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MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND CONVENTION

OF THE

OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

OF THE

STATE OF INDIANA.

HELD IN COLUMBIA, WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA,

OCTOBER 12TH, — 16TH, 1849.

“In fundamentals, unity—in non-essentials, liberty—in all things, charity.”

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MINUTES OF THE SECOND CONVENTION
OF THE
OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

FIRST SITTING.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

Pursuant to its last adjournment, the Olive Branch Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of Indiana, assembled in the M. E. Church at Columbia, Indiana, and was opened as usual with the singing of a hymn by the brethren, and an address to the Throne of Grace by the President.

The roll was then called, when the following brethren answered to their names :

Pastors.

Rev. S. McReynolds,
Rev. A. H. Myers,
Rev. S. Sayford,
Rev. H. Wells,
Rev. F. Templin,
Rev. O. Brown,
Rev. J. Geiger,

Post Office address.

Camden, Carroll County, Indiana.
Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.
Middletown, Henry County, Indiana.
Augusta, Marion County, Indiana.
Columbia, Whitley County, Indiana.
Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana.
Liberty, Union County, Indiana.

The following brethren handed in their certificates of appointment as delegates to this Synod :

Lay Delegates.

Bro. Peter Hessong, from the charge of Rev. A. H. Myers.
 Bro. Levi Myers, from the charge of Rev. F. Templin.
 Bro. Ambrose Shearer, from the charge of Rev. H. Wells.
 Bro. Wm. Waltman, from the charge of Rev. G. A. Exline.

The President now read the following annual report :

REPORT.

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD :—The time has arrived at which by resolution the first regular meeting of this ecclesiastical body is to be held. Our thoughts are naturally directed to the Author of all Good who has watched over, and by his mercy preserved us. It was on the 28th of October, A. D. 1848, that we resolved in the fear of God to organize the *Olive Branch Synod*. Its clerical members were six in number. The causes by which our course was prompted, and which gave peculiar character and spirit to our body, it would be superfluous to recapitulate at this stage of our proceedings, and doubtless they are well known by all connected with this Synod.

Almost twelve months have elapsed, which has been an eventful period in the world's history, and has wrought many and wonderful changes in men and things. Whilst the Almighty has smitten the inhabitants of the earth with the scourging of his wrath, and thousands have fallen on our left hand and tens of thousands on our right, we have been kept free from the pestilence that walketh in *darkness*, and the destruction that wasteth at *noon-day*. A contemplation of the mercy of our God, in connection with the favorable circumstances under which we have assembled, call for our most fervent gratitude to the Great Head of the Church.

Scattered as we are, through an extended territory, with but little opportunity of social intercourse, our annual Synodical Convention, which produces the reunion of co-laborers, and christian brethren, is calculated to excite within our bosoms the most pleasing emotions. These meetings fill the weary wanderer with joy, and foreshadow the time when, if faithful, we will form a part of that innumerable *host*, in our Father's house ; and by this anticipation we should be led to cultivate with greater zeal that portion of the Lord's vineyard assigned to each of us.

During the interim six congregations have been organized, viz : two by bro. Sayford, two by bro. Wells, one by bro. Templin, and one by myself. In the charge of bro. Wells quite an awakening has taken place, and the influences of the Holy Spirit have been experienced, which resulted in a large number of accessions to the Church. The charges of all the brethren are represented as in a prosperous condition, and the cause of vital godliness appears to be on the in-

crease, so that we may with one voice exclaim : "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us."

In one of the congregations under the care of bro. Wells, a house of worship is in process of erection ; so also in one of bro. Sayford's congregations ; but at what time they will be completed I am unable to say. During the present season, one of the congregations under my care have erected a house of worship which is now nearly completed, and is to be consecrated, (by divine permission,) on the 28th of the present month.

The Lafayette charge has been supplied, and is now under the *pastoral* care of bro. Brown, of Indianapolis. Bro. J. Geiger, late of Wittenburg College, having located at Liberty, Union county, in this State, desired to become a member of this body. Upon the constitutional recommendation, he received license in April last to perform all Ministerial acts until the next annual meeting of this body, which license is now at the disposal of the Synod. Since the meeting of last fall the brethren, G. Wolf, of northern Ohio, and G. A. Exline, of Wittenburg, have been directed in the providence of God within the bounds of Olive Branch Synod. These brethren, I hope, will find it convenient to cast in their lot with us at the present session.

