

Original Handwritten Minutes
Typescript

4th General Assembly
January 6-9, 1909
Cleveland, Tennessee

Cleveland, Bradley Co. Tenn.
Fourth Annual Assembly
The Church Assembly held Jan. 6-9 1909

Introductory – Wednesday, Jan. 6 – 1909 – at 7 P.M.

After songs, prayer and testimonies,
Eld. R. G. Spurling delivered the opening sermon.

Thursday morning Jan. 7

Assembly opened with Prayer at 10 A.M.

No reports having been made out for any of the churches for the past year on account of lack of time on the part of the clerk to prepare blanks, some oral reports were given.

Steer Creek, M. S. Lemons, some good work done there and some good people but are in need of care and help.

Chattanooga, M. S. Lemons. The work just commenced there this year, quite a number of professions and about 75 received the Baptism with the Holy Ghost. A membership of about 60.

Drygo. M. S. Lemons, not much done there this year. Hardly anything to report except they had some meetings and Sunday School.

Rising Fawn. Some Good work done there and a chance for a good work to be established the coming year. Some have the Baptism with the Holy Ghost.

Camp Creek, R. G. Spurling Held several meetings but the prospect for future work not very encouraging.

Jones Ga. R. G. Spurling. Held regular meetings there most all the year. The work there rather on a stand-still. Ought to continued right on.

Union Grove, A. J. Tomlinson. Regular meetings there most of the year, S. S. Three protracted meetings held, some good done but not what ought to have been.

Oakland, A. J. Tomlinson. Good work done there in Sunday School and prayer meetings. Some saved and some Baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Cleveland, A. J. Tomlinson. Revival nearly all the year. S. S. regular increase of membership from 60 to 230. About 300 professions and about 250 received the Baptism with the Holy Ghost. Quite a number abstained from the use of tobacco.

Hillvue. W. F. Bryant, Some good work done there, meetings held almost regular, S. School also. The work ought to be continued. Good open field.

Red Knobs. Regular meetings held most of the year . Revival, with about 30 professions.

Chickamauga, Wm. Tallent. Good work established there. Several professions and some baptized with the Holy Ghost. Building a church house.

The following resolution was adopted.

“This Assembly is not legislative, nor executive, but judicial only.

The minutes of last assembly read and two clauses of the Minutes on tobacco discussed and struck out. The two clauses stricken out are as follows: – “And hereafter not to receive any into the church who used the filthy stuff.” In addition to that minute the Assembly decided that the use of tobacco disqualifies a person for becoming a member of the Lord’s Church.” The remainder of the minute approved and adopted.

Noon

1 – 30 P.M.

Song and prayer.

The question of selecting pastors continued from assembly of 1908 reconsidered Bros. Spurling, Lee, Hackett, Lemons, Bryant, Wingo and others spoke on the subject. The plan for the present was as follows, viz. The church desiring a pastor should earnestly pray for God to give them the person that He, with His infinite wisdom, knows would be the proper one for them under the existing circumstances. After prayer to agree upon one, if possible, as they feel divinely guided. To consult in person or by mail with the person desired and finally as they make out the yearly report for the general assembly to fill in the space, “Call for Pastor ,” the names of two ministers, either one of which they would gladly receive. This should be done so the report could reach the Moderator 2 or 3 days before the date on which the assembly convenes. The assembly, after prayers and consultation with the delegates from the churches and the ministers desired, to place the pastors as nearly as possible according to the requests or desires of the churches to be supplied. In case it is not possible for the assembly, in its short time for deliberation, to make arrangements for the pastors for all churches, those vacant will be submitted to the care of the Moderator of Assembly to confer with such vacant churches and arrange to supply such vacancies to the best of his ability.

