

A.M.E. Church J. Daniel Smith Collec



# MINUTES

of

BERMUDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FORTY-THIRD SESSION

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Allen Temple A. M. E. Church

Somerset, Bermuda

REV. AUSTIN RICHARDSON, PASTOR

Friday, May 21st, 1926

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RT. REV. W. T. VERNON, M.A., D.D., LL.D.

PRESIDING BISHOP

REV. CHAS. H. BELL, B.A., D.D.

PRESIDING ELDER

REV. R. J. STOVELL, Secretary,

REV. C. A. STEWART, Statistical Secretary.

Southampton, Dr. Dunbar Bell, Mr. W. S. Perinchief, M.C.P. and the Presiding Elder, Rev. Chas. Bell. Offering £9. 8. 7. Benediction by the Bishop.

### EVENING SERVICE

Opened by the Pastor, Rev. A. Richardson with hymn 99.

Prayer by Rev. J. S. Johnson.

Scripture Lesson, St. Mark, V, 1:16.

After singing hymn 179, the Bishop in befitting words introduced Rev. C. A. Stewart as the preacher of the hour. The Speaker used as his text Matt. XX:9 "Learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

The Speaker stressed the following—Jesus blessed every life he touched. He enjoined all to live the principles which Jesus taught. The discourse was a fine effort and merited the rapt attention of the large congregation. The invitation to join the Church was extended by Rev. H. L. Gault. Offering £3. 6. 2. Benediction by Rev. C. A. Stewart.

### MONDAY, FOURTH DAY

#### MORNING SESSION, (Executive).

This session opened with devotionals conducted by Rev. F. Lapsley.

Opening Hymn, 12., "A charge to keep I have."

Prayer by Rev. R. H. Tobitt. Hymn, 514 "How vain are all things here below." Scripture Lesson, I Timothy IV ch. Short exhortations were given by Revs. Lapsley and Tobitt, followed by short testimonials by the members of the Conference and others.

The business of this private Session was brought up and dispensed with. The Bishop gave some timely and sage counsel which greatly edified all who were privileged to hear it. The doors were then opened and the waiting crowd streamed into the church.

Moved by Rev. Chas. Bell, seconded by Rev. H. L. Gault that the Electoral College be held at St. Paul's, Hamilton, Dec. 27th., 1926. Carried. Several members of the Conference added to their financial reports—Revs. Lapsley, Tobitt, Gault and Bro. Darrell. The session then closed and the remainder of the day given over to the Sunday School Convention and A.C.E. League, the latter to convene in the afternoon.

This Session of the S.S. Convention was highly instructive and interesting, and it is not too much to say that the chief item which contributed to its instruction and interest was the splendid report submitted by the District Supt. Bro. H. T. Cann.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

At the time appointed the A.C.E. League Convention was called to order by the Rev. C. A. Stewart, Supt. of this Dept.

At the close of the Convention the Bishop called the Conference into Session.

The following introductions were made Bro. H. T. Cann, Supt., Miss Stewart of Jamaica, sister of Rev. C. A. Stewart, and Miss James, B.A., of Jamaica. These two talented young ladies are teachers of a School at Bethel, Shelly Bay. Mrs. Tobitt, wife of Rev. R. H. Tobitt, was also introduced to the Conference.

On being called on to offer a few remarks, both Miss Stewart and Miss James responded in an able manner, and left with the Conference many helpful thoughts. Bishop Vernon commented on the speeches and spoke of their high intelligence.

The Bishop then called for reports. Rev. Chas. Bell, Treasurer, read his Report. On motion of Rev. F. A. Lapsel, seconded by Bro. J. W. Deshield the report was adopted. Rev. Bell read a supplementary Report re the Incorporation of our Church in the Colony. This report was adopted.

Then followed the Presiding Elder's Report which was both comprehensive and illuminating, displaying that thoroughness of grasp and clearness of vision so characteristic of Rev. Chas. Bell in his administration as Presiding Elder.

The Bishop, in a lucid manner, informed the Conference re the sale of our Church at Tucker's Town and the manner in which the proceeds of said sale were applied.

Report of Committee on Temperance was read by Bro. C. A. Darrell. On motion the report was adopted.

Rev. C. H. Bell reported that a valuable property in the parish of Pembroke was bequeathed to the Church on certain conditions, by the late Richard Eve, Esq., and advocated the appointment of a Conference Board of Trustees to be composed of one member of the Church from each charge. The Bishop was of the opinion that some preachers ought to be placed on this Board for reasons which he very plainly set forth. Moved by Rev. C. A. Stewart seconded by Rev. H. L. Gault that, at the Bishop's option, a Committee be appointed to take such steps as may be deemed necessary from time to time to safeguard the interests of our Church Property Claims acquired by behests or otherwise and which are not definitely limited to any one or more churches. Motion carried.

The Minutes of the previous day's sessions were read and severally adopted.

The Session closed in the usual manner.