A number of points may easily be found within the limits of our Synod, at which congregations might be speedily organized, if these points could be regularly supplied with the preached word. Indeed, there is scarcely any portion of our extended bounds in which there are not some of the members of our Church ; but owing to the sparcity of Ministers in our bounds, they are left as sheep having no shepherd. There appears to me no other method by which these can be supplied, than that based upon the Home Missionary principle. I submit this subject to your consideration.

We find in this State a number of Lutheran Ministers attached to different and independent Ecclesiastical organizations. In some cases our declining cause might be restored by a prudent and cautious course. Would it be consistent with ministerial courtesy to accept an invitation of a Lutheran layman to preach in a town or neighborhood supplied by a Minister bearing the Lutheran name ? If an affirmative answer is given, we next ask :—by what method may a Minister satisfy his mind that he may accept such invitation, without justly incurring the charge of improper interference ? I submit this point to your careful consideration.

The constitution adopted by this body may possibly need some alteration before it becomes permanently our guide. Permit me here to suggest the propriety of fixing its principles clearly at this session, so that the necessity of making any further alterations at an early period may be obviated.

Many other important items of business will be brought up for our consideration, such as uniting in the support of some literary and theological institution—the election of delegates to the General Synod—beneficiary education—the periodicals of our Church, &c. ; but confiding in the piety and wisdom of the clerical and lay members of this body, I would not presume to prescribe the

course which should be pursued with regard to these various items, which will demand your attention.

Without departing, however, from the line of duty, permit me to remind you that this body, as indicated by its name and motto, is based upon pacific principles. Let us with equal care avoid on the one hand cold formality, and on the other wild enthusiasm ; ever carrying out the sentiments expressed in the beautiful lines inscribed upon our seal, in which our duty is clearly defined. To speak peace to all, to gather together the faithful of the Lord, to pray and labor without ceasing, always hoping and believing, to cast out all that defiles the sanctuary, to exhibit a spirit conciliatory, yet firm ; bold, yet patient, humble, zealous, and strong in faith. The prize for which we labor will be found in the future prosperity of the Church, in the holiness of her members, and in the honor which she will render to the *Redeemer*.

Finally, May the blessing of God rest upon our deliberations ; may harmony ever exist among us ; may we be filled with wisdom from above ; and may we return to our homes with renewed resolutions to labor faithfully, by the grace of God, for the promotion of our Master's cause and kingdom.

S. McREYNOLDS, *President*.

On motion,

The report was accepted, and placed in the hands of a committee composed of Rev. H. Wells, Rev. O. Brown, and Bro. P. Hessong, who were instructed to report at the earliest hour possible.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was now entered into, Rev. O. Brown, and Rev. H. Wells, acting as tellers. The result was as follows :

REV. S. McREYNOLDS, *President*.

REV. A. H. MYERS, *Secretary*.

REV. H. WELLS, *Treasurer*.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the last session be dispensed with, and that they be referred to a committee to report on unfinished business.

Rev. F. Templin, Rev. O. Brown, and Bro. Levi Myers, were appointed said committee.

The various papers and documents requiring the action of Synod were now called for by the President, and distributed among the following committees :

Third Committee—Rev. A. H. Myers, Rev. F. Templin, and Bro. P. Hessong.

Fourth Committee—Rev. H. Wells, Rev. A. H. Myers, and Bro. Levi Myers.

Fifth Committee—Rev. O. Brown, Rev. F. Templin, and Rev. J. Geiger.

There being no further business,

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Prayer by the Secretary.

SECOND SITTING.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. H. Wells.

The minutes of the first sitting were read and approved.

The Rev. A. D. Stecher, from the Missouri Synod, was introduced and received as an advisory member of this body.

