. This is especially desirable of the Second Section, Chapter Third, on the Social Church Meetings. We believe that these, if attended to as they are designed to be, will be productive of great good - cultivating and strengthening as they will, the Social element, so important to the success of our holy religion. We cannot exaggerate the importance of faithfully attending to this point.

Our preachers and people everywhere feel and acknowledge our inefficiency on the subject of Sunday-Schools. But it is easier to find an evil than to provide a remedy; and as your committee on that subject will doubtless make suitable suggestions, we need only to mention the general apathy and indifference manifested by our people, and urge them to nurse the Children of the Church, by bringing them into the Sunday-School for proper instruction and training.

Your committee are further satisfied that in many portions of our work, our people have failed to secure proper legal titles to our Church property. This is an evil that should be remedied at once; and the Discipline provides that remedy. Let the law be carried out, and to effect this, let each preacher institute special inquiry soon after reaching his work; have the titles secured, and see that the Board of Trustees present to the last Quarterly Conference a report of the condition of all Church property within his station or circuit.

We are happy to state further, that so far as our information extends, our people are everywhere loyal to Southern Methodism - Methodism as it came to us from our fathers, and as set forth in the Word of God - that they love her usages and her pure doctrines - yet it may not be improper in us to warn them against teachers, who are seeking to obstruct themselves among us. Missionaries from the M.E. Church, (North) are making their way into our midst professedly to enlighten the benighted and save the lost. Their appearance, if encouraged, can but be the cause of strife. In other Conferences, they have caused immense trouble by obtaining possession of our houses of worship, resorting to fraudulent means in doing so; and we have been compelled to appeal to the civil courts of the country to repossess us of which that was of right our own; and we have no reason to believe that a different course would be resorted to in our bounds, should an opportunity offer itself. Therefore, we think that we ought to refuse to fraternize with such teachers; we warn our people of the danger of admitting them to preach in our churches.

Respectfully submitted
Nov. 20, 1866
J.H. Evans, Chairman

Religious Interests of the Colored People

The committee to whom was referred the consideration of the religious interests of the colored people, beg leave to submit the following as their report:

We regard it as much as ever the duty of our church to continue, and to extend as far as practicable the means of grace and the institutions of the Church among the colored people of the South. God has evidently called us to this work, and as proof of it, He has pleased to give us wonderful success among them in days and years that are passed, in crowning our labors with the conversion of hundreds and thousands of this unfortunate branch of the human family.

Your committee do not feel called upon at this time to enter upon any extended argument to show that the colored people have capacity to receive with meekness the engraven word which is able to save their souls, or that they are under proper instruction and training easily excited and influenced upon the all-important subject of religion.

These things are too well known to require any argument or illustration. But
we would suggest that the present condition of the colored people presents one of the most extended and interesting fields of missionary labor in all our country, and one that is already white unto the harvest, and calling loudly for the laborers to enter and gather fruit unto eternal life. Your committee are of the opinion that if we do not occupy this field, others will. If we do not furnish religious instruction for the colored people, others will, and ought to do so. But would it not be better to have them under our own care in this respect? Having been connected with them all our lives, are we not better qualified to guard their religious interests than those who know little or nothing of their nature and disposition? Again, if we do not provide amply for their religious wants, we fear that ignorant and superstitious men will rise up among them as teachers and guides, who will lead them into false notions of religion that will ultimately culminate in the worst forms of superstition, idolatry, and barbarism.

Your committee believe that we now have it in our power, if we begin in time and prosecute the work with energy and perseverance, to prevent those evils, and reap a glorious harvest of souls to the Church of God. Send them the pure word of the Gospel by faithful ministers of Christ - establish week-day and Sunday-Schools, that their children may be educated and brought up in the good and right way - and encourage men of the right kind, of their own color, who may profess to be called to preach, to prepare themselves, as much as possible, in a literary point of view, for the great work of instructing their fellow-men in the way of life and salvation.

To this end, we propose the adoption of the following resolutions by the Conference, viz:

1. That the Colored People who are, or may desire to place themselves under our care, be organized as soon as practicable in to separate and distinct pastoral charges in all places where their numbers and circumstances will justify it.
2. That in all places where it can be done, week-day and Sunday-Schools should be established for the proper education of their children.
3. That we will use our influence in a prudent and Christian manner, to dissipate any prejudice we may find to exist among our people in relation to the religious instruction, and the moral and social elevation of the colored people under our care.

Respectfully submitted.

Nov. 20, 1866. T.L. Boswell, Chairman

Needy Orphan Children - Their Education and Support.

Last year, the Memphis Conference appointed a committee consisting of W.C. Johnson, D.J. Allen, S. Watson, J.T. Meriwether, S.W. Moore, E.C. Slater, and A.W. Jones, whose duty it was made to devise ways and means for the education and support of needy orphan children within our bounds; and they were required to report at this time.

To this subject we have given, individually during the year, and collectively within the past few days, such attention as its claims justly demand of us; and now we are prepared to report a plan for action, the adoption of which we trust will contribute largely to the accomplishment of the great ends contemplated in the appointment of the committee.

Orphanage is a word of sadness always, and peculiarly so now in our own country, where war has so greatly multiplied the number and increased the misery of orphans. Thousands there are among us, whose parents lie low in the dust, and whose earthly fortunes are in ruins; while their only hope for this life and the life to come - for education and support no less than for salvation - is now more closely than ever linked with the performance of a plain and positive duty incumbent upon the Church of God - a duty indicated by the Providence of God and enjoined as such by His Word. These needy orphans must be educated and supported - and
must be saved - must be qualified for usefulness and happiness through beneficient instrumentalities, the motive power of which lies only in the requirements and spirit of our holy religion. To supply to orphanage, the benefits - temporal and spiritual - of parentage, is a glory no less than a duty of Christianity. When the Father in Heaven said "Leave thy fatherless children to me", He, since He works mainly through means, revealed His purpose to require of His people a work, the performance of which will surely be crowned with the blessing of Him who never fails to repay all labor and expense incurred in His service.

In view of these facts and principles, and realizing the adaptation of our peculiar economy to the exigencies of every class in society, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

1. That we suggest to the Church Meetings in all our circuits and stations, to appoint a committee on orphans, whose duty it shall be to enrol [sic] the names of all needy orphan children within their bounds, and as far as practicable, to find Christian homes for them, if necessary, and institute and perfect measures by which they may enjoy the advantages of education, either in Orphan schools or other good schools, whether under the care of our Church or otherwise; and that we suggest further to the Church Meetings to make it the business of the Committee on orphans, to solicit and collect funds, either for permanent investment, or for current and immediate expenditure in behalf of this charity.

2. That every preacher in charge be, and hereby is, required to bring this subject prominently before the Church Meeting in his charge.

Respectfully submitted.

Nov. 20, 1866. W.C. Johnson, Chairman
THE MINUTES

of the

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Twenty-eighth Session

held in

Paducah, Kentucky

November 13-20, 1867
The twenty-eighth session of the Memphis Conference of the M.E. Church, South met at the “Christian Church” Paducah, Ky., Wednesday Morning, Nov. 13th 1867, and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer conducted by the Rev. Thomas Joyner, who had been called to the chair in the absence of Bishop Paine.

The roll of the clerical members was called by the Secretary of the last Conference, and the following members were present, viz:


After some discussion, the following Lay members were reported as the representatives elected for the several districts:


**Somerville:** A.D. Hunter, B.W. Williamson, T.L. Orgain, and J. Mask.

**Jackson:** R.B. Jones, Hiram Johnson, B.D. Funderburck, and Jno. A. Taylor.

**Dyersburg:** Josephus Loving, J.W. Elder, B. Ramsey, H.M. Klyce.


**Iuka:** H.T.B. Spier, W.H. Kilpatrick, Geo. P. Hammerly, Jas. M. Walker.

**Aberdeen:** B.F. Larrabee, R.C. Clark, Edward Thomas, Thos. P. Smith.

**Grenada:** B.B. Brown, M.K. Holshouser, W.A. Moore, G.W. Lake.

The following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the lay members elected to this body for the several districts and present, be now received, and that any informalities in their election be overlooked during this session.

The following lay members responded to the call of their names, viz:

**Memphis District:** T.D. Eldridge, R.J. Morgan, and J.W. Vance.  
**Somerville District:** A.D. Hunter, B.W. Williamson, and T.L. Orgain.  
**Jackson** : W.B. Seward, alternate was announced in place of R.B. Jones, B.H. Mason in place of Jno. A. Taylor.  
**Dyersburg District:** None  
**Paris** : J.T. Seay.  
**Paducah** : J.W. Anderson, E. Crutchfield in place of A.F. Wright.  
**Holly Springs:** J.W. Anderson, Geo. Harden, Dr. A.M. Barrington in place of A.T. Scruggs.  
**Iuka:** None  
**Aberdeen:** T.L. Foster-alternate  
**Grenada:** None

The Presiding Bishop, not having arrived, the Conference by ballot elected S.W. Moore, President.

W.C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary, John Barcroft, first assistant, and W.T. Harris, second assistant.
The bar of the Conference was fixed at the far side of the second windows from the chair.

The hour of meeting was fixed at 8 A.M., and of adjournment at 12 [P.]M.

John Moss, J.W. Brooks, W.D.F. Hafford, J.W. Anderson and E.L. Anderson were appointed a committee to nominate the usual standing committees [sic].

The following resolution was adopted instead of the action on the subject taken before the election of a President, viz:

Resolved, That the election of lay representatives for the several districts whether regular or irregular be accepted as legal by the Conference.

Rev. Dr. A.T. Mann transferred from the Georgia Conference, Rev. Geo. W. Miles of the Holston Conference, and Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions, were introduced to the Conference.

A letter of recommendation from Bishop Wightman by Brother Miles in reference to his mission - it being that to save to our communion one or two Church edifices within his District, which will be lost unless a few hundred dollars can be raised immediately to rescue them.

On this subject Dr. McFerrin - as well as Brother Miles - briefly addressed the Conference and the matter was strongly commended to the brethren, and J.H. Garrett and R.A. Neblett were appointed by the President to aid Brother Miles in obtaining donations.

Rev. Dr. Felix Johnson of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was introduced to the Conference.

A communication from the Tennessee Conference was presented by Dr. McFerrin asking cooperation with the Tennessee, Louisville, and Kentucky Conferences in erecting monuments over the graves of Bishops Soule and Bascom, and a monumental Church over the remains of Bishop McKendree.

It having been read, after some remarks by Dr. McFerrin, a committee, consisting of E.E. Hamilton, Sam'l Watson and T.D. Eldridge were appointed to consider and report on the whole subject, and the communication was referred to said committee.

Philip Tuggle, appointed by Bishop Paine as the receiver of donations in aid of the Mission to Mexico, provided for at the last session reported that he has received [amount omitted] and asked instructions as to the disposition of the money - the Rev. J.T. Meriwether, the Missionary appointed having died before entering upon the work. On motion, the question was referred to the Conference Board of Domestic Missions.

Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions presented a communication which having been read, was referred to the Conference Board of Domestic Missions.

The report of the Committee appointed to nominate the usual Standing Committees was presented, and having been read, the nominations were confirmed appointing the following committees, viz:

Public Worship: F. Bynum, E.C. Slater, G. Jones


General Spiritual Interests of the Church: Guilford Jones, J.W. Luter, J.B. Harris,

A Committee on the method of electing lay representatives was on motion by the president, consisting of J.H. Evans, I.L. Burrow, W.B. Seward, E. Jackson, T.D. Eldridge, W.F. Mister, and B.W. Williamson.

Vacancies in the Joint Board of Finance on account of the absence of members were announced and the following appointments were made by the President, viz:
For Iuka District—J.A. Fife, clerical; R.J. Morgan, lay for Memphis District; J.W. Anderson, for Holly Springs, and G.P. Hammerly for Iuka District.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 14, 1867

Conference met according to adjournment and was opened with religious services conducted by Bishop Paine, who arrived on the afternoon of yesterday, and now took the chair.

The roll was called, and in addition to those present yesterday, responded to the call of their names, viz:

Rev. F.T. Petway, a new member, and Rev. R.H. Reid, Rev. J.P. Gardner, & Rev. L.R. Martin of the Local Ministry in this Conference, Rev. A.H. Redford, Agent of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, and Rev. Dr. Kelley of the Tennessee conference, and Rev. Dr. Hendricks, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in this city, were introduced to the Conference.

