

CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

MINUTES -- MEETING 10

LEOPOLDVILLE, MARCH 24 - 31, 1933.

267. MEETING.

The Conseil Protestant du Congo met at Léopoldville, Congo Belge, from March 24 to 31, 1933, at the B.M.S. Secretariat residence.

268. PRESENT.

The following were present:

<u>BFMS</u>	Revs. P.A. MacDiarmid (C), Henry Erickson (C), S.E. Moon (Cp).
<u>PCM</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (P).
<u>BMS</u>	Revs. E.F. Guyton (C), R.V. de C. Thompson (S), W.D. Reynolds (X)
<u>CEM</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (P).
<u>C&MA</u>	Rev. H.L. Pierson (C).
<u>DCCM</u>	Rev. Herbert Smith (C).
<u>MBD</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (P).
<u>SBM</u>	Rev. G. Reinholdson (P).
<u>SBMP</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (P).
<u>SMP</u>	Revs. J. Ohrneman (C), J. Sodergren (C), G. Reinholdson (Cp), G. A. Hult (Cp).
<u>UTM</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (P).
<u>GPC</u>	Rev. Emory Ross (Secretary).

In the above list of 13 attendants the following abbreviations are employed; (C) Councillor; (P) Proxy; (S) Substitute; (X) Ex officio; (Cp) Coopted. Proper credentials were presented or action taken in all necessary cases.

VISITORS. In addition to those above named, the following were present at one or more sessions:

Miss B.D. Gibson, associate secretary of the International Missionary Council, and Miss Margaret Wrong, secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, from March 27th on; the Revs. F. Iversen, M.B.N.; Valtander, S.M.F.; M.S. Engwall, E. Atkins, A.B.F.M.S.; M. Guthrie, B.M.S.; Mesdames MacDiarmid, Moon and Atkins, A.B.F.M.S.; Mrs. Sodergren, S.M.F.; Mrs. Thompson, B.M.S.; Mrs. Ross, C. . ., and Miss Linda Erickson, A.B.F.M.S.

269. DEVOTIONS.

The Council's president, Mr. Smith, presented Mr. Pierson, who led the opening devotional service. These services were led by other Councillors at succeeding sessions.

270. MEMBERSHIPS.

A. The application of the Ruanda General and Medical Mission of the Church Missionary Society for membership in the Council was presented and said membership was voted, subject only to the fulfillment of the constitutional requirement of attendance at a Council meeting of a representative of the applying mission, or to the elimination of that requirement from the constitution at a future date.

B. The application of the British & Foreign Bible Society for

membership in the Council was presented and membership was voted, subject only to the alternative conditions named above.

C. It was agreed, pending consideration of revision of the constitution, that attendance at a regional conference shall be considered as fulfilling the present constitutional requirement.

STANDING COMMITTEES' REPORTS.

271. COMITY. The Committee on Comity had nothing to report for 1932, there fortunately having been nothing referred to it for consideration.

272. LITERATURE. The Committee on Literature made the following report, which was adopted by the Council upon motion of Mr. Smith, Literature secretary:

A. The Council greatly appreciates the presence of Miss Wrong at its meetings as affording an exceptional opportunity for establishing closer contacts between the International Committee on Literature for Africa and the C.P.C.

B. It draws the attention of missionaries at all Protestant stations in Congo to the Quarterly Bulletin issued by the International Committee in which books written and planned for use in Africa are noted and other information useful both in the production and distribution of books is given.

C. The Council requests Protestant missionaries in Congo to support the work of the International Committee by supplying to the Committee information concerning local literature and by the contribution of books and texts.

D. The Council welcomes the prospect of obtaining through the International Committee French translations of books, such as Aggrey of Africa, suitable for use in Schools and in the Christian community. In this connection it would mention that biographies of Livingstone, Coillard and others can be obtained in French through the Paris Evangelical Society.

E. The Council believes that the International Committee can render great service to the Protestant Missions in Congo.

1. By drawing the attention of missionaries to new Religious books suitable for adaptation to Congo use and especially to books written from the African viewpoint.