The Third Committee now reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom were referred the minutes of sister synods, respectfully report the following:

No. 1. The minutes of the 24th annual convention of the Synod of west Pa., which convened at East Berlin, Adams county, Pa., September 22d, 1848. This Synod embraces 48 ordained ministers and 5 licentiates—total 53 ministers; 136 congregations, and 15,541 communicants. This body is prosecuting the work of evangelization with commendable zeal and signal success. Your committee rejoice in the prosperity and success of this venerable Synod; and whilst we most fervently invoke the divine benediction upon them and theirs, we would ring the Macedonian cry in their ears, “come over and help us.”

No. 2. The minutes of the 6th convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Miami, held at Dayton, Ohio, April 13, 1849. This Synod embraces 23 ministers, 48 congregations, and 2,188 communicants. From these minutes we learn that Rev. S. McReynolds, our delegate, was cordially received. The President in his report took favorable notice of our organization, and the Synod adopted the following:

“*Resolved*, That these brethren have our best wishes and fervent prayers that

this undertaking, (the organization of our Synod,) may lead them to increased usefulness in advancing the Redeemer's cause in the West."

Your committee rejoice in these assurances of sympathy and confidence, and most fervently pray that the divine blessing may continue to rest upon the "Miami Synod," securing to all associated with it, peace and enlarged success.

No. 3. The minutes of the 12th session of the Franckean Synod, N. Y. It embraces 23 ministers, 45 congregations, and 2,584 communicants. In these minutes we find no reference to this body. This Synod appears to be in a prosperous condition, in which your committee rejoice.

No. 4. The minutes of the second session of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the South West, held in St. Paul's Church, Nelson county, Ky. This Synod embraces 7 clerical members, and is represented as in a very prosperous state; in which your committee rejoice; and pray that they may continue to enjoy signal prosperity.

No. 5. The minutes of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, held at Klecknerville, Crawford county, Pa. The Synod embraces 23 clerical members, 80 congregations, with a membership of 4,499. This Synod is represented as in a highly prosperous condition, and is prosecuting the work of home evangelization with commendable zeal. The Lord bless these dear brethren with enlarged success. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the above Synodical bodies. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. MYERS,
F. TEMPLIN,
PETER HESSONG.

The Second Committee (on unfinished business) reported the following, which, with the replies to the inquiries therein made, was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom was referred the minutes of the last session, respectfully submit the following:

1st. On vacant congregations. Is a resolution "That Rev. H. Wells and the President visit the Lafayette charge, if possible, within three months." Has this duty been discharged?

[The President answered in the affirmative. Rev. H. Wells stated that he had procured an alternate, Rev. O. Brown, upon which ground he was excused.]

2d. Is a resolution constituting each member of this body an exploring missionary, to report at the present session. Are the brethren prepared to report?

[The brethren reported heart-rending destitution within the bounds of the State, and the most cheering results attending their labors in this self-denying work.]

3d. The following brethren were appointed delegates to sister synods. To the Miami Synod, the President; to the Indianapolis German Synod, the Secretary;

to the Synod of Illinois, Rev. O. Brown ; to Wittenberg Synod, Rev. F. Templin. Have these brethren attended to their respective duties ?

[The Secretary answered in the affirmative—Rev. O. Brown was excused, upon the ground that he could not ascertain when and where said Synod met. Rev. F. Templin was excused on account of sickness. The President presented the following report :

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE "MIAMI SYNOD."

Your delegate to the Miami Synod would respectfully report as follows :

That he attended the meeting of that body, held in Dayton, Ohio, April 13-17, A. D. 1849. Was cordially received and treated with due respect and christian friendship. This body entertains the most friendly feelings towards us, and wish us God speed in our arduous enterprise. Though separated in our ecclesiastical connections, yet we are one in heart and laboring for the accomplishment of the same glorious purpose, viz : the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. Therefore,

Resolved, That we cordially reciprocate their brotherly kindness, and endeavor to keep up the most friendly relations with that body in future.

Respectfully submitted.

S. McREYNOLDS.

4th. On promiscuous business, we find a resolution, empowering the Secretary to purchase a suitable book of record for this body. Has this purchase been made ?

[The book was presented by the Secretary, and accepted by the Synod.]