The lay members of the Conference were introduced individually and by name to the Conference.

The following lay members appeared and took their seats, viz:
Somerville District: Dr. J.M. Mask
Jackson " : Rev. R.B. Jones, and Dr. A. Jackson
Paris " : Rev. Robt. Whitnell
Paducah " : J.H. Word
Aberdeen " : Rev. B.F. Larrabee, R.C. Clark, Edward Thomas
Grenada " : G.W. Lake

A report from the Trustees of the State Female College, was presented, and having been read by the special request; was referred to the Committee on Education.

Reports from the trustees of the Byhalia Female Institute and Andrew College, with a letter from Bishop Andrew to the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate, were presented and referred to the Committee on Education.

E.C. Slater called the attention of the Conference to a volume now being stereotyped and soon to be published entitled, "Notes Illustrative of the Figures employed by St. John the Divine in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, by the Rev. J.P. Gardner." Dr. Slater briefly but strongly commended the work, as did also Dr. Jones; and the author made certain statements in reference to its nature and design.

A communication from the Louisville Conference asking cooperation of the Memphis Conference in the erection of a monument over the remains of Bishop Bascom was presented, and having been read was referred to the committee heretofore appointed to consider a similar communication from the Tennessee Conference.

The Annual Exhibit of the Southern Methodist Publishing House was presented by the Rev. A.H. Redford, who after its reading made brief and suitable remarks.
in reference to the interests committed to his care as Book Agent, and was followed in a stirring address by R.J. Morgan, after which the subject at hand was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

The annual report concerning the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate was presented and having been read was referred to the committee on Books and Periodicals.

*Question Second* was taken up: Who remain on trial? Tilman Page, J.P. McCall, John E. Beck, Warner Moore, and T.F. Brewer, having stood an approved examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they remain on trial.

*Questions Third and Seventh* were taken up: Who are admitted into full connection? and, What travelling preachers are elected and ordained deacons? A.L. Pritchett and J.C. Crews having stood an approved examination on the prescribed studies, their characters were examined and passed and they were admitted into full connection - the former in deacons' orders, and the latter in elders' orders.

Warner Moore having stood an approved examination on the prescribed studies for the second as well as the first year, was elected a deacon.

Thomas G. Freeman and B.B. Barker, not having been examined on the prescribed studies, their characters were passed and they remain on trial.

*Question Sixth* was taken up: Who are the deacons of one year? W.W. Fawcett having stood an approved examination, his character was passed as a deacon of one year.

Isham L. Burrow and Moses L. Martin having been heretofore in this class, though now in elders' orders, their characters were passed.

*Question Ninth* was taken up: What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders? James W. Honnoll [Honnell], not being ready for examination his character was passed and he remains in the class of deacons one year.

It appearing that the examination of this class has not been finished, the consideration of the question was postponed.

*Question Fifth* was taken up: Who are received by transfer from other Conferences? The Bishop announced the transfer of A.T. Mann, from the Georgia Conference, J.W. Peavy from the Mobile Conference, Isham R. Finley from the Baltimore Conference, W.T. Melugin from the Trinity Conference and W.B. Quinn from the St. Louis Conference.

*Question Fifteenth* was taken up: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The rule prohibiting visitors during the consideration of this question was suspended for the session.


The characters of E.J. Williams, D.J. Allen, & F.A. Owen were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The hour of meeting hereafter was fixed at 8½ o'clock. Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Morning, Nov. 15th 1867.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and was opened with religious devotions, conducted by the venerable William McMahon.

The roll was not called; but the following members newly arrived, were announced, viz: T.P. Davidson, A.H. Thomas, H.H. Thacker, A.W. Jones, R.S. Swift, W.L. Kistler, J.F. Markham, Henry Bell, G.K. Brooks, Nathan Sullivan.
The following lay representatives were also announced and they were introduced to the Conference, viz:

Dyersburg District; John W. Elder, H.M. Klyce.
Paducah " ; E.D. Baker.
Paris " ; D.B. Funderburk.
Iuka " ; Rev. H.T.B. Spier, W.H. Kilpatrick.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved. The Rev. M.R. Jones, and the Rev. J.W. Westcott of the Illinois Conference, of the Episcopal Methodist Church were introduced to the Conference.

Dr. Alexander Jackson was relieved from service on the Committee on Memoirs, and J.W. Elder was appointed in his place.

A communication from the Book Agent and the Book Editor at the Publishing House proposing to issue the General Minutes from the press, if the preachers will subscribe for an average of two copies of each was presented and read; and a committee consisting of R.A. Neblett, J.H. Garrett, and J.W. Luter was appointed to solicit subscriptions.

The following resolution offered by T.D. Eldridge was, after some remarks by him and others, adopted, viz:

Resolved, That a committee consisting of one lay member from each Presiding Elder's district be appointed to report a plan for a permanent organization of the lay members of this Conference for the purpose of erecting parsonages, Church extension, and for the promotion of other secular interests of the Church.

The following lay members were nominated by the lay members and appointed by the Bishop to constitute the committee, viz:


The report of the President of the Memphis Conference Female Institute was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.

The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read, was adopted, after an address by the Bible Agent, Rev. S.P. Whitten.

T.L. Boswell and W.M. McFerrin offered a preamble and resolutions in reference to Mr. Wesley's Sunday-Service, recently issued at our Publishing House and kindred subjects; and after protracted discussion, the following resolutions, which had been offered as a substitute, were adopted, viz:

Resolved, That in the judgement of this Conference, the exact and universal conformity of the ministry of our Church to the directions concerning public worship contained in Sect. IV, page 102, and other parts of our book of Discipline, will answer all the demands of Methodism as to "uniformity" and "dignity" of public worship - without the introduction of any other Ritual of Sunday Service; and that we recommend to our ministers not to use the Sunday Service lately printed at our Publishing House.

Rev. Dr. McFerrin took leave of the Conference, and in doing so, commended to the Christian affection and Confidence of the brethren our visitors from the Illinois Conference and expressed a strong hope that they would meet with success in inducing preachers to go and aid in cultivating the promising field for gospel labors in the bounds of the Illinois Conference.


The characters of R.T. Taylor, W.N. Morgan, and N.A.D. Bryant were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.
The character of T.J. Neely was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The Rev. W.C. Price of the Louisville Conference was introduced by the Bishop.

A report from the commissioners appointed last year in reference to the Memphis Conference Book and Tract Society was presented and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by Guilford Jones.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 16th 1867

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair, and was opened with reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer by the Rev. M.R. Jones of the Illinois Conference of the Episcopal Methodist Church.

The minutes of yesterday’s sessions were read and approved. A communication from the Rev. Dr. Schon, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions was presented and having been read, was referred to the conference Board of Domestic Missions.

A communication from the Rev. W.H. Reeves, President of the Annual Conference for the North Mississippi District of the Methodist Protestant Church, and one or two fraternal messengers therefrom to this body for the purpose of communicating action taken by his Annual Conference favorable to a union of the two Churches upon the terms proposed by our commissioners at Montgomery, Alabama, was presented and read, and thereupon the resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the communication from the Rev. W.J. Reeves & C., is cordially accepted and that a committee of five be appointed to consider this communication and subjects collateral to it and report to the Conference.

S.W. Moore, J.W. Knott, R.J. Morgan, J.W. Vance, and W.H. Kilpatrick were appointed as said committee.

Question Ninth was resumed: What travelling preachers are elected and ordained elders? W.T.C. Young, W.F. Mister and J.W. McIver having stood an approved examination on the prescribed studies their characters were passed and they were elected to elders orders.

James A. McClellan has not been examined in reference to the prescribed studies; but his character was passed, and he was granted a location.

Benjamin B. Risenhoover had not been examined on the prescribed studies, and therefore his character passing he was continued in the class of deacons of one year, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

The Bishop inquired whether those admitted into full connection this year answered the disciplinary questions two years ago, when they were admitted on trial, and it appearing from the Journals that they did then answer them, he decided that it was not required for them to be answered again.

Question Eighth was taken up: What local preachers have been elected and ordained deacons?

The following local preachers having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences were elected deacons, viz:

- William M. Patterson, Asbury Church, Memphis District
- William L. Byland, Wesley Circuit, Somerville
- Thomas C. Orgain, Wesley Circuit, Somerville
- Wm. H.H. McMillan, Decaturville, Jackson
- Jonathan A. Mooney, Lexington
- Lewis R. Martin, Brownsville, Dyersburg
- Adam C. Cole, Clinton, Paducah
- Benj. N. Du Priest, Briensburg
Thos C. Travis, Briensburg Circuit Paducah District
John W. Harpole, Benton " " "
D.C. Cully, Mayfield Station " " "
William H. Davis, Cockrum Circuit Holly Springs "
Wm. B. Nance, Purdy Iuka "
Abraham B. Jones, " " "
Geo. W. Atkins, " " "
Wm. A. Cook, " " "
George W. Kelley, Water Valley & Grenada "

Springdale Station

Mark Ethridge, having connected himself with our church coming as a local deacon from the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Conference being satisfied as to this fact, and as to his agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government, and usages, it was resolved that he be received as a local deacon, whenever he shall take upon him our ordination vows without the reimposition of hands.

Prof. A.B. Stark, editor and publisher of the Home Monthly at Nashville, was introduced to the Conference.

Question Tenth was taken up: What local preachers are elected and ordained elders?

The following local preachers having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and having certified their belief in our doctrines and discipline, were elected elders, viz:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John W. Fisher</td>
<td>Decaturville</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. P. Lindsey</td>
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<td>John G.H. Wilson</td>
<td>Dyersburg</td>
<td>Dyersburg</td>
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<td>Geo. H. Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>John R. Brewer</td>
<td>Cageville</td>
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<td>John Sheridan</td>
<td>Boydsville</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>James L. Wallace</td>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>Paducah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Q. Senter</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.G. Brookshire</td>
<td>Purdy</td>
<td>Iuka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas L. Foster</td>
<td>Chickasaw</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Gross</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The characters of E.E. Hamilton, J.R. Sykes, R.S. Swift, A.W. Jones, B.A. Hayes, G.W.D. Harris, G.B. Allen were examined and passed.

The character of R.H. Burns was examined and passed and he was granted a superannuated relation.

The character of Nathan Sullivan was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation.

The character of P.J. Kelsey was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation.

Findley Bynum, Presiding Elder of the Paducah District to whom was referred last year the case of A.B. Sollers - charges having been preferred against him in due form, when the evidence for and against was not at hand, and by consent of parties the trial was deferred - reported that the case was now ready for trial. Whereupon, the Bishop appointed the following committee to try the case with Guilford Jones as chairman, viz: A.H. Thomas, R.V. Taylor, John H. Witt, Amos Kendall, F.S. Petway, A.R. Wilson, G.W. Bachman, A.P. Sage, and B.W. Stubbs - W.T. Harris, Secretary.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by G.W.D. Harris.
Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and
was opened with religious services conducted by Dr. A.T. Mann.

The following members, not heretofore recorded were present, viz: Simpson
Weaver, J.M. Spence, R.V. Taylor.

Question Fifth, was resumed: Who are received by transfer from other
conferences? Wade H. Frost was received by transfer from the Louisianna
Conference.

The minutes of Saturday’s session were read and approved.

The Bishop reported the following preachers ordained deacons by him on
Sabbath Morning at the Methodist Church, viz: Travelling preacher: Warner Moore.
Local preachers: Thomas L. Orgain, Wm. H.H. McMillan, Lewis R. Martin, Adam
C. Cole, Thos. C. Travis, W.P. Nance, Abraham B. Jones, Wm. A. Cook,
Abraham Smith Brown, Emerson P. Randle, James Barnham, Robert W. Coleman,
D.C. Culley.

The Bishop reported the following preachers ordained elders by him on Sabbath
afternoon at the Methodist Church, viz:
Local preachers: John W. Fisher, John G.H. Wilson, Geo. H. Wright, John Sheridan,

The report of the Committee on Education was presented, and having been
read and amended, and, after that part relating to Andrew College had been fully
discussed, was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was presented, and having been
read was adopted.

Question Eighteenth: What is the number of Sunday School teachers and Scholars?
is [sic] this answered, though imperfectly on account of the absence of reports from
various circuits:
Sunday-Schools, 230 Teachers, 1829 Scholars, 9,500

The report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was presented, and
having been read, was adopted, after a full hearing in reference to the interests
of the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate.

