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Giskeian Missionary Council.



MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING

HELD IN

ST. ANDREW'S HALL,
KING WILLIAM'S TOWN,

28th October, 1925.

LOVEDALE INSTITUTION PRESS.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF PALEONTOLOGISTS

THE CISKEIAN MISSIONARY COUNCIL.

At the instance of the Association of Heads of Native Institutions some representative Missionaries met in May and August of this year, at King William's Town.

After prayer, a will to unity of purpose and a desire to co-operate in furthering the cause of the Kingdom of Christ was apparent. The meeting unanimously recommended the formation of a Ciskeian Missionary Council, and drafted a constitution for the consideration of the proposed constituent bodies with a view to its adoption at a first meeting which was arranged for.

The Council met at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, King William's Town, on Wednesday, September 28th, at 9.30 a.m.

After prayer by the Reverend A. G. Murray the roll of representatives duly accredited by the following Constituent Bodies was read as follows :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| The Wesleyan Church | 1. Rev. J. W. Househam
2. „ E. M. Ncwana, B.A.
3. Mr. B. Tele
4. „ E. J. Pike. |
| The Church of the Province
of South Africa | 1. The Venerable Archdeacon
J. K. Mather
2. Rev. H. W. Mcanyangwa
3. „ E. H. Morison
4. Mr. R. H. Haya. |
| The Congregational Union
of South Africa | 1. Rev. M. Wilson
2. „ W. B. Rubusana, Ph.D.
3. „ A. Mead, M.A., Hon. C.F.
4. „ J. R. van Stavel. |
| The Bantu Presbyterian Church | 1. „ J. Henderson, D.D.
(Chairman)
2. „ J. Lennox, O.B.E., M.A.
3. „ W. Stuart, M.A.
4. „ Donald Fraser, D.D. |
| The Dutch Reformed Church | 1. „ A. G. Murray
2. „ J. H. Malherbe
3. „ J. M. Hofmeyr. † |

The Lutheran Church	1. „ Carl Nauhaus †
	2. „ Sol. D. Maqina
	3. „ J. Yibe
The Baptist Union	1. „ C. W. Pearce
	2. Mr. G. H. Lee †
The Moravian Church	1. The Right Rev. Bishop J. E. van Calker
	2. Rev. W. Bourquin †
The Church Order of Ethiopia	1. Rev. F. Dongwana
	2. Mr. Stephen Tyeku
The African M. Episcopal Ch.	1. Rev. Chalmers Nyombolo †
	2. „ B. J. Nojekwa
The Presby. Ch. of Africa.	1. †
	2. †
The Associated Heads of Native Institutions	1. Rev. A. Cardross Grant, M.A., Sec.
	2. Miss Macgregor, L.L.A. †
The S. A. Native College	1. Mr. Alexander Kerr, M.A.
The Students' Christian Assoc.	1. Rev. Max Yergan, B.A. † <i>Not present.</i>

Letter and telegrams of apology for absence with expressions of goodwill were read from the Rev. Carl Nauhaus, Rev. C. Nyombolo, and Miss Macgregor.

The Acting Chairman, Dr. Henderson, made an introductory statement on the necessity of vision if the Council was to be a Council of action and not of words only. Since 1862 when the first Kafrarian Missionary Conference met and continued to meet year by year a different phase of development had become apparent in this Ciskeian Field. And it was opportune for Missionaries to come together in council after the long period of service in their respective spheres. The face of Jesus was as it were decomposing and recomposing as we sought It in view of changing circumstances but It was the Face of the same Jesus. The missionary methods and machinery needed overhauling to make the reign of Jesus Christ touch every circumstance in life to-day.

Dr. Donald Fraser was co-opted as a member of the Council by acclamation and the hours of session were agreed upon.

After discussion of the clauses seriatim the following constitution after amendment was unanimously agreed upon.

CONSTITUTION.

1. *Name.* The Ciskeian Missionary Council.
2. *Objects.* To be concerned with the further progress of Christian life, education, and service among the Native and Coloured Races of the Ciskeian Districts of Cape Province, and to be the means of communication with the Government and other authorities.
3. *Membership.* To consist of European, Native, and Coloured duly accredited representatives of the under-mentioned Religious bodies of the Ciskeian districts.

And such other bodies and with such representation as shall hereafter be determined.

Four Representatives each from the Wesleyan Church, the Church of the Province of South Africa, the Congregational Union of South Africa, and the Bantu Presbyterian Church of South Africa.

Three Representatives each from the Dutch Reformed Church, and the Lutheran Church.

Two Representatives each from the Baptist Union, the Moravian Church, the Associated Heads of Native Institutions, the Church Order of Ethiopia, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church of Africa, and the Presbyterian Church of South Africa.

One Representative each from the South African Native College and the Students' Christian Association.

4. *An Annual Meeting* shall be held ordinarily at King William's Town at a date to be fixed by the Council, at which the Chairman together with the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. They shall hold office until the election of their successors at the next annual meeting.
5. *A Standing Committee.* Shall consist of the above-mentioned officers together with three others, elected with secundi at the annual meeting of the Council to arrange the agenda and promote the business of the Council between the annual meetings.

