

Western

AGENDA

CONSEIL PROTESTANT
DU CONGO

MINUTES—MEETING 25, 26.

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE,

JULY 19, 25, 1946.

FEB. 23 - MAR. 1, 1947.

CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

MINUTES — MEETING 25
LÉOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE,
JULY 19, 25, 1946.

771 *Meeting.* The Conseil Protestant du Congo met at Leopoldville, Congo Belge, July 19 and 25, 1946.

772. *Present.* The following were present:

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society :

Rev. B. W. ARMSTRONG	Councillor
Rev. T. E. BUBECK	Alternate Councillor

Africa Evangelistic Band :

Rev. C. A. MOLYNEUX	Alternate Councillor
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Africa Inland Mission :

Rev. JOHN BUYSE	Councillor
Mrs. JOHN BUYSE	Substitute

American Presbyterian Congo Mission :

Rev. H. M. WASHBURN	Alternate Councillor
Mrs. H. M. WASHBURN	Alternate Councillor

Armée de Salut :

Col. H. L. BECQUET	Councillor
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British and Foreign Bible Society :

Rev. GEORGE W. CARPENTER	Councillor
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Baptist Mission Society

Rev. W. D. REYNOLDS	Councillor
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Congo Balolo Mission :

Rev. FRED. ANSTICE	Councillor
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Congo Inland Mission :

Rev. F. J. ENNS

Alternate

Rev. V. J. SPRUNGER

Substitute

Christian and Missionary Alliance :

Rev. M. KNUDSON

Vice-President

Church Missionary Society :

Dr. STANLEY SMITH

Président

Disciples of Christ Congo Mission :

Rev. FREDERICK L. ROWE

Councillor

Rev. GRAY RUSSELL

Councillor

Friends Africa Gospel Mission :

Rev. C. S. BROWN

Councillor

Mission Baptiste Danoise :

Rev. HANS P. JENSEN

Councillor

Mission Evangélique de l'Ubangi :

Rev. ARTHUR LUNDBLAD

Alternate Councillor

Mission Libre Méthodiste :

Rev. J. W. HALEY

Councillor

Mission Méthodiste du Congo Central :

Miss ANNIE L. WINFREY

Councillor

Rev. A. J. REID

Councillor

Mission Méthodiste du Sud Congo :

Rev. ELWOOD BARTLETT

Councillor

Miss ELIZABETH LERBAK

Alternate Councillor

Bishop NEWELL S. BOOTH

Vice-President

North Sankuru Mission :

Rev. R. HARKNESS

Alternate Councillor

Svenska Baptist Missionen :

Rev. OSKAR ANDERSON

Councillor

Rev. D. COLDEN

Substitute

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 Dr. C. G.
 Rev. H. I.
 Mrs. P. I.
 Dr. Norma

*Conseil Belge de Missions Protestantes
au Congo:*

Mr. MARTIAL FAIDHERBE Councillor

Svenska Missions-Förbundet:

Rev. MANNE LUNDGREN Councillor

Rev. J. ÖHBNEMAN Councillor

*Union Pentecostale des Missionnaires de
Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande:*

Rev. D. J. SCOTT Councillor

Unanngelical Tribes Mission:

Rev. A. ZOOK Substitute

Worldwide Grace Testimony:

Rev. FREDERICK HOLLAND Councillor

Conseil Protestant du Congo:

Rev. H. WAKELIN COXILL General Secretary

Rev. VERNON A. ANDERSON General Secretary a. i.

Mrs. VERNON A. ANDERSON Women's Committee

Rev. G. W. GARPENTER Educational Secretary

773. *Officers.* Dr. A. C. Stanley Smith presided as President of the Council. The Rev. H. P. Jensen was elected Minute Secretary.

774. *Visitors.* The President extended a hearty welcome to the following who had come to Léopoldville to take part in the West Central African Conference.