The blank in the resolution providing for an advisory Publishing Committee
of the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate was filled by the Bishop appointing
as such the Presiding Elder of the Memphis District, and the preachers in charge
of Wesley and Asbury Churches.

During the consideration of this report, Prof. Stark of the Home Monthly made
brief and pertinent statements concerning that periodical, and others spoke of its
merits in high terms.

Question Tenth was resumed: What local preachers are elected and ordained
elders? Augustus White, Paducah Circuit, Paducah District, having been duly
recommended by his Quarterly Conference, and having in person professed belief
in our doctrines and government, was elected to elders orders.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by G.W.D. Harris.

Tuesday Morning, Nov. 19, 1867.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair - and
was opened with religious exercises conducted by T.D. Eldridge.

The minutes of yesterday’s session were read and approved. The Rev. Willis
White of the Baptist Church, Clinton, Ky. was introduced to the Conference - also
the Rev. H.H. Thacker, transferred to us last year from the Tennessee Conference.
The Bishop reported the following preachers ordained by him yesterday afternoon, viz: Local preacher: M.L. Tribble, a deacon. 

Travelling preachers: W.T.C. Young, W.F. Mister, and J.W. McIver, elders. 

Local preacher: Augustus White, elder. 

Question Fifteenth was resumed: Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration? The character of R.M. Tarrant was examined and passed and he was granted a location. 

The characters of J.B. McCutchen, J.M. Scott, G.K. Brooks, C.J. Mauldin and W.J. Mahon were examined and passed. 

The name of F.M. Morris was called, and it was announced that he had died during the year - the obituary will be reported by the Committee on Memoirs. 

The character of R.M. Tarrant was examined and passed and he was granted a supernumerary relation. 

The character of R.S. Harris, Henry Bell, E.M. Baker, J. Randle, M.M. Taylor, J.V. Fly and J.H. Witt were examined and passed. 

The character of D.M.K. Collins was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation. 

The character of B.F. Peeples was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation. 

The character of D.C. Johnson was examined and passed, and he was granted a location. 

The characters of Findley Bynum, E.C. Slater, J.M. Spence, T.C. Ellis, J.R. Dycus, Dennison Mason, H.B. Avery, J.M. Flatt, L. Weaver, and G.H. Bransford were examined and passed. 

The characters of F.M. English and A.L. Hunsaker were examined and passed, and they were granted a supernumerary relation. 

The characters of T.B. Atterbury and M.D. Robinson were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation. 


The character of C.B. Harris was examined and passed, and he was granted a supernumerary relation. 


The character of James Gaines was examined and passed and he was granted a superannuated relation. 


The character of H.D. Howell was examined and passed, and he was granted a superannuated relation. 

The character of M.J. Blackwell was examined and passed, and he was continued in a supernumerary relation. 

The characters of Isaac Ebbert, R.H. Mahon, F.A. Wilkerson, W.C. Green, J.M. Hampton, W.W. Pearson, Robt. Martin, A.K. Miller, and A.W. Jones were examined and passed. 

The character of J.J. Wheat was examined and passed, and the Bishop was requested to appoint Dr. Wheat Professor in the University of Mississippi. 

The name of A.H. Kennedy was called, and it was announced that he had died of yellow [fever] in the city of Memphis - his obituary will be reported by the Committee on Memoirs. 

The character of J.W. Bates was examined and passed, and he was granted a location.
The characters of R.A. Umstead and J.W. Walkup were examined and passed and they were granted a supernumerary relation.

The characters of J.L. Baskerville and Joseph Johnson were examined and passed, and they were continued in a supernumerary relation.

The characters of D.C. MuCutchen, W.H. Frost, S.W. Moore, and W.T. Harris, were examined and passed.

Pending the consideration of this question, leave of absence was granted to J.W. McIver, W.M. McFerrin, R.J. Morgan, B.W. Stubbs, W.L. Kistler, and T.L. Duke.

*Question Sixth* was resumed: Who are the deacons of one year? E.L. Fisher’s character was examined and passed, but he, not yet been examined on the prescribed studies to be elected and ordained an elder, he remained in the class of deacons of one year.

The committee on the trial of A.B. Sollers, reports that they had found him guilty of the charge brought against him and had expelled him from the church—the report may be found in the appendix and all the papers are on file.

The session was on motion extended for one half hour.

The report of the Joint Board of Finance was presented, and having been read was adopted. This report furnished answers to the following question, viz:

*Question Nineteenth:* What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowances in their respective districts, circuits, and stations? $5500.00

*Question Twentieth:* What has been collected on the foregoing accounts, and how has it been appropriated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From Circuits and Station</th>
<th>$2108.15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Relief Fund</td>
<td>406.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Rev. Moses Brock</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

$2519.65

Applied to superannuated and necessitous preachers, and widows and orphans.

The report of the Committee on Statistics was presented, and the aggregate having been read, was adopted. It answers the following questions as seen in the table affixing, viz:

*Question Sixteenth:* What is the number of preachers and members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?

*Question Seventeenth:* How many infants and adults have been baptized during the year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members and numbers baptized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Memphis District</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbury &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Chapel</td>
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<td>Springdale -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Colored Charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive Branch Circuit</td>
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148
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olive Branch Cir. Col. Charge-Friar's Point-Hushpuckany-Concordia-</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1371</td>
<td>317</td>
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<td>[not totaled]</td>
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**Somerville District**

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<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
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<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
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<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>3279</td>
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**Jackson District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mt. Pinson Circuit</td>
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<td>Lexington Circuit</td>
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**Dyersburg District**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyersburg Col'd Charge</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trenton Station</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cageville Circuit</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownsville and Prospect</td>
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149
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<th><strong>Paris District</strong></th>
<th>White Members</th>
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<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Paris Station</td>
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<td>Pleasant Plains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col’d Charge</td>
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<td>Murray Circuit</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Paducah District</strong></th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col’d Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<td>Blandville Circuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton Circuit</td>
<td>773</td>
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<td>113</td>
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<table>
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<th><strong>Holly Springs District</strong></th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col’d Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<td>Col'd Members</td>
<td>Local Preachers</td>
<td>Infants baptized</td>
<td>Adults baptized</td>
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**Iuka District**

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<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
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**Aberdeen District**

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<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Circuit-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Circuit Col'd Charge</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3274</strong></td>
<td><strong>232</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
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**Grenada District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station/Circuit</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Col'd Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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151
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>White Members</th>
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<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Infants baptized</th>
<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Valley and Springdale Station</td>
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<td>Coffeerville Circuit</td>
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<td>2394</td>
<td>320</td>
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### Somerville Colored District

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Somerville Station</td>
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<td>Wesley Circuit</td>
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<td>Macon Circuit,</td>
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<td>LaGrange Circuit</td>
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<td>Trenton Circuit</td>
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### Recapitulation

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Adults baptized</th>
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<td>Memphis District</td>
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<td>Paducah District</td>
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<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Springs District</td>
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<td>Iuka District</td>
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<td>Aberdeen District</td>
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<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada District</td>
<td>2394</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerville Col’d District</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>305</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2213</td>
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</table>
The report of the Committee on Parsonages, Churches, and kindred subjects was presented, and having been read was adopted.
The report of the Committee on the Religious Interests of the colored people was presented, and having been read was adopted.
Leave of absence was granted to Jno. A. Fife, R.C. Clark, I.L. Burrow, and J.M. Mask.
Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Morning, Nov. 20th 1867.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine in the chair, and was opened with religious exercises [sic] conducted by Thomas P. Davidson.

*Question First* was taken up: Who are admitted on trial? The following preachers having been recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and having stood an approved examination on the prescribed studies were admitted on trial, viz:

- David R.L. Rosebrough, Olive Branch Circuit, Memphis Dist.
- Geo. B. Baskerville, Wesley " Somerville "
- Edgar Orgain, Mt. Zion " "
- Thos. P. Ramsey, Bolivar Station " "
- Thomas Taylor, Jackson " Jackson "
- W.B. Seward, Trenton Circuit " "
- Samuel A. Mason, Brownsville " Dyersburg "
- James G. Pirtle, Hickman " Paducah "
- W.P. Nance, Purdy " Iuka "
- Thomas L. Foster, Chickasaw " Aberdeen "
- B.F. Larrabee, Aberdeen Station " "
- W.R. Gardner, Huntingdon" Paris "

The conference requested the Bishop to appoint B. F. Larrabee to the Aberdeen Female College, and J.E. Douglass to the Iuka Female Institute.

*Question Fourth* was taken up: Who are readmitted? James G. Acton, Ambrose M. Barrington, R.H. Reid, and Anderson B. Fly - all in elders’ orders were readmitted.

*Question Thirteenth* was taken up: Who are superannuated? The characters of Wm. D. Scott, J.M. Major, Elias Tidwell, John Hunter, D.C. Wells, Reuben Ellis, Clement C. Glover, Jeremiah Moss, were examined and passed, and they were continued in a superannuated relation.

The name of Wm. R. Dickey was called and it was announced that he had died during the year - the obituary will be reported by the Committee on Memoirs.

James M. Hampton, F.C. Pearson, J.C. Crews, John F. Markham, W.L. Harrison, W.H. Frost, W.B. Quinn, John F. Armstrong were granted each a supernumerary relation.

The vote by which M.J. Blackwell was continued in a supernumerary relation was reconsidered, and he was granted a superannuated relation.

The Bishop appointed the following members of the Joint Board of Finance for the ensuing year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clerical</th>
<th>Lay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis District:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Phillip Tuggle,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>W.T. Plummer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>J.H. Evans,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyersburg</td>
<td>H.B. Avery,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>H.B. Covington,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R.J. Morgan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.M. Mask.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. A. Jackson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Driscoll.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E.L. Anderson.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

153
Iuka  J.G. Acton,  W.H. Kilpatrick. (173)
Grenada  W.W. Pearson,  L. Lake.
Aberdeen  J.C. Lowe,  R.C. Clark.
Paris  W.T.C. Young,  Thos. F. Lilly.
Sunflower  J.F. Markham,  John Clark.
Dresden  G.H. Bransford,  J.S. Freeman.

Question Twentieth was taken up: What has been contributed for the Missionary and Trust Societies?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Missions</td>
<td>$2123.56.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Missions</td>
<td>416.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old debt</td>
<td>36.85</td>
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</table>

The following resolution, after a refusal to adopt a substitute, fixing February or March, as the time of holding the session of our Conference, was adopted, viz: Resolved by the Memphis Conference, that the Bishops be, and they are hereby requested, hereafter to give us the time of our Conference Session about the middle of December, as we believe that it will facilitate our Spiritual and temporal interests.

Question Twenty-Second was taken up: Where and when shall the next session of the Conference be held? Paris, Holly Springs, Union City, Memphis, Somerville, and Paducah were nominated, and Paris was fixed as the place.

T.L. Boswell was excused from serving as the chairman of the committee for the examination of the fourth years Class, and M.H. Cullom was appointed in his place.

The Bishop, retiring with the presiding elders for consultation as to the appointments, called S.W. Moore to the Chair.

The report of the Committee on a place for the future election of the lay representatives was presented, and having been read was adopted.

The report of the committee on Memoirs was presented and having been read was adopted.

The report of the committee on certain papers from the Louisville and Tennessee Conferences, requesting the co-operation of this Conference in erecting suitable monuments over the graves of Bishops Soule and Bascom, and a monumental Church over the remains of Bishop McKendree, was presented and having been read, was adopted.

The report of the committee on correspondence with the Methodist Protestant Annual Conference for the North Mississippi District, was presented, and having been read was adopted.

The report of the Board of Domestic Missions, as the Committee on Missions, was presented and having been read was adopted.

The report of A.H. Thomas, Memphis City Missionary was read and received.

The report of the Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church was presented and having been read, was adopted.

Conference adjourned to meet this afternoon at three o’clock.

Wednesday Afternoon.
Nov. 20, 1867.

Conference met according to adjournment - Bishop Paine - and was opened with religious exercises by A.H. Thomas.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The following resolutions were read and adopted.