2. By the providing of basic texts for school books in either English or French, such as can be translated or adapted for use in the vernacular; also by providing, perhaps through the Quarterly Bulletin, outlines of syllabi of subject matter in Biology, History, etc., suitable for use in our schools.

3. By making available for local use in Congo "Blocks" of illustrations for school and religious books and also by making it possible for missions to order such illustrations printed in colours

on paper that could be bound up locally with vernacular texts.

4. By making available Bible Pictures in Colour of large size such as would be useful for village preaching, and arranging for titles printed in the vernacular to be attached to such pictures.

F. The Council urges the importance of local groups of missionaries being formed to plan together for the production of literature, especially school books. Only by means of adequate text books will the educational work of the missions move forward and for their production cooperation is necessary.

G. It favours having local committees study books produced in the vernacular and if deemed advisable they should have these books translated into English or French to be transmitted to other groups for consideration and use; i.e., to be adapted and translated in part or in whole - without using the name of the original author or authors - by any other mission or group of missions.

H. The Council asks the secretary to circularize the various missions suggesting that they send to certain government officials and Belgian libraries copies of all publications produced.

I. It appoints the C.P.C. secretary, the Secretary of Literature, and the Secretary of the Lingala Committee to decide on the number of Lingala Grammars to be published.

J. Re L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE. Miss Wrong reported on possible grants to aid in the publication of this magazine and also suggested an Educational Supplement. The Council agreed that all material for any educational supplement shall be submitted to the Secretary for the Educational Committee for approval and all material for L'Evangile en Afrique shall be passed upon by the Secretary of the C.P.C. and his consultative committee.

H. The Council asks the secretary to continue investigations and activities toward securing literature for Moslems and possibly Senegalese.

273. MEDICAL WORK.

In the absence of Dr. C.C. Chesterman, secretary of the Medical Committee, Mr. Ross reported on the work of the Committee, with special reference to Dr. Chesterman's efforts in Congo and in Europe to secure more equal treatment by the government of Protestant medical work. Dr. Chesterman was requested to prepare for publication in various quarters a report of Protestant medical work in Congo.

274. EDUCATION.

The secretary of the Committee on Education, Mr. Reynolds, reported for this committee, and the report was adopted:

A. The Council having learned that there already exist in Congo a few écoles rurales officielles, in which no religious instruction is given observes that there is thus created in Congo Belge the same double system of education as exists in Belgium.

It affirms

1. that these should be officially inspected by lay-inspectors as non-catholic schools are in Belgium.
2. that monitorship should be open to non-catholics.

Seeing that the government has selected the schools from which and only from which monitors for subsidised schools may be graduated - the problem resolves itself to the discovery of ways and means of securing government recognition for a Protestant Ecole Normal. It is possible that the memorial presented to the Colonial Minister will be successful. In this case the way will be clear. BUT, if not successful we suggest serious negotiations be undertaken to secure or organize a Belgian Foundation that would aim to conduct Normal schools for Protestant Missions in Congo.

B. In connection with government returns and official reports we recommend that village schools be divided into 2 classes:

1. Catechiste postes, which shall not be reckoned as educational establishments.
2. Schools which do make a serious contribution to the education of the people.

C. With reference to the establishment of an educational institution for all higher grade training in Protestant Mission Work,
1. The Council sees the necessity of training Protestant pastors and teachers to the highest grades possible and also the training of other educated Congolese in trades and different spheres of business life. Such institutions are proving of great value to mission work in other colonies.

2. We RECOMMEND that the committee of 1932 be requested to secure information regarding similar foundations in other parts of the world and to study all questions relative to the creation of such a foundation for Congo.

3. It repeats the desire that, if times are favourable, Mr. Ross campaign during his forthcoming furlough to secure funds for such a scheme.

275. WOMEN'S WORK.

Mrs. MacDiarmid, secretary of this committee, reported for the committee

and the report was adopted.

A. It was further agreed that a committee of the missionary ladies living at Léopoldville and Brazzaville be formed to forward plans for Women's Guild and Girl Guides' work in Congo.

B. In view of Mrs. MacDiarmid's approaching furlough, Miss Etelka M. Schaffer, A.B.F.M.S., Léopoldville, was appointed secretary of the Committee on Women's Work.