5th. A resolution appointing the Secretary and Bro. G. D. Staats a committee to procure for this Synod a seal with the following *device* and motto : Device, an Olive Branch laying upon an open Bible. Motto, "*in necessariis unitas—in dubiis libertas—in omnibus caritas.*" Has the seal been procured ?

[The seal was presented, which was accepted and the committee discharged.]

All of which was respectfully submitted.

F. TEMPLIN,
O. BROWN,
LEVI MYERS.

The First Committee (on the President's report) reported the following which was adopted :

REPORT.

Your committee on the President's report respectfully submit the following :

This document contains much that is of vital importance, and we recommend it to the favorable regard of the Synod and from it sketch the following items for consideration and action.

1. Your committee rejoice to learn that a number of Churches have been

organized in the bounds of our infant Synod this year ; and that uniformity may be promoted and good order maintained in our churches, we recommend the formula and discipline published by the General Synod for the adoption of our churches.

2. This report also gladdens our hearts by informing us that the Lord has poured out his Holy Spirit on some of our congregations, and added many to our number. Your committee recommend catechetical instruction, especially to the young, who are admitted to church membership.

3. We recommend the praiseworthy example of our Camden and Salem brethren in building houses of worship as worthy of imitation, and that our ministers more earnestly press this subject upon the people.

4. Your committee are glad to learn that several ministers have come into our State recently, and we hope that many more will hear the Macedonian cry and follow their example ; and that we continue to pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into this destitute field.

5. With regard to the questions concerning those ministers and congregations in our State, bearing the Lutheran name, who are not united with this body, your committee recommend that the members of this body exemplify in their intercourse with such the pacific principles of our organization.

6. The important subjects of missions and education will be before this body in due time, and we therefore pass over this part of the report.

7. Your committee approve of the *ad interim* licensure of Rev. J. Geiger, and recommend him to the favorable regard of the Ministerium.

8. Your committee heartily endorse and recommend the pacific sentiments of the report, and while we continue thus to labor we have reason to believe that the Lord will revive his work, for which we will continue to labor and pray.

Respectfully submitted.

H. WELLS,
O. BROWN,
P. HESSONG.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 8½ o'clock in the morning, for devotional exercises. Synod to be opened for business at 9 A. M. Prayer by Rev. O. Brown.

THIRD SITTING.

SATURDAY MORNING, Oct. 13, 1849.

Pursuant to adjournment, Synod met and after devotional exercises was opened for business—Prayer by Rev. J. Geiger.

The minutes of the Second Sitting were read and approved.

Bro. Ambrose Shearer made application for examination; and *licensure* if found worthy.

On motion,

His application was referred to the Ministerium.

Rev. G. A. Exline, upon presentation of a certificate of *ad interim* licensure, by the President of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, was introduced and received as an advisory member.

The Fifth committee reported the following, which was adopted :

REPORT.

Your committee into whose hands certain papers were placed would respectfully report the following :

Item first—Is a copy of the constitution of Mt. Zion Ev. Luth. church of Carroll Co., Ind., accompanied with an application to be received as an integral part of this body. Your committee having examined said constitution and finding nothing therein at variance with the Scriptures, or conflicting with the constitutional principles of this body, would offer the following :

Resolved, That the request of this church be complied with.

Item second—Is a petition from St. Peter's church, Camden, Ind., under the pastoral care of Rev. S. McReynolds, requesting Synod to appoint a committee to install said brother as pastor of said church, on the 4th Sabbath of the present month ; in reference to which your committee would offer the following :

Resolved, That Synod grant the request of said church by appointing a committee for said purpose.

Item third—Is a cordial invitation from St. Peter's church, Camden, Ind., to this body, to hold its next session in their midst—upon this item your committee submit the following :

Resolved, That Synod take favorable notice of this invitation when balloting for the place of its next meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

O. BROWN,
F. TEMPLIN.
J. GEIGER.

The following committee was appointed to act under the resolution connected with the second item of the above report :

Rev. A. H. Myers, Rev. O. Brown and Rev. F. Templin.

Rev. G. A. Exline made application for regular license from this body.

On motion,

His application was recommended to the favorable regard of the Ministerium.

The following brethren were appointed a committee on benevolent enterprises.