1. Resolved that we tender our sincere thanks to the citizens of Paducah for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been received and entertained during
the session of our Conference. 2. Resolved, that we appreciate the Christian
courtesy of our sister churches, and thank them kindly for the use of their several
houses of worship during our session. 3. Resolved that we return our thanks
to the Officers of the various Rail Roads, who have in the spirit of liberality towards
our Church and preachers, passed us on reduced fare along the several routes we
have traveled. 4. Resolved, that the Editor of The Paducah Herald, be requested
to publish these resolutions in his paper.

The following visiting committees were appointed - State Female College: Jno.
Moss, J.T.C. Collins, and Amos Kendall. Andrew College: A.T. Mann, G.W.D.
Harris, G. Jones, I. Ebbert, & R.H. Mahon.
R.J. Morgan was appointed one of the managers of the Book and Tract
Depository in place of J.L. Taylor, deceased.
W.T. Harris was granted a coreaction at his own request. The minutes were
read and approved. After singing and prayer led by Wm. McMahon, the Bishop
addressed the Conference, and then announced the following appointments, viz:

Memphis District, Jno. Moss P.E.
Memphis:

Wesley, A.T. Mann, E.J. Williams, Sup.
Central, To be supplied (by W.M. Patterson) D.J. Allen, Sup. (175)
Asbury, F.S. Petway
City Mission, A.H. Thomas
Spring Dale & Bethel, T.P. Davidson.
Olive Branch, T.P. Holeman, one to be supplied (by J. King), P. Tuggle, Sup.
Hernando Sta., Amos Kendall.
" Cir., D.R. Rosebrough.
Raleigh, L.D. Mullins, W.S. Harrison, Sup.
Book and Tract Depository & Colored Work in Memphis, S. Watson
Editor of the Memphis & Arkansas Christian Advocate, W.C. Johnson, and
connected with the Wesley Quarterly Conference
State Female College, C. Collins - Prst., Lorenzo Lea Vice-Prest.

Somerville District, T.L. Boswell P.E.
Somerville Sta., to be supplied, R.V. Taylor, W.N. Morgan, Sup.
Bolivar Sta. G.B. Allen.
La-Grange Sta. L.H. Davis.
Macon, W.T. Plummer, Dr. M.K. Collins, Sup.
Oakland, W.M. McFerrin, J.W. Walkup, Sup.
Wesley, A.R. Wilson, Jas. Perry, J.T. Baskerville, Sup.
Covington Sta., Tilman Page, R.A. Umstead, Sup.
Mt. Zion, A.C. Smith
Randolph, J.W. Poston, J.D. Slaughter
Emburg, W.T. Melugin
Pleasant Ridge, M.H. Cullom
Somerville Female Institute, R.H. Rivers, Prest.

Jackson District, W.H. Leigh P.E.
Jackson Sta., J.H. Evans
Jackson Cir., I.L. Burrow
Brownsville Sta., Guilford Jones, B. Medlin Sup.
Denmark, W.B. Seward.

155
Humboldt & Milan, B.H. Bishop
Mt. Pinson, E.L. Fisher
Rock Spring, T.P. Ramsey
Purdy & Pleasant Grove, To be supplied (by W.A. Cook)
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A.W. Jones--Prest.

**Trenton District**

G.W.D. Harris P.E.

Trenton Sta., R.H. Mahon
Trenton Cir., J.B. McCutchen, N. Sullivan, Sup.
Dyersburg, H.B. Avery, N.P. Ramsey, Sup.
Friendship, R.S. Harris, J.F. Armstrong, Sup.
Cageville, W.J. Mahon, P.J. Kelsey, Sup.
Ripley Sta., J.M. Scott
Brownsville Cir., C.J. Mauldin, T.F. Bremer
Andrew College, S.W. Moore--Prest.

**Dresden District**

Findley Bynum P.E.

Dresden Sta., J.P. McCall.
Dresden Cir., S. Weaver.
McKenzie, H.B. Covington, J.C. Crews, Sup.
Hickman Sta., J.B. Harris, T.B. Attebury, Sup.
Hickman Cir., J.M. Flatt.
Richland, G.H. Bransford, W.H. Frost, Sup.
Troy, J.E. Beck, M.D. Robinson, Sup.
Madrid Bend, D.C. McCutchen
Murray, J.V. Fly, W.B. Quinn Sup.
Boydsville, E.M. Baker

**Paducah District**

E.C. Slater P.E.

Paducah Sta., Isaac Ebbert
South Paducah, To be supplied
Blandville Miss. to be supplied (by F.M. Mason)
Columbus Sta., J.H. Garrett, F.M. English, Sup.
Clinton, Dennison Mason.
Palestine, F.A. Wilkerson.
Briensburg, J.R. Dycus
Benton, J.G. Pirtle, B.B. Risenhoover, Sup.
Mayfield Sta., G.K. Brooks

**Paris District**

J.H. Witt P.E.

Paris Sta., B.A. Hays.
Paris Cir., Jno. Randle, B.F. Peeples, Sup.
Congersville, W.T.C. Young.
Huntingdon Sta., Warner Moore.
Huntingdon Cir., Henry Bell.
Morgan's Creek, J.M. Spence.
Decaturville, R.S. Smith
Lexington, J.R. Sykes
Holly Springs District.  J.H. Brooks, P.E.  

Holly Springs Sta., A.M. Burrington. 
Holly Springs Cir., Geo. B. Baskerville. 
Chulahoma, Elias Jackson. 
Sardis, A.J. Lee. 
Harmony, G.W. Bachman. 
Cold-Water, A.P. Sage. 
Cockrum, R.A. Neblett. 
Byhalia, M.H. Ford. 
Early Grove, S.B. Carson. 
Salem, T.G. Freeman. 
Hickory Flat, T.C. Ellis, Edgar Orgain. 
Byhalia Female Institute, P.J. Eckles. 
Sardis Female Academy, T.J. Gooch

Iuka District  W.D.F. Hafford, P.E. 

Iuka Sta., A.L. Pritchett. 
Iuka Cir., J.W. McIver, J. Johnson, Sup. 
Corinth Sta., J.G. Acton. 
Corinth Cir., To be supplied (by L.D. Webb). 
Rienzi and Booneville, To be supplied. 
Cossuth, J.W. Honnoll. 
Marietta, M.L. Martin. 
Ripley, J.W. Luter. 
Middleton, J.A. Fife. 
Saulsbury, R.G. Rainey, N.A.D. Bryant, Sup. 
Rienzi Col’d Cir., W.E. Ellis. 
Iuka Female Institute, J.E. Douglass.

Aberdeen District  A.C. Allen P.E. 

Aberdeen Sta., J.W. Mathis. 
Gladneyville, B.B. Barker. 
Prairie, J.W. Peevy. 
Verona Sta., Jno. Barcroft. 
Okolona Cir., M.M. Dunn. 
Richmond, J.P. Dancer. 
Fulton, H.H. Thacker. 
Baldwyn, W.B. Stubbs. 
Lee, E.B. Plummer. 
Pontotoc, W.L. Kistler. 
Houston, R.G. Porter 
Chickasaw, T.J. Lowry 
Aberdeen Female College, B.F. Larrabee

Grenada District  A.B. Fly P.E.  

Grenada Sta., E.E. Hamilton. 
Grenada Cir., To be supplied. 
Charleston, To be supplied (by B.F.A. Lilly). 
Panola, R. Martin, M.D. Fly, J.F. Markham Sup. 
Water Valley Sta., W.W. Pearson, F.C. Pearson Sup. 
Water Valley Cir., To be supplied.
Coffeeville, W.C. Green.
Oxford Sta., W.F. Mister
Oxford Cir., A.K. Miller
Union, W.S. Jones
Calhoun, to be supplied, J.M. Hampton Sup.
University of Mississippi, J.J. Wheat Professor

Sunflower District. J.W. Knott P.E.

Friar’s Point, To be supplied.
Tunica, To be supplied--F.A. Owen, Sup.
Concordia, To be supplied (by J.F. Truslow.)
Cassida, To be supplied.
Beulah, To be supplied.
Sunflower Miss., Wm. McMahon

J.T.C. Collins, Sunday School Agt. and connected with the Central Quarterly Conference. J.W. Shelton, transferred to Louisville Conference and appointed to Russelville Female Academy.
I.R. Finley, transferred to Baltimore Conference.

Next Conference to be held at Paris, Tenn.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

W.C. Johnson  
Secretary  
R. Paine

REPORTS

Adopted by the Memphis Annual Conference of the M.E. Church, South, at Paducah, Ky., Nov 13-20, 1867.

Parsonages, Church-Extension, and Kindred Matters.

The undersigned, committee of laymen to whom was referred the resolution adopted by the Conference at the request of the Lay Delegation (now for the first time met with the Conference) authorizing said committee to report a plan for organizing the Lay-delegation of the present session, and of future sessions of this body, for permanent and efficient co-operation with our ministry and entire church membership for the better support of our ministers--more especially in the erection of parsonages for their use, for church extension and other similar duties and enterprises of our church - having met and considered the subject as maturely as they were able to do under the circumstances, present as the result of their deliberations the following Plan:

First. The entire lay delegation of the present session - and their successors, in like manner, at future sessions of this Conference, shall constitute a standing committee of the Conference - amendable to it, as are the other committees to be called “The Lay-Delegates’ Committee on Parsonages, Church-Extension, and Ministerial Support”.

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Second. This committee shall promptly organize by appointing a chairman and secretary, and such other officers from their own number, or from the clerical body of the Conference as they may prefer; and as at each Conference the lay-delegates may be partially or wholly composed of new members, who have had no opportunity to become familiar with the duties or the existence of this committee, the Secretary of the Conference or one of his assistants, shall, if necessary, at least as early as the second day of each session, convene the lay-delegation communicating to them this plan, or such other information and assistance as they may need, preparatory to organizing said committee. After such organization is completed it will be expected that they meet, as a committee of the whole, at least twice during the Conference without neglecting their other duties; the first time for general consultation, communication of facts and ideas on these subjects; and to extend their mutual acquaintance with each other; and at a subsequent time to hear and dispose of reports of subcommittees, and to approve and sign the address and recommendations or information they may wish to submit to the church on these subject.

Third. This committee shall not supercede or dispense with or in any way interfere with the prescribed disciplinary functions or duties of any other person or body connected with our church.

But subject to all the specific or general limitations or requirements of the Book of Discipline, the general scope of its duties and labors shall be as follows:
1. To devise and submit to the conference and to the body of the church, suggestions or plans for raising, securing, and appropriating means, for the purposes indicated by the name of said committee; and for other similar ends.
2. To present statistics and statements from all parts of our bounds, together with all the information they can get from any source on these subjects.
3. From time to time to submit to the Conference, and, (when approved by it) to send out short and pointed addresses to our churches and people-signed by the whole committee - to awaken their thoughts and stir their hearts on these subjects, thus endeavoring to create and perpetuate such an interest therein, among the laity whom they represent as shall eventuate in the speedy erection of comfortable residences in every station, circuit, and district, for the families of our beloved pastors; in providing comfortable support in youth, mature manhood and old age, for those who devote their talents, toils, and lives to the service of the church; in the erection and improvement of houses of worship, and in the promotion of any other similar interest of our church, which may not be in charge of some other committee.

Fourth. If this plan is approved, said committee will present to the Conference before its adjournment such an address in this behalf as they think judicious.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Thos. D. Eldridge, Ch'n.

Wm. H. Kilpatrick, Sec'y.

Plan of Operations

Resolved. 1. That it is the sense of this Conference that the importance of erecting parsonages on the circuits, stations, and districts throughout our bounds, cannot be over estimated, and we earnestly request and urge the whole Methodist Community to co-operate with us, your clerical and lay representatives in carrying the following plan into effective operation.
2. That we hereby request the preacher in charge of each station and circuit throughout our entire bounds to appoint, at the earliest practicable opportunity, a committee for their several stations and circuits, the latter composed of a member from every church in the circuit, to be called the Parsonage Committee, vacancies in said committee to be filled by the pastor.
3. That it shall be the duty of the presiding elder to appoint a similar committee to attend to the business of erecting a parsonage for the presiding elder.

4. It shall be the duty of the parsonage committee to meet as soon after their appointment as convenient, and organize by the election of a chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and to proceed with energy and promptness to solicit funds from their respective churches and from the public, which funds shall be paid over to the treasurer of the Parsonage Committee as soon and as often as convenient.