REPRESENTATIVES OF HOME BOARDS:

Rev. Dr. W. ALBAUGH American Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Rev. Théodore ANDERSON Mission Évangélique de l'Ubangi

Dr. C. C. CHESTERMAN Baptist Missionary Society

Rev. H. B. GAELOCK Assemblies of God Mission

Wm. E. D. GIBSON International Missionary Council

Dr. Norman GOODALL International Missionary Council

Dr. E. R. KELLERSBERGER	<i>American Mission to Lepers</i>
Rev David MASON	<i>Christian and Missionary Alliance</i>
Miss. S. L. MACKINNON	<i>Methodist Mission</i>
Dr. George PALMAER	<i>Svenska Missions-Förbundet</i>
Rev. E. J. PUDNEY	<i>Unevangelized Fields Mission</i>
Rev. C. E. REDIGER	<i>Congo Inland Mission</i>
Dr. Emory ROSS	<i>Foreign Missions Conference of N.A.</i>
Dr. W. J. WISEMAN	<i>British and Foreign Bible Society</i>
Dr. C M. YOCUM	<i>Disciple of Christ Congo Mission</i>

Others: Mrs. Oscar ANDERSON, Mrs Newell S. BOOTH, Dr. A. J. K. CLOTHIER Rev. W. D. DEANS, Dr. Forest KNAPP, Mrs. E. J. PUDNEY. Mr. and Mrs. D. D. RANDALL, Dr. John REULING, Col. R. VAN GOETHEM, Rev. Robert WILSON.

*775 Bureau des Missions Evangeliques Protestantes
au Congo Belge, Brussels, Belgique. (Minute 747)*

After careful consideration of this project action concerning the proposed Articles of Agreement was taken as follows:

This meeting of representatives of the Conseil Protestant du Congo and Secretaries of Home Boards and Missions in America, Britain and Scandinavia recognizes with profound gratitude the services rendered in Belgium to Congo missionaries and missions by Dr. and Mme. Henri Anet. In their hands the Bureau in Brussels became a potent instrument for the service of all. Now the retirement of Dr. Anet and the changing circumstances of the time require the re-establishment of the Bureau on a more formal basis and with an organic relation to the C. P. C. The following draft agreement is submitted for consideration by the Missions and Boards concerned

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through the co-operative groups in the areas concerned (the C. P. C., the Congo Committees in North America and Britain and a similar group in Scandinavia when such may be formed) :

Draft Agreement

The Brussels Bureau of Protestant Evangelical Missions in Congo Belge shall be the agency in Belgium of the Boards and Missions working in Congo Belge.

Its Secretary shall be responsible to them through the C. P. C. and through the inter-board Committees in North America, Britain and Scandinavia. His normal channel of relationships with these four groups shall be with the General Secretary of the C. P. C. and with one person appointed by each of the three home inter-board Committees.

The following services shall be undertaken by the Secretary of the Bureau :

1. On behalf of the Home Boards :

(a) To facilitate, where necessary, the travelling of missionaries through Belgium to and from the Congo, the securing of visas, the handling of customs formalities, the arranging for lodgings, etc.

(b) To arrange for courses of study for missionaries in Belgium.

(c) To give such other services as may be agreed upon, excluding, however, the work of purchasing agent for missions and missionaries.

2. In connection with the Belgian Protestant Evangelical Churches :

(a) To disseminate information in the Belgian newspapers and periodicals regarding the work of Protestant Missions in Congo.

(b) To seek to strengthen the link between the missions working in Congo and the Belgian Protestant evangelical churches through visitations, the contribution of informative articles in church magazines, etc., both by himself and by suitable missionary colleagues and others.

(c) To stimulate interest in the missionary work in the Belgian Congo and to help in the finding of well-prepared Belgian missionary candidates for work in the Congo

3. In relation to the Government in Belgium:

(a) To conduct such negotiations with the Government in Belgium as may be necessary. In all matters affecting policy the initiative shall come through the C. P. C., the home inter-board Committees or the Secretary of the Bureau, and formal action with the Government in Belgium shall be taken only after consultations with and general agreement among the four groups.