## EVENING SESSION

The Session opened with singing of hymn No. 1 "O for a thousand tongues to sing."

Rev. Austin Richardson led in prayer, which was followed by an Anthem by the male choir of Allen Temple. Scripture Lesson, Ephes. IV 1:17 read by Rev. H. L. Gault. Selection by the choir: "Listen to de lamb" (spirituals). Report of Committee on Education read by Rev. C. A. Stewart. The report was marked by deep research and evinced a ripe scholarship. (See report.)

Moved by Rev. C. H. Bell, seconded by Rev. A. Richardson that the report be adopted. Motion carried.

Report of Committee on State of the Country read by Rev. R. J. Stovell. The report was the result of a careful study of the conditions that obtain in the various activities and also supplied a brief survey of the moral, religious and educational status of the Colony. On motion the report was adopted.

Bishop W. T. Vernon then rose and introduced His Lordship, Bishop Browne of the Anglican Church to the overflowing audience present who rose and received the Bishop. Bishop Browne brought us a wonderful message of Consecration and Service, and no doubt the rapt attention with which the audience listened to the discourse was indicative of the fact that the good seed was being sown on fertile soil. It is not too much to say that the presence of an Anglican Bishop and one of his clergymen, Rev. Sullivan, rector of Sandys, in an African Methodist Conference, is an event at once unique and epoch-making in the religious history of our Island Colony, marking the progress of Christian Unity among the various branches of Christ's Church, and further, attesting the fact that we are both recognized and appreciated as factors in the moral and spiritual uplift of the people of this Colony.

A short and spirited address was made by Bishop Vernon, wherein he expressed his sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the visit of Bishop Browne to the Conference.

After a Quartette by the Choir, Bishop Vernon introduced to the Conference Rev. Sullivan, rector of Sandys, to offer a few remarks. Rev. Sullivan responded excellently, stressing our family religious and civic duties, and that in the performance of these, we must be humble-minded, and try to unite with our Brother Man for the uplift of humanity. His address was received well. Then followed a selection by the choir, while the large congregation contributed an offering amounting to £5. 11. 7.

Committee on Resolutions reported through Rev. R. H. Tobitt who presented two sets of Resolutions.

Set No. I submitted. Moved by Rev. H. L. Gault seconded by Rev. C. A. Stewart that the Resolution be adopted. Motion carried. (See Resolution.)

Set No. II submitted. Motion to adopt made by Rev. Chas. H. Bell seconded by Rev. F. Lapsley. As these Resolutions had reference to Bishops and Mrs. Vernon, Bishop Browne very graciously offered to put the Motion.

Bishop Vernon then handed him the gavel; the motion was put, and carried unanimously by an enthusiastic Conference. (See Resolutions.)

Bishop Browne then took his leave of the Conference and proceeded on his long journey back to the City.

Report of Committee on Memoirs, read by Rev. H. L. Gault. On motion the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Conference and congregation stood and sang one verse of "Nearer my God to Thee."

Finance Committee reported. Moved by Rev. Chas. Bell, seconded by Rev. H. L. Gault that the report be adopted. Motion carried. On being given an opportunity Mrs. Vernon rose and spoke a few words expressing her deep thankfulness for the kindnesses and courtesies extended to her, particularly for the splendid tribute of flowers.

Installation of Officers of Women's Mite Missionary Society, Conference Branch, as follows:—Sist. Rose Bell, wife of our Presiding Elder, President; Sist. Gault, wife of Rev. Gault of St. George's, Vice-President; Sist. M. Outerbridge, second Vice-President; Sist. Gertrude Stovell, wife of Rev. R. J. Stovell, of St. Philip's Harris Bay, Treasurer; Sist. Amy Dill, financial secty.; Sist. N. Burgess, recording secty. Executive Committee:—Sist. Dorothy Richardson, Matilda Crawford, Ida Trott, E. Burgess, C. Darrell Fubler. The Bishop thanked the members of the organization for their splendid work of the past year. Hymn, "Go preach my Gospel, saith the Lord" precluding the Appointments, was heartily sung and with becoming pathos.

The Bishop's solemn charge and wise words of counsel at this juncture, would be hard to forget, in fact, it is evident an indellible impression was made on all present.

## The Appointments were as follows:—

- Rev. Chas. H. Bell, Presiding Elder, Pastor St. Paul's, Hamilton.
- " Austin Richardson, Allen Temple, Somerset.
- " F. L. Lapsley, Mount Zion, Southampton West.
- " R. H. Tobitt, Vernon Temple, Southampton East.
- " C. A. Stewart, Bethel, Shelly Bay.
- " R. J. Stovell, St. Philip's, Harris Bay.
- " J. S. Johnson, St. John's, Bailey's Bay.
- " H. L. Gault, Richard Allen, St. George's.
- Bro. Ainsworth Darrell, Warwick Mission.
- North Shore Mission (to be supplied).
- " J. W. Deshield, St. David's