Rev. H. Wells, Rev. G. A. Exline and Bro. Levi Myers.

The Fourth committee reported the following, which was adopted :

REPORT.

Your committee respectfully report that the papers in their hands are

1st. The recommendations of the Councils of Rev. O. Brown's charge, in which they speak in the highest terms of praise and satisfaction of the christian deportment and ministerial labors of this young brother. Your committee rejoice in these flattering testimonials to the character and efficiency of Bro. Brown and recommend to the Ministerium the renewal of his license.

2d. The *journal* and *sermons* of this brother ; the first of which show that Bro. Brown has been arduous in his labors in his new charge. The second evince care and research in the accumulation of matter, and skill in the methodical arrangement of the same. Your committee recommend to our young brethren diligence in study and great care in the *application* of their sermons, as a matter of vital importance to their usefulness.

Respectfully submitted.

HUGH WELLS,
A. H. MYERS,
LEVI MYERS.

On motion,

The following brethren were appointed a committee on promiscuous subjects :

Rev. O. Brown, Rev. J. Geiger and Bro. A. Shearer.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 8½ o'clock on Monday morning—and that there be a session of the Ministerium held at the close of the religious services of this afternoon.

Prayer by the Rev. S. Sayford.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

Thursday evening, Oct. 11th, preaching by the President. Text, Matt. xiii: 44.

Friday evening, pastoral sermon by the President. Text, Acts xx: 28, followed by an exhortation from the Secretary.

Saturday morning, 11 o'clock, preparatory sermon by Rev. H. Wells. Text, Numbers x: 29.

Saturday afternoon, 3 o'clock, German preparatory sermon by Rev. F. Templin. Text, 2 Tim. ii: 5.

Saturday evening, sermon by Rev. O. Brown. Text, Eccl. ix: 10—followed with an exhortation by the Secretary.

Sabbath morning, social prayer at 9 o'clock.

A German discourse, by Rev. G. Wolf, from Luke xxii: 15, at 10 o'clock—followed by an English discourse from the Secretary—text, Jer. vi: 16; after which the Lord's supper was administered to the members of Synod and a large number of communicants, embracing members of sister denominations. The exercises of the morning were attended by a large concourse of people, and we have reason to believe, were highly interesting and profitable, as many were heard to exclaim, truly! we have enjoyed a "season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

Sabbath afternoon, 3 o'clock, sermon by Rev. J. Geiger, from Neh. vi: 30.

Sabbath evening, sermon by Rev. G. A. Exline, from James i: 25—followed by Rev. J. Geiger in exhortation. This evening several presented themselves as inquirers after the way of salvation—and were directed to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Rev. H. Wells preached eight miles from Columbia at 3 o'clock, from Rom. x: 1. May the great head of the church own, and most signally bless the efforts thus far made for the extension of his kingdom. Amen.

FOURTH SITTING.

MONDAY MORNING, 8½ o'clock.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and after the usual devotional exercises was opened for business.

Prayer by Rev. S. Sayford.

The roll was called, and the members all found present.

The minutes of the third sitting were read and approved.

The Rev. G. Wolf was introduced as a delegate from the Eng. Evan. Luth. Synod of Ohio, and invited to a seat in the convention as an advisory member.

Rev. G. Wolf stated that the fact of his appointment as a delegate to this body, was an evidence of the fraternal feeling entertained towards the Olive Branch Synod by the brethren in North Eastern Ohio.

On motion it was

Resolved, That this kindly feeling is fully reciprocated on our part.

The President appointed Rev. S. Sayford and Bro. A. Shearer, a committee to audit the Treasurer's report.

The Secretary appointed the Rev. O. Brown his *assistant*.

The committee on benevolent enterprises, reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions on the benevolent enterprises of the day, present the following:

1. *Resolved*, That the American Bible Society have our approbation and hearty co-operation in distributing the Holy Bible throughout *our land, and the whole world*, and that we commend this great enterprize to the blessing of Almighty God.

2. *Resolved*, That we cultivate and encourage a missionary spirit in our Synod and congregations, and that we unitedly labor with, and pray for our Home and Foreign Missionary Societies.