Female ministers- Deaconesses and Evangelists. This subject was discussed, and decided that female ministers had their place in the Lord’s vineyard in the days of the Apostles and must be recognized in these days, but for lack of precept or example in the New Testament for ordination the assembly advises for the present, that the wives

of the deacons be considered and appointed deaconesses by virtue of the position and ordination of their husbands. The assembly advises further that the women who engage in the ministry of the Word be acknowledged by the church and supplied with a certificate or license showing date of appointment and by what church. Also that above certificate or license be conferred to un – ordained male ministers.

Jan. 8 – 1909 – 9:45 – A.M.

Session opened with songs and prayer .

The minute of the Assembly of 1908, referring to marriage and divorce, was read and the subject duly discussed and considered. The sentence of this assembly, therefore, is to “let the minute of 1908 remain unchanged” but in addition to insert the following clause – viz. – in case of a man who has two living wives wishing to connect himself with the church, also in case of a woman having two living husbands desiring the same, we recommend that the church to which they wish to unite, appoint a committee to investigate the case, and for the church them to act according to the advice given by the assembly, the best light and knowledge obtained by the church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The question of appointing a committee to examine and investigate each applicant for membership in the church before receiving them, was considered and discussed but finally disapproved at least for the present.

Noon

The question as to whether it would be good to advise each local church to hold a business meeting 4 times each year for the transaction of such business as came before the church for considerations, was duly considered and recommended.

Some more thoughts advanced about a church paper but the assembly came to no conclusion.

A brief discussion of the ministers credentials, advisability of changing the same, and preparing credentials for the three orders of Ministers, viz: – Bishops, Deacons and Evangelists, resulted in the referring the subject to the examination committee to prepare forms for each to be submitted to the Assembly for approval. The following committee was appointed to prepare a form for the annual reports of the Local churches. A. J. Lawson, Flavius Lee, P. A. Wingo.

The appointment of a general Overseer over all the churches for mutual help and general instructions was briefly discussed but no action taken nor advice given.

Adjourned for the day.

Jan. 9 – 1909 – 11 – 30 A.M.

The committee for the preparation of blanks for the reports of the Local churches reported and report accepted with a slight amendment, and the chairman was instructed to get the forms printed and place them in the hands of the proper offices for use the next year.

Noon.

Song and prayer.

The committee, to which the ministers credentials were referred for preparation, reported and accepted with instruction given to have them printed and signed by the proper officers and presented to the ministers. It was here decided that the blank reports should be placed in the care of the Assembly clerk to be forwarded to local churches at the close of the year in time for them to be filled out and returned to the Assembly.

The place for holding the next assembly was considered, but not being able to make a decision at present it was deferred and left for those in authority to decide later.

Whereas The following office is considered in harmony with New Testament order, and on account of the presant needs for the general welfare of the churches and the formation of the interests of the same we here by institute the name viz. – General moderator whose term of office shall commence at the closing of each yearly assembly and expire the following year at the same time, or until his successor is selected. The duties of said officer shall be as follows, viz.: To issue credentials to the ministers, to keep a record of all the preachers and evangelists within the bounds of the assembly, to look after the general interests of the churches, to fill vacancies either in person or by sending someone whom in his best judgment would be beneficial to the edifying of the body of Christ, and to act as Moderator and Clerk of the general Assembly.

A. J. Tomlinson was duely selected General Moderator for the ensuing year.

By unanimous consent it was decided to add two more days to the work of the Assembly thereby placing the date of opening two days earlier than usual, giving five days instead of three.

This Assembly sends greetings to the saints at Greenville S. C. by Bro. Seigler of that place who is here with us, signed by the Moderator of Assembly.

Bro. R. G. Spurling displayed a picture on canvass illustrating the Church and its apostasy from its Apostolic order, giving a brief lecture on same. Remarks, tears, joy and exclamations of gratitude followed by a season of prayer and song.

The assembly which has been in session for three days, and all the deliberations and discussions having been done with love, order and harmony now adjourns to meet, God willing, at the place yet to be selected and made known on Tuesday before the second Sunday in January 1910 at 10:00 A.M.

The Assembly now concluded. Late in the evening of the 11th day of January, 1909.

A. J. Tomlinson Clerk