5. If the requisite amount be raised at any time, the committee shall proceed to erect a parsonage without delay. But if funds enough are not raised the first year, the amount raised shall be held by the committee and their efforts continued from year to year, until they are able to build.

6. It shall further be the duty of these committees to report to the preacher in charge who shall report to the presiding elder, and he in turn to the Conference Committee on Parsonages, Church-Extension, and Ministerial Support, the amount of funds collected in every case whether sufficient to build a parsonage or not, and these statistics shall be put in possession of the Conference.

Spiritual Interests of the Church

Your Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church owing to the limited time allowed them, and the press of other duties, are unprepared to present such a report as the importance of the subject demands. A few main points, briefly stated may suffice for the present.

We have much cause for gratitude to Almighty God for the abundant success that has attended the labors of our preachers through the year. In a large majority of the pastoral charges in the bounds of the Conference, there have been numbers awakened and converted to God, amounting in the aggregate to several thousands. All this has been accomplished in the midst of heavy difficulties; in many regions of our work there are yet much desolation and poverty; and in the most favored sections, the people have been crippled by the financial pressure in the country. Because of these things many of our preachers have been pressed with anxious cares about the comfort of their families as well as the care of souls. Yet, upon the whole, they have lived; and though it has been in the midst of much toil and privation, it has been a year of great spiritual blessing and comfort in the Holy Ghost. We regret that many of the preachers have failed to report the number of conversions in their charges, so that we might have a full view of their success. We are, as our preachers have been to some extend [sic] hewers of wood and drawers of water for other communions, and much of the fruit of our labor does not appear in our reports of aggregate numbers in the church. We would that we had the full report of the numbers converted.

The district meetings in many parts of the Conference have given promise of much benefit to the church. They bring about an interchange of thought and feeling from brethren in different fields, and from the midst of different influences; and serve to unite in heart and sympathy, and to stimulate all to greater zeal in the cause of Christ. We think these meetings destined to become an element of power in the church.

Our monthly church meetings, from some cause have been well-nigh a failure in most parts of our Conference. These meetings were designed by the general Conference as part of that system by which it was hoped to secure the more efficient action of the laity in giving force to all the agencies of the Church. We trust these meetings may yet become efficient for good.

There are some points in Christian duty about which our people need to be admonished. Some of our people neglect to have their children baptized. This neglect we must consider a dereliction in duty.

Another matter in which the moral power and spirituality of the church are
deeply involved is the support of those who labor in word and doctrine. The greatest success in this, as in all other professions, is attained only when all the time and the energies of the mind are given to the work. The people are obliged to suffer spiritual loss, when their minister is burdened with vexatious cares about the support of his family. The success of many of our preachers has been sadly crippled from this cause. Indeed, many of our best men have been forced from the pastoral work altogether in order to save their families from suffering. Our people call for cheap preachers; but cheap preachers are mostly young men; good and useful it is true, and growing in wisdom and strength; but not yet able to battle with the tides which are drifting against us. We need all the wisdom and strength of our older men; and religion suffers sadly when they are forced out of our efficient ranks. While this evil remains, our power as a church wanes.

This fault in our people is not so much from a want of inclination to sustain their ministers, as from a want of system and unification in managing the finances of the Church. From indications already seen during our present session, we are encouraged to believe that this evil will be removed. The zeal with which our lay delegates are taking hold of this matter, promises the development of a system by which our finances will be improved, and all the machinery work more smoothly. We can but express our pleasure in witnessing the zeal and hearty cooperation of our lay brethren in the labors of our Conference. It speaks well for the piety and zeal among the laymen of our Church to find so many of these brethren willing to sacrifice so much of time and home-interests, in order to assist us in the burdens of our Conference business. We have felt that their counsels and assistance were valuable, and believe that their presence in our Conference will be a blessing to the Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Guilford Jones, Chairman

Sunday - Schools

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of Sabbath-Schools beg leave to submit the following as their report:

From the imperfect statistics furnished, we have about 230 schools, 1829 officers and teachers, 9,500 pupils, 17,411 volumes in library, 215 conversions, 1,326 copies of the Sunday-School Visitor, and $1,000 expended for Sunday-School purposes. Many parts of the Conference were not heard from, and we feel confident that successful efforts in behalf of this cause have been made which have not been reported; and had we possessed accurate information our report might have been better. There is great need of harmonious, systematic effort in this department. The Disciplinary provisions for carrying forward this all-important Church enterprise are worthy the attention of all Christians.

The minister who fails to exert himself to the utmost in this work is unworthy the trust reposed in him. Perfect success here gives the world to Christ. Failure permits the seeds of depravity to germinate and grow up into a rich harvest of degredation and death. We can, therefore, but indulge the hope that every preacher receiving an appointment in this Conference, will work with an energy that knows no abatement until perfect success be written upon every effort; and every child of the Church has its mind and heart impressed with the light and the glorious gospel. The children of the Church are the lambs of the flock. "Feed my lambs" is the all-momentuous and imperative injunction of the Chief Shepherd. The Sabbath-School is at least one of the "green pastures" in which these little lambs may feed, and here their tender hearts may rest under the purifying influences of the waters of life. In the Sabbath-School the light of the glorious gospel can shine in upon the young and tender hearts before the god of this world can blind their minds, or the slimy water of infidelity poison their spirits.
Your committee as lovers of our Zion, feel deeply the responsibility of the work assigned them. They have a zeal to do or say something that will stimulate to perservering, untiring effort in this department. They regret the imperfections characterizing their report. They regard the Sabbath-School enterprise as being the one, whose success shall give prosperity to God's cause, by infusing the principles of godliness into all our hearts; and whose failure would be destructive to the piety and religious knowledge of our families, and that would bring a blight upon our prospects, causing them to go down behind a cloud of moral gloom and death, to ascend the Christian horizon no more forever. While with these feelings in the spirit of humility we exhort our brethren to leave no proper effort unmade in this field, we pray God our words may not be as sounding brass of a tinkling cymbal; but that efforts untiring and persistent, may, by the blessing of God, bring all the children of the church into a Sabbath-School until it may become a power in the Church - a great moral light-house shining with a pure gospel radience that shall light all our people and their children to the unmixed pleasures enjoyed by the blood-washed in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

In view of the vast importance of this great work, we recommend, 1. That every presiding elder be affectionately reminded that it is his imperative duty "to promote by all proper means the cause of Sunday-Schools" in the bounds of his district. 2. That each preacher having charge of a circuit, station, or mission be requested with the aid of his brethren and members to observe the Disciplinary provisions requiring him to organize Sunday-Schools in all our congregations where as many as ten children can be collected for that purpose. 3. That at each quarterly meeting the presiding elder shall call attention to the fact that the Discipline provides that the quarterly conference shall be deemed a board of managers, having charge of all the Sunday-Schools in its limits; and that earnestly, and with power he exhort the conference to "magnify its office and make it honorable." 4. That each preacher be required to specify in his annual report, in addition to the items mentioned in the Discipline, Chapter 2, Sec. 7, paragraph 15, the number of the appointments in his charge with the number of children who ought to belong to a Sabbath-School, whose parents belong to the church, the number of Sunday-School papers taken, with the amount of expenditures for Sunday-School purposes, and that the report herein required be separated from all other reports. 5. That all the preachers should so deport themselves in their efforts to promote the cause as to make the impression everywhere that it is no secondary matter—that it is in fact the great field for Christian effort; and that it is only by cultivating this field that Zion's waste places can be effectually built up, so that our piety may blossom as the rose, and that those waste places become the garden of the Lord. 6. That a special agent be appointed to travel throughout our bounds, for the purpose of promoting the Sabbath-School interest.

B.H. Bishop, Chairman

Missions

The Conference Board of Domestic Missions submit the following report: We have within our bounds a number of appointments for whose benefit drafts were drawn at our last session in Jackson, Tenn., to the amount of $3,150. We have received on the above account, from circuits and stations, $1,453.31; from Anniversary Collection, $527.25; from Anniversary Subscriptions (assumed by the Treasurer) $143.00; total $2,123.56. Paid to the Secretary of the Parent Board, $200; leaving a balance of $1,923.56, with which to pay the $3,150. The Board has requested your Treasurer to pay the balance due on the drafts above alluded to, with the understanding that he shall have precedence in all the
moneys collected by this Board for the ensuing year, until the amount advanced by him shall be paid.

In view of the above indebtedness, it was resolved that the preachers on the several circuits and stations be required to take up a special Missionary Collection (either publicly or privately as their best judgment may dictate) immediately on reaching their appointments, and forward the amount so received to Rev. P. Tuggle, the President of the Board, for the purpose of paying this indebtedness; provided, this collection shall not be understood to supersede the regular annual Missionary Collection.

The communication from the Rev. Dr. Schon, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, referred to this Board, was duly considered, and its importance appreciated. But we are of the opinion that we have done, and are doing all that we can on the subject of foreign missions. We have received from the several circuits and stations, for foreign missions, $416.65; and $36.68 on the old debt of which will be transmitted to W.T. Smithson, Esq., Treasurer of the Foreign Board.

Your Secretary is gratified to report that the Memphis City Mission, served the past year by Rev. A.H. Thomas, has, to some extent, been successful, although the missionary has labored under many disadvantages. Brother Thomas reports a population of about two hundred in the bounds of the mission, about three hundred of whom attend public worship - thirty-eight members, six baptisms (five children and one adult) with an increasing interest on the part of those to whom he has access. Steps have been taken to erect a house of worship in that part of the city known as Chelsea, and $1,250 in cash, and a subscription of 25,000 bricks have been raised for that purpose; and it is believed that a sufficient amount will ere long be obtained to enable them to commence the erection of a large and elaborate house of worship. The Board would recommend the continuance of this mission. Further particulars concerning it, if desired may be had from the report of Brother Thomas.

This is the only mission from which we have received any information, and we believe is the only one put down in the list of appointments last year, as a mission.

J.H. Evans, Secretary

Bible-Cause

Your Committee on the Bible Cause is gratified in being able to report that the American Bible Society not only still exists, but is moving forward like an angel of mercy in its philanthropic mission of carrying light and comfort, hope and salvation, to the homes and hearts of thousands of the ignorant, the poor and destitute of our land.

About forty local Bible Societies are in operation in the Mississippi and Tennessee part of the Memphis Conference, all but five or six of which have been revived since the close of the late war, and have procured a good supply of Bibles and Testaments in their several depositories about half of which was by donations from the Parent Society. Many books have been sold and given away by the agents and officers of the various auxiliaries and eight or ten counties in whole or in part, have been thoroughly explored and supplied, and several others will be during the coming year.

As everyone will suppose who will think for a moment of the waste of the war, great destitution exists in every part of the country. There has been found no county which has been explored with less than one ninth of the families without the Scriptures; in one just one-eighth; in another about a fifth; one about two-fifths; and a part of another with about three-fifths. And none but the very best counties have been explored. The others, as yet, have been unable to engage in the work.

The Agent, we are glad to learn, reports that he has been warmly received and kindly aided by all the Protestant Churches in his bounds. Ministers, and lay-
members, with scarcely an exception [sic] have evinced commendable interest in this benevolent enterprise; and though none of them are able to do much, most of them give something to the good cause. Your committee would therefore recommend: 1. That as a Conference we gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the kindness and liberality of the American Bible Society in furnishing our people with such handsome donations of the Word of God.
2. That we have implicit confidence in the Agent, Rev. S.P. Whitten, who labors among us, and that we receive him cordially, and render him all the assistance in our power, when he shall visit us in our several charges.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Kendall, Chairman.