276. REVISION OF
CONSTITUTION.

A committee on revision of the constitution of the Council was appointed and reported. The resultant

suggested revision will be submitted to the Councillors by mail for their required votes, with the favourable recommendation of the Council.

277. ABA REGIONAL CONFERENCE. Progress of the arrangements for the regional missionary conference to be held at Aba, A.I.M., beginning May 12, 1933, was reported. It was voted that Mr. Ross should attend this conference, and the arrangements were approved whereby the Rev. and Mrs. H.W. Coxill should also attend.

278. 1934 GENERAL CONFERENCE. Following correspondence with Angola and Congo friends on the subject, it was agreed that instead of holding a joint Angola-Congo conference in 1934 at Dondi as previously planned, one or two general conferences should be held in Congo. The Council favoured two conferences, one to be held on the main Congo river and the other at some point more accessible to the Kasai-Katanga area. Decision as to times and places was left with a committee on programme and arrangements consisting of the C.P.C. secretary, the legal representatives of the A.B.F.M.S., the B.M.S. and the S.M.F. or their nominees, and the local chairman or the regional committees when appointed.

279. CONGO-ANGOLA RELATIONS. Agreed that the general secretary use all possible means, at home and on the fields, to secure a greater measure of fellowship and cooperation between the evangelical forces in Angola and Congo.

280. I.M.C. A. The two amendments to the constitution of the International Missionary Council proposed at Herrnhut in 1932 were approved by the C.P.C.

B. The suggested 1933 contribution of \$25.00 from the C.P.C. to the I.M.C. was approved and ordered paid. Subscriptions for this purpose were received from Councillors present, and the balance was to be paid out of Council funds.

281. BOOKSHOP. A committee was appointed to consider the proposal received from the Rev. W. J. Platt on behalf of the British & Foreign Bible Society for the establishment of a bookshop in and for Congo, a proposal which in principle had been heartily approved at the last Council meeting. The committee reported as follows and the report was adopted.

A. We recommend that the Council accept the proposals of the B. & F.B.S., as detailed in the letter which has been read to the Council; and that we place the facilities of the Council at their disposal in approaching the missionary societies of the Congo to obtain their promises of support of the Bookshop.

B. That a special committee be elected by the Council, with power to act on their behalf, and in consultation with the B. & F.B.S. as follows:-

1. To decide whether the promises of support and custom which may be received constitute a sufficient guarantee for the purposes of the Bookshop, and promise a fair chance of success.

2. In such a case, to decide upon the extent of the alterations in the premises of the U.M.H. to be undertaken at the present moment; it being understood that it may not be necessary to put the whole of the proposed alterations in hand until the venture has become established; but that any preliminary alterations shall be part of the larger proposal.

3. To arrange with the B. & P.B.S. the date on which the Bookshop scheme shall commence operations, the engagement of the Manager and the time of his arrival.

4. To confer with the Board of Trustees of the U.M.H. as to the terms on which the Manager of the Bookshop shall be provided with board and lodging.

C. It is the opinion of the Council that it would not be wise to commence local sales in the bookshop at this time; but that the transactions of the shop should, at first, consist of sales to missions. Sales of books etc., to natives may however be effected through the evangelists residing in the native cities, through a colporteur, or some similar agency.

D. The Bookshop committee shall consist of the secretary of the C.P.C. and the legal representatives of the A.B.F.M.S., the B.M.S., and the S.M.F. or their nominees.

E. The above named committee shall also act as the C.P.C. members of the Board of Control of the Bookshop, when and if the latter is organised.

282. FINANCES.

A. 1933 Budget. The committee appointed to consider the 1933 budget of the Council reported and its report was adopted. The budget thus approved appears on another sheet herewith.

B. The Council voted to thank most heartily the American friends, notably Dr. John R. Mott and the Phelps-Stokes Fund, for their financial support in 1932, without which the Council would have closed its books badly in debt.

C. Messrs Guyton and Moon were appointed as auditors of the accounts of the treasurer of the Council.

283. BELGIAN EDUCA-

TIONAL FACILITIES. The secretary reported progress made in the matter of securing facilities for studying French in Belgium and for the study of Belgian educational methods. A committee appointed to consider the matter reported as follows and its report was adopted;

A. The Council expresses its gratitude to Dr. and Madame Anet for their unceasing efforts to aid the preparation of Protestant missionaries for service in the Belgian Congo.