An individual Board or Mission belonging to the C. P. C. or to a home inter-board Committee, or any of those four groups, shall be at liberty in matters, other than missionary policy, which essentially affect its own work alone, to seek the help of the Bureau in approaches to the Government in Belgium.

The closest collaboration shall be maintained at all times with the C. P. C. and the autonomy and prestige of the Council shall in no way be jeopardized.

The expenses of the Bureau shall be provided, in proportions to be agreed upon, by the Boards and Missions working in Congo, through the four co-operating groups. The budget proposed shall be subject to revision as circumstances may alter.

The collection of contributions to the budget and transmission to Brussels shall be the responsibility of co-operating groups in each area concerned.

A bank account shall be opened in Brussels in the name of the Bureau.

An audited financial account shall be rendered annually to the four groups. _____

The C. P. C., being in agreement with the opinion of the informal meeting held in London in 1945 that no better successors to Dr. and Mme. Anet could be found than the Rev. and Mrs. H. Wakelin Coxill, has agreed to release them for this purpose.

The present meeting of representatives of the C. P. C. and of home board Secretaries attending the West Central African Conference therefore formally recommends the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Coxill for this work in Belgium and remits to a subcommittee representing the C. P. C. and board Secretaries the preparation of a budget for submission to the home Boards. Sub-committee: Rev. Rowe, Rev. Öhrneman (C. P. C.), Rev. Albaugh, Dr. Chesterman, Miss MacKinnon, Dr. Palmaer, Dr. Yocum (Board Secretaries) with Dr. Ross and Miss Gibson.

It is suggested that, if the call to Mr. and Mrs. Coxill, the budget and other proposals are approved, the Home Boards and Missions should accept finan-

cial responsibility on a proportional scale corresponding roughly to the extent of their work in Congo measured by foreign personnel and expenditures, the area allocations being made as follows: North America 60%, Britain 30%, Scandinavia 10%.

Since it is understood that the C. P. C. anticipated the necessity for paying furlough salary for Mr. Coxill, and since consideration and action by the Home Boards will take time, the request is made that the C. P. C. undertake furlough salary and allowance for a period of six months from August 1, 1946. The Bureau will undertake responsibility from Feb. 1, 1947, even though circumstances in Brussels may call for Mr. Coxill's beginning there at an earlier date.

776. *General Secretary.* (Minute 745) The General Secretary ad-interim informed the Council that the Committee appointed to nominate a General Secretary had submitted its report.

Following the presentation of the committee's report the Rev. J. Öhrneman of the S. M. F. was unanimously elected to succeed Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill as General Secretary of the C. P. C.

Expressions of appreciation were made to the S. M. F. for its willingness to release Rev. and Mrs. Öhrneman to this office at this time when it has great need for such valued workers and there is a shortage of staff.

In inviting Mr. Öhrneman to this post the President expressed the Council's deep satisfaction in the fact that he would be helped in all his labors by Mrs. Öhrneman.

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Mr. Öhrneman thanked the Council for the evidence of their confidence in him, and expressed his willingness to accept the post starting in January 1948 following his forthcoming furlough. The Council commended him to God in prayer.

777. *C. P. C. Educational Secretariat. (Minute 752).*
In regard to the work of the Educational Secretariat of the C. P. C. the following recommendations were approved:

- (1) That the Council appoint Mr. E. H. Morrish as the délégué of the C. P. C. to work with the Educational Secretary with responsibility for negotiation with the Government in educational matters.
- (2) That the Council accept the proposal of the B. M. S., upon confirmation by the Board of Trustees of E. P. I., to make Mr. Morrish available for this part time service on a loan basis with the understanding that time will be given for the necessary negotiations either in Léopoldville or Bruxelles. The salary will be carried by the B. M. S. and the expenses by the educational budget of the C. P. C.
- (3) That the Educational Committee previously appointed be continued with the addition of Captain Becquet. Minute (752, c.) "It was agreed that a Committee, composed of Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Morrish and the General Secretary of the C. P. C., and such others as they may coopt, serve as an Educational Central Committee."