Memoirs

E.M. Morris was born of religious parents in Middle Tennessee; converted to God in his early youth, in the year 1849; licensed to exhort 1850; came to Kentucky in the fall of 1851, and was licensed to preach in the Clinton Circuit in 1852. He joined the Conference at its session in Grenada, Miss., in 1853, and was sent to Murray Circuit; in 1854 to Obion Circuit; in 1855 to Briensburg Circuit; in 1856 to Ripley Circuit; in 1857 to Murray Circuit; in 1858 to Wesley Circuit; in 1859 to LaGrange Circuit; in 1860-1 to Brownsville Circuit; in 1862-3 to Mt. Zion Circuit; in 1864 to Salem Circuit to which work he did not go, owing to the troubles then upon the country. In 1865, he was appointed to Dresden Circuit, and made a faithful effort to reach his work, but owing to the great floods which during that winter prevailed in all the rivers of West Tennessee, and there being no bridges, he was prevented. He returned to Lauderdale County, Tennessee, where wrought with his own hands the maintenance of himself and family, preached as he had the opportunity, doing much good within the Brownsville Circuit. From the Conference at Jackson, last year, he was sent to Fulton Station, where February 13, 1867, he died in the triumphs of faith. His last sermon, preached to the people of his charge, was from the text "Not everyone that saith to me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven." These last lessons given to his flock were clear and forcible and attended with power. In that very night, he was taken violently ill, never to recover. During his short illness he manifested much of Christian patience, and showed that his spirit communed with God, even while the great enemy was taking down the earthly tenement. We hoped to be furnished with full particulars of his last sickness and death, but the information sent by his wife to the Conference failed to reach us. Brother Morris was a man useful and beloved. He was a fervent, zealous preacher, his ministry being greatly blessed to the Church and the world. His memory will long be cherished by us, and while with grief we record his death, we do rejoice that it is ours to pronounce of him, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth, Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

John T. Meriwether closed his earthly career at the parsonage in Denmark, Tenn., April 10, 1867. He died in his native village, amid the associates of his childhood and youth. He joined our Conference at its session in Somerville in the fall of 1854, and was appointed to Dyersburg Circuit; in 1855 to Dresden station; in 1856 to Trenton Station; in 1857 to Holly Springs Station; in 1858 to Asbury Church, Memphis; in 1859 to Aberdeen Station; in 1861 was made presiding elder of Aberdeen District, which he travelled four consecutive years. At the close of his term on the district, his health being feeble; he was appointed to Denmark Circuit where he might be among his relatives. He labored faithfully during this year, but under much physical disability until finally, at our session in 1866 he was forced
to take a supernumerary relation. Though, during that session his relation was made effective nominally, and he was recommended to the Board of Foreign Missions as a Missionary to Mexico - the hope of being indulged that a change of climate might result in the restoration of his health. However, during the winter and spring, his health failed altogether and he sank under most intense suffering. It was the privilege of the chairman of your committee to visit him a few times during his last sickness, and never did he see manifested a more complete triumph of Christianity. He has perfect resignation to his Father's will, and with the greatest confidence and cheerfulness, resigned the charge of his wife and children to God, remarking that should God call him thus early in life from them, he had not the least doubt but He would take better care of them than he could possibly do, were he to be spared to them. His manifest feelings, as well as his conversation, showed to all a faith in God unshaken and unsurpassed by any who have died before him.

The last time I visited him, I remarked that I did not know whether it was right for me to pray that God would prolong his life in so much suffering, to which he responded, "Just pray that God's will may be done in reference to me." On promising to call and see him on my next round, he calmly replied that he expected before then to be in heaven, and so he was.

Brother Meriwether possessed a strong and highly cultivated mind, and a soul imbued with the spirit of Christ, and an intelligent and burning zeal in his high calling. The manner of his life, as we and the Churches he served, and the associates of his childhood and youth, among whom he died can testify, was one of unblemished purity and of unflinching integrity. He took rank easily in his ministry with the ablest and most useful among us. In his early death, his family, the Church of his choice and the cause of religion have lost much; but we know that our loss is his gain.

We take pleasure in commending the life and character of John T. Meriwether to his brethren of the Memphis Conference as worthy of imitation. May his virtues and his labors, be ever cherished in our memories. And may we live as he lived, in the light of God's smiling countenance, and die as he died, in the triumphs of faith, quite within sight of heaven!

Wm. R. Dickey, a faithful laborer in the Master's vineyard was called to rest in his Father's house above, May 30, 1867. Brother Dickey was one of the oldest members of our Conference, having been a preacher among us for nearly forty years. His walk and conversations always evinced that he possessed and enjoyed that religion he preached to others. He was for a quarter of a century a faithful missionary to the people of color within our bounds, his labors among them being abundantly blessed; and it was his, even during life to see the work of his hands established upon him, and to rejoice amidst that prosperity and success which God gives alone to His faithful ambassadors.

Wm. R. Dickey went in and out among us, and among the churches, during the many years of his ministerial life, and no one had occasion to lay ought to his charge, but on the contrary, he so lived that all who knew him loved him. He died at the residence of his son in Shelby County, Tenn. in great peace. Truly, his brethren have hope in his death.

A.H. Kennedy, a native of North Carolina, was born April 20, 1808. He embraced religion and joined the church in early life. He entered upon the ministry in the eighteenth year of his age, and received much of his early training as a minister from Bishop Early, and was, in early life, a colleague of Dr. Wadsworth. In 1836 he was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Y. Branch of Buckingham County, Va. In 1849, he removed from Virginia to Mississippi, and from thence, in 1854 to Arkansas, and he was admitted into the Arkansas Conference laboring three consecutive years in Batesville and Fort Smith Stations. Then he transferred to
the Washita [Wachita] Conference, and filled the following appointments, viz: Princeton Circuit, Ashby Circuit, the Arkadelphia District, and Little Rock District.

These appointments he filled with great acceptability and with usefulness to the church. Last fall, he transferred to the Memphis Conference, and was assigned to the Sarepta Circuit. From causes beyond his control he did not fill this appointment, but remained at Memphis with his son's family. He died of yellow fever at his residence in the city of Memphis, October 15, 1867, after an illness of four days. The Friday night previous to his death on Tuesday, he preached at Central Church with unusual power and success. In the sermon he expressed the sentiment that ere long, he expected to depart from earth and enter heaven. From the pulpit he went to his bed from which he rose no more. His mind remained clear, and he gave many evidences of his readiness to depart and be with Christ. He closed his life gently and calmly, in hope of a blessed immortality.

E.E. Hamilton, Chairman

Methodist Protestant Church

The committee to whom was referred the communication of the Rev. W.J. Reeves; "Fraternal Corresponding Messenger of the Methodist Protestant Conference of the North Mississippi District", with subjects collateral to it, submit the following report.

1. That we have received with unfeigned pleasure the letter of Brother Reeves to this Conference, and heartily return our Christian Salutations to him and the body he represents.

2. That we sincerely sympathize with him and them in the hope that the patient and candid labors of the Commissioners of the two churches may result in such a union as shall be satisfactory to both parties, and shall promote the prosperity of our common Christianity.

3. That the presiding elder of that district of our Conference adjacent to the seat of the next session of the North Miss. Methodist Protestant Conference be and is hereby appointed our fraternal messenger to convey to said Methodist Protestant Conference this our response, together with our cordial and brotherly greetings.

S.W. Moore, Chairman

Joint Board of Finances

The amount thought to be necessary for the support of the widows and orphans, the superannuated preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those preachers who fail to receive their regular allowance was estimated at $5,500, on which account there have been the following receipts: Memphis District, $223.90; Somerville District, $373.55; Jackson District, $421.20; Dyersburg District, $143.10; Paris District, $99.75; Paducah District, $147.20; Holly Springs District, $341.55; Iuka District, $26.00; Aberdeen District, $194.00; Grenada District, $92.60; exess [sic] in receipt from circuits, $44.70; from R.C. Clark, Treasurer of Relief Fund, $406.50; making $2,519.65; which we have applied as follows: Rev. H. Bell, $75; Rev. C.B. Harris, $100; Rev. James Gaines, $100; Rev. Wm. McMahon, $100; Sister McFarland, $135; Sister Henderson, $110; Sister Robb, $50; Sister Crouch, $250; Sister Campbell, $210; Sister Melugin, $60; Sister Hubbard, $50; Rev. R. Ellis, $125; Rev. Jno. Young, $62.50; Rev. Jno. Hunter, $150; Sister Warren, $100; Sister Meriwether, $200; Rev. E. Tidwell, $150; Sister Cole, $110; Rev. J.W. McIver, $76.80; Rev. H.D. Howell, $150; Rev. T.C. Ellis, $25.35; Sister Morris, $100; to pay the Bishop's expenses, $30; Total, $2,519.65.

Our Conference was assessed for the support of the Bishops, $1,400, on which the following amounts have been received: From Memphis District, $228; Somerville District, $196; Dyersburg District, $112; Jackson District, $140; Aberdeen District,
$97.75; Grenada District, $108; Paducah District, $72.50; Paris District, $74.40; Holly Springs District, $140; Iuka District, $69; making, after deducting $15.00 for error in reports a total of $1,224.75, which we have paid to Bishop Paine. R. C. Clark, Treasurer of the Preachers' Relief Society, presented his report showing that he had used all the means in his power to collect the interest on the notes due the society, and had only succeeded in part as follows:

From Marshall Female Institute, $43.20; from Rev. M. M. McFerrin, $5.22; from Rev. E. E. Hamilton, $4.07; Thomas F. McClellan, $54.00; Memphis Conference Female Institute, $300; making $406.49, as above.

It was ordered by the Board that the note against Franklin Crawford, due the Preachers' Relief Society be placed in the hands of Rev. R. V. Taylor; and one against Rev. B. B. Barker, due said society in the hands of Rev. A. C. Allen, who shall each act as our agent, to collect or compound them; or to make such disposition of them as may be in their power, and report to this board at the next session of our Conference.

It was ordered that the interest accruing during the war, on a note due said society by Rev. Arthur Davis, be remitted as has been done in other cases, and that the account for the remainder of interest now due, be placed in the hands of Rev. A. R. Wilson for collection; who shall report to this Board at the next session of Conference.

It was ordered, also, that the interest accruing during the war, be remitted on all the notes now in the Treasurer's hands, as has been done in special cases. It was further ordered that two notes held against Rev. Wm. McMahon be donated to him, in view of the facts that one of them was given for the purpose of creating said fund, and he has paid the interest thereon regularly for a number of years, and is now unable to pay either principal or interest - and that the other was given for Confederate money which he never made available.

The Board would respectfully report that the amount necessary to be raised the ensuing year for the support of the widows and orphans, the superannuated preachers, and to make up the deficiencies as near as can be estimated, is $4,000, which we have apportioned to districts as follows: Memphis District, $475; Somerville, $650; Jackson, $450; Trenton, $375; Dresden, $275; Paducah, $275; Paris, $250; Holly Springs, $450; Iuka, $75; Aberdeen, $400; Grenada, $250; Sunflower, $75.

The amount assessed to this Conference for the support of the Bishop is $1,400, which we have apportioned to the districts as follows: Memphis, $166.25; Somerville, $196; Jackson, $157.50; Trenton, $131.25; Dresden, $96.25; Paducah, $96.25; Paris, $87.50; Holly Springs, $157.50; Iuka, $57.75; Aberdeen, $140; Grenada, $87.50; Sunflower, $26.25.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. Tuggle, President

Education

The Committee on Education beg to submit the following report:

We have considered with much care and attention the reports from the various institutions of learning connected with your body which have been referred to us; and while we regret that these reports are in some instances so meager and imperfect, we are gratified to learn that they represent our schools as generally prosperous and promising. That these schools have not utterly perished amid the wreck and ruin of the country, but still live and grow, is an encouraging indication of devotion to the great cause of mental and moral culture. Even while a starving land has been crying for bread, and our resources have been taxed to the utmost to supply the more immediately pressing demands of the body, our greatly impoverished people with a heroic courage, and an enlightened estimate of the advantages of
education, have nobly striven to lighten the heritage of poverty which they may be obliged to transmit to their children, by bequeathing to them the invaluable heritage of cultured minds. Dark as is the present, this argues well for the future, and we hail it as the omen of a brighter day. Political strifes and financial derangements may for a time depress our prosperity; but these causes must be temporary in their influences, while an advancing generation of educated sons and daughters is coming to the rescue of the country. All power resides ultimately in mind; and in the enlightened understanding, the disciplined will, and the cultivated heart, we are to find the forces which are to retrieve our misfortunes, and work out the redemption of the land. Poor as a people we may be now, but if from the fragments of our broken and scattered fortunes we can gather up enough to feed with knowledge the minds of our children, they will live and grow and flourish, and restore the greatness and prosperity of the country. We cannot therefore insist too much upon the necessity of sustaining heart and soul, our cherished institutions of learning. We must not, we cannot, we will not - let them fail. We must sustain them, we can sustain them, we will sustain them. Our duty is plain - poor as we are, we are yet able, and will not see our children grow up in ignorance, and perish for lack of knowledge.