Three to make a quorum.

6. *Finance.* The necessary printing and clerical expenses shall be met from a fund to which each Constituent body shall contribute proportionally to the number of its authorised representatives by a levy to be determined at the annual meeting.

7. An alteration of this constitution can only be taken into consideration of the annual meeting if it has been submitted to the Secretary of the Council in writing with reasons for the proposal three months before the annual meeting.

The Reverend Dr. J. Henderson was then elected Chairman, together with the Reverend A. Cardross Grant as Secretary and Treasurer for the first year; and the Reverend J. H. Malherbe undertook the duty of Minute Secretary.

After a short interval for tea, the following resolution was discussed and occupied the rest of the day's proceedings after the preamble had been accepted as a basis:—

“Seeing that the life of the Native people on earth in all its human aspects is a primary concern of the Christian Church, the present transitional condition of the Ciskeian districts demands fresh consideration and the devising of practical measures in regard to:—

- a. The content of education in village schools.
- b. After school care for the fitting of the young people for occupations in keeping with existing Native circumstances.
- c. The rousing of the people to self-help and co-operation in view of the stagnation of Native progress owing to a failure to adapt their mode of life to the changing economic conditions of to-day.
- d. The improvement of home and family life.
- e. Social amusement and recreation for old as well as young.
- f. The use of School and Church in the interests of the people's health.”

After a report by a sub-committee the Council resolved to invite one representative from each of the following:—

The Free Church of Scotland, The Native Welfare Association, the Cape Education Department, the Native Affairs Department, and further to defer any decision in regard to admitting representatives of other bodies till next year.

The Council adjourned at 12.15 for a devotional period, conducted by the Rev. A. Cardross Grant.

In the discussion on village schools, Archdeacon Mathers and all the speakers pressed for closer fellowship between the missionaries and the teachers. Mr. Yergan suggested Night Schools and Social Centres to raise the standard of social efficiency, and Dr. Fraser, while emphasising the danger of the village schools losing spiritual influence, advocated increased attention to the industrial side, and that some commercial training should be given to make the villages more independent and self-supporting. Mr. M. Wilson suggested that the Council request the Education Department to arrange for a demonstration in spinning and weaving at the Winter Vacation Course to be held at Lovedale in June, 1926. On improving home and family life, Mr. Murray dwelt on better housing, and the necessity for home occupations that would save the head of the family from long absences at labour centres.

On the Council resuming at 7.30 after the evening interval the following resolutions, drafted by the Committee appointed thereto, were agreed to:

1. That missionaries be strongly recommended to make the welfare of the schools under their supervision a primary charge upon their energy and care, and to cultivate close fellowship and co-operation with their teachers.

2. That representations should be made to the Education Department of the need for Native and Coloured instructors to visit the village schools, advise teachers on method, and to guide and encourage them generally.

3. That further attention should be given to providing for Native schools textbooks, teachers' aids and readers in keeping with Native environment.

4. That the developing of suitable amusements and social recreations for the Native people, particularly the adolescents, be commended to the consideration of the missionaries, and that the matter be further discussed at the next annual meeting.

5. That the need for helping the Native people in matters of health and for health teaching be earnestly commended to the attention of all missionary bodies, and that practical questions connected therewith be further discussed at the Council's next meeting.

6. That the Committee in charge of the Lovedale Vacation School be invited to provide a demonstrator in spinning and weaving at the School to be held in June, 1926.

7. That surveys be undertaken to ascertain accurately the spiritual, social and economic conditions of Native life both in urban and rural areas.

8. It was further resolved that the following resolutions be sent to the Minister for Native Affairs:—

The Ciskeian Missionary Council urge that in the allocation of the Native Development Fund, Native education in the Cape Province should receive fair consideration. In particular they urge that:—

1. The allocation should be based on a reasonable recognition of the amounts previously expended by the various Provinces.
2. The repayment of advances made by the Treasury in 1923, 1924 and 1925, which it is understood will be a first charge during three years on the grant for Cape education, be spread out over ten years instead of three years.

It was decided that the next Annual Meeting should be held at King William's Town on Wednesday, October 27th, 1926.

On the proposal of the Rev. W. Stuart that a public meeting be arranged for during the sessions of the Council's next Annual Meeting, the matter was remitted to the Standing Committee.

A levy was imposed of five shillings per member in accordance with Section 6 of the Constitution on the proposal of the Treasurer who was pleased to receive some payments at once and asked for the rest to be sent to him.

Rev. J. W. Househam with secundus Rev. E. Nwana
" M. Wilson " " " C. Nauhaus
" M. Yergan " " " Archdeacon Mather
were elected members of the Standing Committee.

Cordial votes of thanks were passed for the use of the Hall and for the refreshing tea so kindly provided in the forenoon and afternoon—as well as to the Chairman and Secretaries for their services. The Council was closed with prayer by the Rev. W. Stuart at 9.30 p.m.

ARTHUR CARDROSS GRANT,

Hon. Secretary.

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