3. *Resolved*, That we believe that the American Tract Society is diffusing christian intelligence silently but efficiently among thousands who by other means are not enlightened, and we therefore would encourage this society, with

our hearty co-operation, and pray that God may continue to bless it with enlarged success and increasing usefulness.

4. *Resolved*, That the church of God should plant her standard high, and firmly defend it in the front rank of the temperance host, and thus encourage the great temperance reform in our midst; and unceasingly pray that drunkenness and every species of intemperance be removed from our land and the world.

5. *Resolved*, That the American Sunday School Union with its truly catholic and benevolent spirit, is doing a good and great work, and that we will co-operate with the society, and recommend its books to our Sabbath schools.

Respectfully submitted.

1998607

H. WELLS,
G. A. EXLINE,
LEVI MYERS.

The committee on the Treasurer's report presented the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee respectfully report that upon examination, they find that during the past synodical year \$36 13 were placed in the hands of the Treasurer—whilst the authorized expenditures of the Synod were \$35 06 $\frac{1}{4}$, leaving in his hands \$1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Respectfully submitted.

S. SAYFORD,
A. SHEARER.

On motion,

Adjourned for half hour, in order to hold a session of the Ministerium.

Prayer by Rev. O. Brown.

11 o'clock, A. M.

In accordance with the resolution of adjournment, Synod resumed its fourth sitting.

Prayer by Rev. G. Wolf.

Rev. G. Wolf made application to become a member of this body, in consequence of his location in our bounds, and being honorably dismissed from the Synod of Ohio, was,

On motion,

Received as a member of the Olive Branch Synod.

On motion it was,

Resolved, That we now proceed in accordance with a resolution of the Ministerium, to examine candidates, G. A. Exline, J. Geiger and A. Shearer; and that a committee of four be appointed to conduct said examination.

Synod appointed the President, the Secretary, Rev. H. Wells and Rev. G. Wolf said committee.

The committee proceeded to the work assigned them, in accordance with the order laid down in the constitution.

The examination on personal piety and the call to the ministry, was highly interesting and entirely satisfactory.

The following facts of general interest were developed:

Rev. G. A. Exline was led to the Savior mainly by the labors of Rev. S. Ritz in a protracted meeting.

Rev. J. Geiger, was led to embrace the Savior during a protracted meeting held by Rev. H. Bishop, and Rev. J. Moyer, now deceased.

Bro. A. Shearer by the private instruction and counsel of Rev. A. Reck.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 1½ o'clock this afternoon.

Prayer by Bro. Levi Myers.

FIFTH SITTING.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Bro. P. Hessong.

The minutes of the previous sitting were read and approved.

On motion,

The examination was resumed, and conducted with a good degree of thoroughness, on the following subjects: Evidences of Christianity, Natural and Revealed Theology, Church History, Pastoral Theology, the Rules of Sermonizing and Church Government.

On motion,

The examination was closed and Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. G. A. Exline.

ORDINATION AND LICENSURE.

MONDAY EVENING, 7 o'clock.

In accordance with resolutions of the Ministerium, after an appropriate sermon, by the Rev. H. Wells, from Mark xvi: 15, the Rev. O. Brown was solemnly ordained *Pastor*, by the "laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." And brethren A. Shearer, J. Geiger and G. A. Exline, received regular license to perform all the functions of the Ministerial office for the term of one year.

After a short time spent in devotional exercises, the meeting was closed in the usual form.

SIXTH SITTING.

Synod met in accordance with adjournment, and after the usual devotional exercises, was opened for business.

Prayer by Rev. O. Brown.

The minutes of the previous sitting were read and approved.

ON VACANT CHURCHES.

Rev. G. A. Exline reported a vacant congregation in Benton, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Those visiting or writing will inquire for J. Kitzen.

MISSIONARY BUSINESS.

On motion,

Five dollars of the missionary fund was appropriated to Rev. G. Wolf, for labor performed in this department.

Peru, the seat of justice for Miami County, and Kokomo,

the seat of justice for Howard County, are reported as favorable points for missionary *stations*. These places are about 20 miles apart, and there are many members of our church scattered through these counties. Those visiting or writing will inquire for Mr. Brubecker of Peru, and Mr. George Defenbaugh of Kokomo.