Your committee are in earnest in this matter, and feel that they are only expressing your convictions and resolves. As a body of enlightened ministers and laymen, assembled to review the condition of the church, and devise means to promote its prosperity, there can be no greater interest committed to our care, than the interests of sanctified learning. It is a trust too sacred to be confided exclusively to the state. The church owes it to her children to see that they are supplied with the means of a sound, wholesome Christian education. The fountains of knowledge, precious as they are, have sometimes been so poisoned by infidel learning as to flow in streams of bitterness; and while we thirst for knowledge, we are often afraid to drink from these waters of Marah. Let the Church break a branch from the tree of life and heal them, that her children may drink and be satisfied. We rejoice to believe that our people are really alive to this great interest, and that they only need a little urging to come up to the measure of their duty. As encouragingly indicative of this, your committee would present a brief summary of the reports which have been submitted to us.

Among our female Seminaries, we rejoice in a substantial prosperity of the State Female College. This flourishing institution located in close proximity to the great and growing city of Memphis, and provided with accommodations so ample and tasteful, occupies an eminently favorable position for large patronage and extensive usefulness. It is sufficiently near the city to be conveniently accessible; and yet sufficiently removed to be entirely exempt from the epidemic influences of a crowded population. Its reputation for healthfulness may be considered as established beyond dispute. Notwithstanding the large numbers which for years have crowded its halls, the President of the Board of Trustees reports that not a single case of fatal sickness among the scholars has ever occurred at the College. With advantages so superior, and officered by a corps of teachers so able and efficient, we know of no institution that we can commend more entirely to the patronage of our people. Capable of accomplishing so much for the Church, we should rally heartily to its support. Its able and successful President, who has so successfully presided over its fortunes is entitled to our fullest confidence.

Of the Byhalia Female Institute, Byhalia, Miss., we are furnished with no statistical information as to numbers and conditions. We have however the general and gratifying fact that it is prospering. The Board suggests the reappointment of the Rev. P. J. Eckles as President.

From the Marshall Female Institute, we have a similar report, general in character, and giving no details. It is in good condition, and as the property of
the Church, it claims our support. We take pleasure in commending both these institutions to the confidence and patronage of the Church.

From the President of the Memphis Conference Female Institute, we have a brief, but very encouraging report. This institution, which bears the name of the Conference, has long established itself in our confidence and affections; and it is gratifying to learn that amid the general depression of our educational interests, it is free from embarrassment, and enjoys a large share of patronage. By a liberal expenditure of $4,500, during the last two years, its capacity to accommodate pupils has been much increased. With a President of established reputation, and a full force of able and efficient teachers, we are assured of its continued success.

But while our female Seminaries are generally in a condition so satisfactory we regret that Andrew College, our only institution devoted to the education of males, has had to struggle with great embarrassments. This we must regard as our first - our most vital educational interest. The question we will not argue, or attempt to set forth the incalculable influence for good it is capable of exerting. This is admitted. But there is another question which presses us for an answer. Can it be sustained? - will we sustain it? With such a membership as is to be found in our bounds - a membership so numerous and intelligent, and occupying a territory unsurpassed for its capabilities of wealth, there can be no doubt of our ability. We are not unmindful of the great - the sore financial pressure of the times; and yet is it not true that even a very small portion of our superfluous expenditures, annually contributed by us, would furnish an ample endowment for Andrew College? No self denial which trenches upon what may be deemed our necessary expenses is required. Only let beneficence lay her hand upon our useless indulgences, and taking but little, even here, she would be rich in gifts to bless the Church. We cannot hope now for large donations from the wealthy few; for these few are lost to us by the disasters of the war. We must rely upon the smaller contributions of the many, and if some scheme can be devised which shall insure in the future these smaller contributions from our people generally, we shall feel that we have settled Andrew College upon a foundation that cannot be moved.

The committee has considered this matter with much care and anxiety, and hoping for the hearty co-operation of the Conference, would suggest for your adoption the following plan:

That every member of the Conference be requested to subscribe whatever sum he can reasonably expect to raise by private donations during the year - say from $10 to $100 - that the effort be made as early after entering upon our work as possible, and the money forwarded to the President of the College as soon as collected; it being understood that none of the money thus realized shall be used by the Board of Trustees to liquidate any old claims against the College, but solely for its present and prospective necessities.

As a still further measure of relief, we submit for your approval the following recommendations:

Whereas, The Trustees of the Educational Endowment Fund of the Memphis Conference, organized under an act of the Tennessee Legislature, passed March 22, 1860, Chapter 167, loaned to different persons the funds of said society, before the war, taking note therefor; and whereas the changed condition of the country, and of the persons owing said money, renders it morally impossible for said borrowers to pay their said obligations in full, we therefore recommend that the Trustees of the Educational Endowment Fund be instructed to transfer all the notes and subscriptions now in their hands to the Trustees of Andrew College at Trenton; and that said Board be authorized to settle up said notes and subscriptions with the debtors in the way that shall seem most practicable, without suit, and invest whatever moneys may accrue from this source, in the manner that shall appear to the Board most likely to promote the permanent prosperity of the College, and
the security of said fund, as provided in clause 4, page 520 of the Laws of Tennessee 1859-60.

We recommend that the following brethren be returned to the institutions with which they have been connected, viz: C. Collins and L. Lea, State Female College; A.W. Jones, Memphis Conference Female Institute; P.J. Eckles, Byhalia Female Institute; S.W. Moore, Andrew College; R.H. Rivers, Somerville Female Institute; and T.J. Gooch, Sardis Female Institute.

A.T. Mann, Chairman

Religious Interests of the Colored People

The Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People have had that subject under consideration and beg leave to report.

We regard this as one of the most important interests that will come before this Conference, one in which we have always taken a lively interest, and which, now more than ever demands our warmest sympathy and most hearty cooperation. We claim as a Conference to have been the first to take steps toward giving the colored people within our bounds all the privileges [sic] of the gospel. Subsequently to our action the General Conference adopted measures by which they are to be organized into Annual Conferences under our ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and ultimately into a General Conference.

We heartily approve the action of Bishop Paine in the appointment of Rev. Thomas Taylor to the oversight of this work, and rejoice at his success in making arrangements to organize an Annual Conference within our bounds. We do believe it to be desirable for an ecclesiastical separation of the white and colored races to take place, as such a measure would bring evil to both races, and especially to the colored; yet is it not natural that they should prefer preachers of their own color. And while we approve of a separate Annual Conference, we will use every warrantable effort to continue our identity with those, to have access to whom, was one of the causes of our separation from the Northern Church. They are not yet fully prepared for all the duties and responsibilities devolving upon them.

They need our assistance, and have claims upon us of the strongest kind. They are the "Greeks" at our doors, and need the hallowing influences of the gospel more than at any time previous to their changed relations. Others are offering them large financial inducements to unite with them, and some have forsaken our fold; yet, the mass of the colored people are true to our Church, and they know their real friends are the Southern people. Our interests, spiritual and temporal, are identified. Let us then cultivate the most fraternal relations with them, and do all we can to elevate them intellectually and morally. Let us look after their spiritual welfare, as we have ever done, and they will be as stars in the crown of the Methodist E. Church, South.

Resolved. 1. That it is incumbent upon us to co-operate heartily with those who may belong to, or be connected with the Conference soon to be organized for the colored people.

2. That we gratefully appreciate the labors of the Rev. Thomas Taylor and recommend his continuance in the work.

3. That we will use our influence to have intelligent men of color educated, with a view to prepare them for the work of the ministry of their people.

4. That we recommend Sabbath-Schools among them, and will use every laudable effort to sustain them, and we also recommend the use of our houses of worship by them when not occupied by us, for religious services.

Samuel Watson, Chairman
Books and Periodicals

The committee having this important interest of the church under consideration would wish to present it in such manner as to arrest the attention and enlist the energies of the entire membership of the church in its behalf.

The literature of the church contributes greatly to the formation of the character, sentiment, and taste of the people. Its influence is felt in the community, in the social circle, and around the fireside. It gives tone to society, enlightens piety, and forms and strengthens character. Any church in this day of progress and advancement is derelict in duty and reprehensible in conduct, that fails to call to its aid an influence of such power.

The Publishing House at Nashville, under the able superintendency of the Rev. A. H. Redford, is now meeting with such success as to warrant the expectation that before many years shall have elapsed, it will meet the varied wants of Southern Methodism. The report of the Agent has been submitted to your body and published in the organs of the church and need not be specified in the report.

We would urge upon the members of this Conference the necessity of circulating the books published by our church. It would aid them greatly in their pecuniary troubles, and would supply to our people a pure, elevated literature, and drive from our houses books that are offensive in tone and sickly in sentiment.

We most heartily recommend the "Sunday-School Visitor," published at Nashville, and urge its general circulation in our families and Sunday-Schools. As we increase its circulation we diminish its cost to the subscribers. We should use it both at home and abroad, and make it, as it deserves to be, a missionary among the little ones. Give it to the poor upon the streets and in the hovels. It will tell a sweet tale of promise to the little heart, and may call the youthful wanderer back to our Father's home.

With much pride your committee would call the attention of the Church to our own Advocate, the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate, and urge its claims for larger and more extended circulation. We will not say that it is the best of the family of Advocates, but we do say that under the efficient management of Brother Johnson, it has reached a standard of such excellence and worth as to rejoice the hearts of all the lovers of Methodism.

Brother Johnson's report assures us that it has been so far successful as to render its publication no longer problematical; and its increased excellence in the future, to some extent, depends upon the energy the Conference displays in giving it a more extended circulation.

This paper should be in the house of every Methodist family within the limits of our Conference. It should reach a circulation of at least five thousand in this Conference. It can be done if we do our entire duty. While it is strictly a church paper in all the elements that constitute a church paper, it has still a place for the instruction of the farmer, and [a] few columns for the entertainment and improvement of the children. It is truly a family religious paper, and demands a wide and extensive circulation.

The committee takes great pleasure in recommending to your body the interest of the Nashville Christian Advocate. It is the organ of the entire Connection, and should meet with a liberal support from the church. We are justified in devoting our greater energies to the circulation of our own paper; after that is accomplished, the Nashville Christian Advocate should be given to our people.

We would call the attention of the Conference to a publication known as the "Home Monthly." While this periodical is not properly under the management of our church, and not subject to our control, yet we would cordially recommend it to our people, and urge our preachers to give it a general circulation. It is a work of superior merit, and can be placed in the hands of our people to their benefit and advantage.
We have before us the report of the special committee upon the Memphis Conference Book and Tract Depository. From this report we find that no definite action has been taken by that committee, and that the affairs of the depository are still in an unstable condition. Besides this report, we have no data before us by means of which we can arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. We would recommend that the agent, Rev. Samuel Watson, and the Board of Managers, be authorized to take possession of all books and assets of the Depository, and direct and control them to the best advantage during the coming year, and report their action and the condition of the Depository to the next session of the Conference. Your body then may be able to act intelligently in the matter.

We would, in conclusion, urge upon the members of your body, both clerical and lay, the necessity of circulating and sustaining our own publications, and ask that this interest of our church be frequently called to the attention of our people. We particularly call the attention of your body to the following resolutions, and ask that they be put into practical operation, viz:

Resolved. That the Memphis Conference pledges a hearty cooperation to the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate; and that we, the members, both clerical and lay, will use renewed efforts to place it in every family connected with our church within our bounds; and that we will increase its circulation to the highest point to be attained by energy and activity.

2. That a committee of three, consisting of the presiding elder of the Memphis District and the station preachers at Wesley and Asbury Churches, be appointed by this Conference to act in conjunction with a similar committee from the Arkansas Conference, to be known as the Publishing Committee of the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate.

3. That all publications of our church should be encouraged and generally circulated; and that for the enlightenment of our people we will increase our efforts to place these publications in the hands of all our families.

J.H. Evans, Chairman

Mode of Electing Lay-representatives

Your committee appointed to report a plan for the future election of lay-representatives, beg leave to submit the following:

1. It shall be the duty of each presiding elder to call together a district meeting in each district at which the following persons shall be recognized as members, and entitled to vote, viz: All preachers, travelling and local, all the exhorters, stewards, class-leaders, and superintendents of Sunday-Schools, who are members of our church connected with the district, together with one representatives [sic] from each church, chosen at a regular church meeting.