B. Recognising that all missionaries need an adequate knowledge of the French language and an intimate appreciation of Belgian culture; we ask that Dr. Anet be asked to secure:-

Increasing facilities in Belgium for the study of the French language, such as are provided in Paris by the Alliance Française, and courses of lectures on Belgian life and literature, history and Colonial administration.

C. We would suggest the advisability of the providing of official certificates in connection with these courses.

D. We thank Dr. Anet for his efforts in securing the privilege of following Normal courses in Belgian schools, and believe that these courses will be of definite value to educational missionaries.

E. We would point out that as a general rule all such courses open to missionaries should be confined to a period of six to nine months. Arrangements for continued studies in subsequent furloughs would be greatly welcomed by many missionaries.

284. WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The correspondence with Dr. R. M. Hopkins of the W.S.S.A. was considered and the secretary was

asked to continue study of the matters involved, with the hope that mutually helpful arrangements may result.

285. INTERVENTIONS.

The procedure to be followed in the matter of the increasing number of requests for C.P.C. intervention with the government on behalf of Congo missions was considered. It was agreed that no such request on behalf of member missions shall be considered unless presented by or with the written sanction of the legal representative of the mission concerned.

286. GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS.

Detailed consideration was given to the whole question of religious liberty, Roman Catholic aggressions and government policies touching our missions, and reports were presented by the secretary and the committee on religious liberty of the steps taken since the last Council meeting.

A. The Council unanimously and heartily endorsed the contents and dispatch of the memorandum of February 14, 1933, to the Belgian Colonial Minister on the situation of Protestant missions in Congo Belge.

B. A committee appointed to consider future steps in this connection made a report, which was adopted, as follows:-

1. That the Council make formal appeal to the home boards to continue the support already begun in this matter, to secure justice and the observance of treaty and legal rights for Protestant missions and Christians in Congo Belge.

2. That in sending the Memorandum to the Colonial Minister the Council has carried the direction of the protest against the violation of the Berlin Treaty by the Belgian Government as far as it was its duty to do; and that now the continuance of claims for fair and equal treatment along with the Roman Catholic missions

should be under the direction of the Home Boards and Home Committees, or some organisation representing them.

3. That as the Home Boards and Committees are so many, and so widely scattered, quick and decisive action, when necessary, would be practically impossible. We believe that the only effective method would be to have a small representative international committee; that such a Committee, accustomed to dealing with Governments, exists in the International Missionary Council. Already certain officials of this Council, Drs Oldham, Mott and Warnshuis, have given great assistance to the work of the C.P.C. and are well informed as to all the steps that have been taken.

4. The Council rejoices in the close cooperation of Dr. Anet in all its activities, and especially in his unfailing support in representing Protestant Missions to the people and Government of Belgium. The Council begs him to continue his invaluable aid in pressing upon the Government the matters raised in the Memorial recently presented to the Colonial Minister.

5. That our General Secretary, Rev. Emory Ross, has given us such invaluable service in coordinating our Protestant forces on the field, and in the presentation of our claims to the Government that we cannot afford to lose his assistance at this critical time. No one else could quickly obtain his wide range of knowledge on the relationships of Congo Protestant Missions with the Government nor quickly form such valuable friendly contacts with the highest officials in the Colony. The Council records its earnest desire to retain Mr. Ross' services; and expresses the hope that such arrangements may be made as will enable him to continue to represent the Council during his approaching furlough, and to return to the Secretariat of the C.P.C.

We therefore recommend:-

1. That the International Missionary Council be asked, through the Home Boards, to take up the presentation of our case, and seek for a solution of the grave governmental problems confronting the Protestant Missions in Congo. We urge the Home Boards to take speedy action in this regard, as we do not know how soon some serious decision may have to be made upon these matters.