The following points are represented as a promising field where a good charge can be formed: Newcastle the seat of justice for Henry County, a neighborhood 7 miles east of Newcastle, Hagerstown 12 miles from Newcastle, and a neighborhood 4 miles south of Hagerstown on West river.

The following are also represented as favorable points for missionary operations—Huntington, of Huntington County. Bluffton, of Wells County, 18 miles from Huntington. Gilead, in Miami County. Marion, the seat of justice for Grant County. A village 12 miles from Marion on the road to Peru. Noblesville, of Hamilton County. Cicero, 8 miles from Noblesville.

There are several large towns in our bounds, in which we have *interests*, and which should be occupied soon—*Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Madison, Jeffersonville, New Albany*.

Rev. F. Templin, is *willing* and *anxious* to divide his charge; who will become his co-laborer in this promising field? Rev. H. Wells is also anxiously awaiting the arrival of a co-laborer, that his charge may also be divided. Cambridge City, Milton, and Dublin, only a few miles apart, in Wayne County, are represented as promising points. Also Connersville, the seat of justice for Fayette County.

On motion,

The above points were recommended to the favorable regard of the Home Missionary Society.

On motion it was,

Resolved, Unanimously, that we hereby recommend the Rev. G. Wolf to our Home Missionary Society; requesting aid in his support if possible.

The committee on promiscuous subjects, reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee would report the following resolutions for adoption by this body:

1st. *Resolved*, That our confidence in the "Lutheran Observer" is unimpaired and be continued; and that our patronage if possible be increased.

2d. *Resolved*, That we approve and recommend the "Missionary" and endeavor to extend its circulation.

3d. *Resolved*, That we deeply and sincerely deplore the wide spread desecration of the Holy Sabbath, throughout our State and Nation, and that we labor and pray to secure its better and more general observance.

4th. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to have 400 copies of the minutes published at Indianapolis.

5th. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to procure printed certificates of licensure and ordination for the use of this body.

6th. *Resolved*, That prayer meetings are of the utmost importance and usefulness, and that we most earnestly recommend and labor to promote them in every church within our bounds.

7th. *Resolved*, That the Chair appoint brethren to speak on the following subjects at our next annual convention—*Ordination*, Missions and Education.

Respectfully submitted.

O. BROWN,
J. GEIGER,
A. SHEARER.

The chair appointed, in accordance with the 7th resolution of the above report, Rev. S. Sayford, to preach on Ordination; Rev. H. Wells, on Missions; and Rev. G. A. Exline, on Education.

DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD AND SISTER
SYNODS.

On motion,

Synod went into an election for delegates to the next General Synod of our Church, which resulted as follows:

Clerical Delegate—A. H. Myers.

Lay Delegate—Bro. Henry Ohr.

Alternates—Rev. H. Wells, Bro. G. D. Staats.

To Sister Synods—To Wittenberg Synod, Rev. S. Sayford.
 To the Miami Synod, J. Geiger.
 To the Synod of Illinois, S. McReynolds.
 To the Indianapolis German Synod, G. Wolf.
 To the Eng. Synod of Ohio, G. A. Exline.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the minute of the appointment of the above delegates to the General Synod and Sister Synods, be their *certificate* of appointment.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That our delegates to the General Synod be instructed to procure, if possible, the establishment of a depository for the publications of our Church within our bounds.

The Convention now went into an election for the time and place of its next annual meeting.

Albion, Noble county, and Centreville, Wayne county, were named in connection with Camden; but after free discussion as to the most central locality, &c., the first two names were withdrawn.

On balloting for the time, Friday, preceding the first Sabbath in October, was selected; for the place, Camden, Carroll county, Indiana, was selected.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 2½ o'clock this afternoon.
 Prayer by Rev. G. Wolf.

SEVENTH SITTING.

Pursuant to adjournment, Synod met. Prayer by Rev. S. Sayford.

On motion,

Leave of absence was granted to brethren P. Hessong, Rev. G. Wolf, and Rev. A. Shearer.