2. At this meeting the lay-delegates to Annual Conference shall be elected by ballot; but in this case, the local preachers, stewards, exhorters, Sabbath-School superintendents, and the representatives chosen by the churches at regular church meetings, shall alone be entitled to vote.

3. Any one of our Bishops who may be present, shall be president of the district meeting; and in the absence of a Bishop, a presiding elder of the district shall preside; provided that neither Bishop nor presiding elder be present, the meeting shall elect its own president. This meeting shall elect its own Secretary, whose duty it shall be to record regularly in a suitable book, all the proceedings of the meeting.

J.H. Evans, Chairman
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Mann, A.T., 1866, 1867 (155) (158)
Markham, John F., 1862, 1863 (26), 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Martin, Lewis R., 1867 (162) (164)
Martin, Moses L., 1866 (118) (124), 1867
Martin, Robert, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Martin, Thomas, 1866 (121)
Mask, J.M. (Dr.), 1867
Mason, B.H., 1867
Mason, Denison, 1866 (113), 1867
Mason, Francis M., 1866 (120) (124)
Mason, Samuel A., 1867 (172)
Mathis, James R., 1867 See James W. Mathis below. Probably the same.
Mathis, James W., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (92), 1866 See James R. above.
Mauldin, Clayton J., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Medlin, Bryant, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Medlin, John W., 1862
Melugin, Thomas M., 1862 (9), 1863 (17) (26), 1864, 1865 (84) (92), 1866 (127) obit. Also listed as Thomas C. in 1865.
Melugin, W.T., 1867 (158)
Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate, 1865 (106), 1866 (136), 1867 (199)
Memphis Conference Female Institute, 1862 (12), 1863 (29) (40), 1864 (74) (77), 1865 (84-85) (99) (107), 1866 (132) (144), 1867 (174-175) (195) (197)
Merrwether, John T., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 (156) (159-190) Also spelled Merrwether.
Methodist Protestant Church, 1867 (161) (191-192)
Methodist Publishing House, 1863 (28), 1864 (62), 1866 (137)
Miles, George W., 1867 (155)
Miller, Aaron K., 1862, 1863 (26), 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Mills, J.D., 1862 Also listed as J.C. Mills.
Missions, 1863 (30-31) (41-42), 1864 (63-64) (77), 1865 (108-110), 1866 (147-148), 1867 (186-187)
Missions, Board of Domestic, 1866 (122-123)
Mister, Wilber F., 1863 (25) (27), 1864 (52), 1865 (84) (92), 1866, 1867 (161) (165)
Mitchell, J.W., 1864 (67), 1866 (123)
Mitchell, Riley, 1865 (90)
Moore, Smith W., 1862 (9), 1863, 1864, 1865 (91), 1866 (123) (132) (143), 1867 (155)
Moore, W.A., 1867
Moore, Warner, 1866 (122), 1867 (158) (164)
Morgan, R.J., 1867 (158)
Morgan, W.N., 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867
Morris, F.M., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866 See E.M. Morris above.
Morrison, Henry C., 1864 (45), 1865 (81) See N.C. Morrison below.
Moss, Jeremiah, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Moses, John, 1862 (9), 1863, 1864, 1865 (91), 1866, 1867
Mullins, Lorenzo Dow, 1862 (9), 1863, 1864, 1865 (91), 1866 (123), 1867 Also listed as L.E. Mullins in some places.
Myers, John, 1865 (90) (92)
Nance, William B., 1867 (162) (172) (178)
Neblett, Robert A. See Neblitt, Robert A. below.
Neblitt, Robert A., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Neilson, Reuben R., 1866 (121) (124)
Newton, Richard J., 1866 (121)
Nicholson, Samuel A., 1866 (121)
Orgain, Edgar, 1867 (172)
Orgain, T.C., 1867 (152) (164)
Orgain, T.L. See Orgain, T.C. above. Probably the same person.
Owen, Francis A., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Owen, W.B., 1862 (14), 1863 (27), 1864 (52), 1865 (93-94) obit.
Page, Tilman, 1863 (16) (26), 1866 (119), 1867
Paine, Bishop Robert, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866 (130), 1867
Parham, L., 1864 (77), 1865 (108)
Parker, Baylor B., 1864 (45)
Parker, O.P., 1866
Patterson, Samuel, 1866 (120)
Patterson, William M., 1867 (162)
Payne, William S., 1862
Pearson, Bascom T., 1862, 1863 (16) (26), 1864, 1865 (84) (92), 1866, 1867 (178) Also listed as B.J. Pearson.
Pearson, Fletcher C., 1862, 1863 (26), 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Pearson, William W., 1862 (14), 1863 (26), 1864 (48) (50), 1865, 1866, 1867
Peavy, J.W., 1867 (158)
Peeples, Benjamin F., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (89) (92), 1866, 1867
Peeples, John R., 1865 (90), 1866
Perry, James, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Petway, F.S., 1866 (119), 1867
Phillips, Silas, 1866 (121) (124)
Phipps, William H., 1866 (121) (124)
Pinckard, P.M., 1866
Pirtle, James G., 1867 (172)
Plummer, E.B., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Plummer, W.T., 1866 (119), 1867 Also listed as W.J. Plummer.
Porter, A.D., 1866 (121)

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Porter, Robert G., 1862 (14), 1863 (27), 1864 (48), 1865, 1866, 1867
Poston, Joseph W., 1862, 1863, 1864 (69), 1865 (92), 1866, 1867
Poston, W.K., 1865 (97), 1866, 1867
Poyner, John C., 1866 (121) (124)
Presson, Jarrett, 1866 (120) (123)
Pritchett, Armisted L., 1865 (90), 1866, 1867 (158)
Proctor, D.M., 1864 (49) (50), 1865
Quinn, W.M., 1867 (158)
Ragsdale, Thomas M., 1866 (121) (124)
Raines, A.W., 1866 (129)
Rainey, R.H., 1867 (172)
Ramsey, B., 1867
Ramsey, Harvey M., 1864 (67), 1865 (92), 1866, 1867 (158)
Also listed as Hardy M. in one place.
Ramsey, Nathaniel P., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 Also spelled Ramsay in some places and listed as W.P. in 1866.
Ramsey, Thomas P., 1867 (172)
Ramsey, William B., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (94) obit. Also spelled Ramsay in some places.
Randle, Emerson P., 1866 (120), 1867 (164)
Randle, John, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Randolph, John W., 1864 (67), 1865 (92)
Rankin, Ethelbert, 1862 (6)
Ray, Able C., 1864 (67), 1865 (92)
Redford, A.H., 1866 (119) (144), 1867 (158) (198)
Reeves, W.H., 1867 (161)
Reid, R.H., 1867 (172) (178)
Risenhoover, Benjamin B., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 Also spelled Resinhoover.
Rivers, Richard H., 1866 (124), 1867
Roach, Richard A., 1865 (95)
Robinson, H.D., 1863 (34)
Robinson, M.C., 1862 See Robinson, M.D. below. Probably the same.
Robinson, M.D., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Rosebrough, David R.L., 1867 (172)
Ross, Daniel A., 1865 (92)
Sage, Alsvar P., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Sardis Female Academy, 1866 (134), 1867 (177)
Scarborough, John B., 1866 (120) (123)
Scott, James M., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Scott, William C., 1864 See Scott, William D. below.
Scott, William D., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 See Scott, William C. above.
Scruggs, A.T., 1867
Seay, J.T., 1867
Senter, William Q., 1867 (163-164)
Seward, Warren B., 1864 (67), 1865 (92), 1867 (172)
Shelton, Cuthbert B., 1864 (49-50)
Shelton, John W., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 (178)
Sheridan, John, 1867 (163-164)
Sherman, Mexico B., 1862 (11)
Shikle, Martin, 1864 (67), 1866 (124)
Sikes, J.M., 1866 (121)
Slater, E.C., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (82) (102), 1866 (123), 1867
Slaughter, J.D., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Smith, Andrew C., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Smith, Asbury M., 1864 (67), 1865 (92)
Smith, J.D., 1864 (67), 1866 (123)
Smith, Thomas P., 1867
Smotherman, Jesse L., 1862, 1863 (24) obit.
Smotherman, Jesse S. See Jesse L. Smotherman above.
Soldiers' Orphans Aid Society, 1864 (59-62)
Soldiers' Tract Association, 1864 (62-63)
Sollers, A.B., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1866 (116) (124), 1867 (163) (166)
Somerville Female Institute, 1867 (175) (197)
Spence, James M., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Spicer, James N., 1866 (124)
Spier, H.T.B., 1867
Spruell, A.B., 1866 (129)
State Female College, Memphis, 1862 (11), 1863 (29), 1864 (73), 1865 (98) (108), 1866 (132) (143-144), 1867 (174-175) (195) (197)
State of the Church, 1864 (55-59), 1866 (148-150), 1867 (182-184)
Statistics, 1862 (3-6), 1863 (18-19) (34-35), 1864 (46-47) (67-69), 1865 (86-87), 1866 (139-142), 1867 (167-171)
Stewart, J.P., 1864 (67)
Strong, Nathaniel, 1866 (129)
Stubbs, Benjamin W., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867

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Sullivan, Nathan, 1862, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Sullivan, William T.J., 1862, 1863
Sunday Schools, 1863 (31) (41), 1864 (53) (75), 1865 (104), 1866 (145-146), 1867 (184-186)
Swift, R.S., 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867
Sykes, Joseph R., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Sykes, W.A., 1864
Tabb, Daniel F., 1862, 1863, 1865 (92) (95), 1866 (115) (124)
Tabb, Dave C. See Daniel F. Tabb above. Probably the same person.
Talley, J.T., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866 (118)
Tarrant, R.N., 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 Also spelled Farrant in one place.
Tatum, Sion, 1866 (122) (124)
Taylor, J.L., 1865 (97), 1867 (174)
Taylor, John A., 1867
Taylor, Matthew M., 1862, 1863, 1864 (70), 1865 (92), 1866, 1867
Taylor, Robert V., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 Also listed as R.T. Taylor in 1867.
Taylor, Thomas, 1866, 1867 (172) (198)
Thacker, H.H., 1866 (113), 1867
Thomas, Albert H., 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867 (187)
Thomas, Albert N., 1864 See Albert H. Thomas above. Probably the same person.
Thomas, Edward, 1867
Thomas, William B., 1866 (120) (123)
Vincent, John A., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866 (125) obit.
Walker, J.R., 1865 (95)
Walker, J.W., 1866 (114-115), 1867 Also listed as J.M. Walker.
Walker, Simeon R., 1863 (17)
Walkup, James W., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (108), 1866, 1867
Wallace, B.F., 1866 (121) (124)
Wallace, James L., 1867 (163-164)
Waterfield, A.C., 1867
Watson, Samuel, 1862 (9), 1863, 1864, 1865 (91), 1866 (123), 1867
Weaver, Simpson, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Webb, Leroy D., 1864 (71), 1865 (92)
Wells, David C., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Wells, J.L., 1866 (129)
Wesley's Sunday School. 1867 (160)
West, Richard L., 1865 (90)
West Tennessee College, 1866 (143-144)
Wheat, J.J., 1865 (108), 1866, 1867
White, Augustus, 1867 (164-165)
Whitemore, Z.H., 1866 (115)
Whitnell, Robert, 1867
Whitten, S.P., 1866 (115) (146), 1867 (160)
Wicks, M.J., 1865 (97)
Wilkerson, Francis A., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Williams, Edmund J., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Williams, J.F., 1864 (67)
Williams, Jerry, 1866 (147)
Williams, John F., 1862, 1863 (17)
Williamson, B.W., 1865 (83), 1866 (114) (123), 1867
Wilson, A.R., 1864 (70), 1865, 1866, 1867
Wilson, John G.H., 1867 (163-164)
Wilson, John W., 1864 (47) (50)
Witt, John H., 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Witt, Joseph, 1866 (120)
Word, J.W., 1867
Wright, A.F., 1867
Wright, George H., 1867 (163-164)
Wright, John W., 1865 (90) (155)
Wright, Robert T., 1866 (121) (124)
Yancy, William A., 1865 (90) (92)
Young, John, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866
Young, Thomas J., 1864 (47)
Young, William T.C., 1862 (6), 1863 (36), 1864, 1865 (81) (92), 1866, 1867 (161) (165) Also listed as W.C. Young.