2. That the I.M.C. enlist the counsel and assistance of Dr Anet in its approaches to the Belgian Government.

3. That the I.M.C. seek to secure the services of Mr. Ross in the further presentation of our claims for justice and fair dealing; and that to this end, financial assistance be sought by the I.M.C. through the Home Boards, or in association with them, among the friends of Africa in Europe and America.

4. That any future correspondence with the Belgian Colonial Government on the subject of the Memorial shall be conducted by the International Missionary Council, in association with the Secretary of the C.P.C. in Congo, and Mr. Emory Ross, while he is on furlough.

5. In the event of the Belgian Colonial Government offering concessions other than the full guarantees requested in the Memorial; these shall be considered by the International Missionary Council, and the Home Boards, but shall be submitted to the C.P.C. for its consideration before final acceptance.

6. Publicity. The C.P.C. feels the necessity of laying the foundation now for that publicity campaign that may be necessary to arouse public opinion in our support later on. The Roman Catholics in their journals have already launched their campaign against us, and have in them a different interpretation of the international treaties than that held by Protestants. Without dealing with individual cases of persecution, we should begin to inform our Protestant constituency in the home countries of the history and work of Protestantism in Belgium and in Congo. We would recommend that Mr. Ross give his assistance in these preliminary steps in publicity.

7. The Council authorises Mr. Ross to take with him when he leaves Congo any and all material he may deem advisable from the C.P.C. files for use in Europe in connection with the Memorandum to the Colonial Minister.

287. NEXT MEETING. Agreed to hold the next Council meeting at a time and place to be determined by the committee on arrangements for the 1934 general conference.

288. ADJOURNMENT. The Council adjourned with prayer by the president.

Herbert Smith
President.

Henry Erickson
Recording Secretary.

Emory Ross
General Secretary.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT — 1932.

	Expenditures	Income
1. Property: Maintenance, operation, rentals	Fr. 10,030.79	
2. Office: Clerk, postage, subscriptions, &c	29,471.37	
3. Secretary: Salary & children's allowances	66,500.	
4. Entertainment allowance	5,250.	
5. Car & Travel	7,655.96	
6. Interest	1,072.85	
7. Sinking fund: 1933 furlough fund, 20%	19,600.	
8. <u>Balance 31 Dec. 1932</u>	8,033.39	
9. 1931 Annual grants paid		1,248.
10. 1932 Annual grants paid		105,607.80
11. Grants in 1932 from Dr. John R. Mott 52,000		
Less carry forward <u>35,000</u>		17,500.
12. 1932 Annual Memberships		3,074.
13. 1932 U.M.H. payt. a/c secretary's services		15,000.
14. Gifts		2,088.
15. Net profit on Exchange		3,099.56
	<u>147,614.36</u>	<u>147,614.36</u>

ASSETS & LIABILITIES — 1932.

	Liabilities	Assets
16. Sundry creditors:		
17. 1933 Annual Memberships paid	Fr. 350.	
18. Unexecuted orders	1,968.34	
19. Congo Mission News	18,171.81	
20. Grants, Dr. Mott, (Bt ford.)	35,000.	
21. "Self-support" fund	7,000.	
22. Phelps Stokes fund	7,000.	
23. B.C.B.	5,072.45	
24. Sinking fund: 1929/31 credits 58,800		
1932 provision <u>19,600</u>		
Less Ross children & Coxill fares, etc., <u>78,400</u>		
Coxill fares, etc., <u>40,411.10</u>	37,988.90	
25. Literature fund	22,447.84	
26. L'Evangile en Afrique	668.65	
27. Surplus 1930/1	2,418.51	
28. " 1932	<u>8,033.39</u>	10,451.90
29. Sundry debtors:		
30. U.M.H.	23,411.78	
31. Ross	10.	
32. Bruxelles Agency	<u>112.88</u>	23,534.66
33. 1931 Grant unpaid (C.I.M.)		7,000.
34. Cash on hand and in banks:		
35. U.B. of S.	177.84	
36. \$ 2655.69 @ 35 Frs. U.C.M.S.	92,947.13	
37. C.C.P.	1,980.87	
38. B.B.A.	<u>19.08</u>	95,124.92
39. Building fund (debit balance)		<u>20,460.31</u>
	<u>146,119.89</u>	<u>146,119.89</u>