On motion,

The following brethren were appointed a committee to report on the state of Religion within our bounds at our next Annual Convention : The Secretary, the President, Rev. S. Sayford, and Rev. G. A. Exline.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the President, at the close of the exercises this evening, tender to the citizens of Columbia, our sincere thanks for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been received and entertained by them ; and also to the M. E Church for the use of their Church edifice.

On motion, it was,

Resolved, That the Secretary furnish a synopsis of the minutes for publication in the "Observer."

On motion, it was

Resolved, That this Convention now adjourn to meet at the time and place appointed.

Prayer by the Secretary.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

This evening Rev. S. Sayford preached the concluding sermon from John 3: 14, 15, which was followed with an exhortation from the Secretary; after which, the President, in a touching and appropriate manner, tendered to the citizens and Church our thanks, in accordance with the resolution of Synod. Thus ended the Second Convention of the Olive Branch Synod, after the transaction of an unusual amount of business, in *harmony* and *love*; and *vigorous*, and we have reason to believe, *well-directed efforts*, for the dissemination of truth and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. The brethren left for their homes and respective charges, animated with new life and hopes, and greatly encouraged; determined by the divine blessing to bring a good report to our next Annual Convention: which may the Lord grant for his name's sake. Amen.

SESSION OF THE MINISTERIUM.

SATURDAY, 5 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Pursuant to a resolution of Synod, the Ministerium met, and was opened with prayer by the Secretary.

After some time spent in free conference in relation to various matters pertaining to the interests of Zion,

On motion,

The Ministerium adjourned. Prayer by Rev. H. Wells.

MONDAY, 10½ O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Ministerium opened its session with prayer by Rev. H. Wells.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That as Bro. O. Brown has sustained the usual test, and made full proof of his ministry, he be ordained.

It was also

Resolved, That Rev. J. Geiger, Licentiate, *ad interim*, of this Synod, Rev. G. A. Exline, Licentiate, *ad interim*, of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, and Bro. A. Shearer, be admitted to examination before this body in open Synod.

On motion,

Ministerium adjourned. Prayer by Rev. F. Templin.

MONDAY, 4½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

Ministerium met. Prayer by Rev. S. Sayford. Minutes of the previous sittings read and approved.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That regular license for the term of one year be granted to brethren J. Geiger, G. A. Exline, and A. Shearer.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the exercises of Ordination and Licensure be attended to at the close of the religious exercises of this evening.

On motion,
Ministerium adjourned. Prayer by Rev. G. Wolf.

The foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the Second Annual Convention of the "Olive Branch Synod and Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of Indiana."

A. H. MYERS, *Secretary*.

INDIANAPOLIS, *Indiana*.

PAROCHIAL REPORT.

PASTORS.	Churches.	Stations.	BAPTISMS.			Removed by death.	Removed by letter.	Removed by expulsion.	Sunday Schools.	Scholars.	Prayer Meetings.	COLLECTIONS.		POST OFFICE.		
			Infants.	Adults.	Total.							For Synod.	For local pur.			
Rev. S. McReynolds,	3	3	18	1	19	6	1	95	2	90	1	\$10 00	\$800 00	Camden.		
Rev. A. H. Myers,	3	1	12	2	14	9	2	147	4	150	6	15 00	150 00	Indianapolis.		
Rev. H. Wells,	6	3	40	27	67	35	4	176	2	40	3	5 00	200 00	Augusta, Marion Co.		
Rev. S. Sayford,	3	3	6		6	3	2	35	2		1	3 00	200 00	Middletown, Henry Co.		
Rev. F. Templin,	6	2	23		23	6		150	4	143	4	5 00	200 00	Columbia, Whitley Co.		
Rev. O. Brown,	3	1	2		2			63	1	50	1	8 45		Lafayette.		
Rev. J. Geiger,		5	5		5			15	1	14		1 00		Liberty, Union Co.		
Rev. G. A. Exline,	3	5	2		2			36	2	60	3	1 00		Albion, Noble Co.		
Rev. G. Wolf,	1	6	3		3			14	1			50		Sullivan, Sullivan Co.		
Rev. A. Shearer,																
Total,	28	29	111	30	141	62	85	731	5	6	7	19	547	16	\$48 95	\$1,350 00