778. *Faith and church order.* (Minute 755, Protestant Principles and Practices). In compliance with the request of the West Central African Conference, and with a view to working towards more effective Church Co-operation in Congo, a permanent committee of seven members was appointed to formulate a statement on Faith and Church Order, by correspondence if necessary, and to present it to the February meeting of the C. P. C.

The Committee appointed is as follows: Messrs. H. D. Brown, A. B. F. M. S., Chairman, C. S. Brown, F. A. G. M., W. A. Deans, I. M., M. E. Lundgren, M. E. S., Kosiya Shalita, C. M. S., Pierre Shaumba, M. M. C. C., H. M. Washburn, A. P. C. M.

As a directive to this Committee the following suggestions are offered;

Faith. That the typed brochure sent out by the C. P. C. entitled "La Doctrine et Règlement Organique des Eglises Protestantes du Congo Belge" form the basis of a statement on the Faith of the Church.

In regard to this brochure we append the following suggestions and remarks:

(a) The reception of this statement up-to-date seems to show a remarkable degree of unity in the Congo Mission Body.

But a number of missions have not yet answered, and the Committee is asked to ensure that every Mission be given a new opportunity to examine the brochure and to send in its comments thereon. In order that this may be clear we suggest that a trans-

lation in English be sent to each Mission.

(b) We ask that Section 6 should follow Section 3, thus emphasizing the full Deity and Personality of the Holy Spirit.

(c) That under Section 8 we stress the spiritual value of the Sacraments and recognize that it is so important to emphasize this as to have caused certain groups to abandon entirely the practice of the outward ordinances. To make this clear we ask that an additional paragraph drawn up by interested missions be added emphasizing the spirituality of worship, and stating that the outward forms are useless without the reality of the spirit.

(d) That in Section II a statement on the Resurrection be included.

(e) That a section be added on the Judgment.

In order to show the Scriptural basis of our faith, we advocate a more liberal use of Bible references.

Church order. We recommend that the Committee study this question with a view to drawing up a statement of the "standards of Christian conduct" and the discipline needed to maintain these standards.

African Representation in the C. P. C. and the Church Councils.

Arising out of the happy experiences of co-operation at the Conference, the C. P. C. was urged to study the advisability and the practicability of including a limited number of African Councillors, and secondly the possibility of forming Regional Church Councils.

779. *Internat école A. M. I. Léopoldville.* Dr. Tuttle

informed the Council of the Government's decision to open an internat for Medical students under the charge of a Roman Catholic warden. After discussion it was agreed, as a trial measure, to send Protestant Students there on condition that a chapel is built for them where Protestant services can be conducted, and that it is understood that religious liberty must remain inviolate. The Council requests that this internat be under the supervision of a Committee composed of the Senior Medical Officer and one member from each Confession.

If the Internat is to be enlarged to include other than Medical Students, the Council demands that a separate Internat for Protestant students be provided.

780. Meeting of the I. C. M. in North America, July 15-24, 1947.

The Council was asked by the I. M. C. to appoint a representative to this meeting. The Rev. J. Ohrneman, General Secretary of the C. P. C., was appointed A-substitute will be chosen at the next Council meeting.

781. Proposal from the world's committee of the Y.M.C.A. at Geneva.

Mr. Faidherbe read a letter on this subject. The matter was referred to a Sub-Committee of the W. C. A. C. The Conference, in its subsequent report to the C. P. C., expressed its appreciation of the proposal of the Y. M. C. A. to undertake work in the larger Centers of the Congo. A-copy of this Sub-Committee's report will be forwarded to the Missions working in these centers.

Complying with the suggestions made by the Conference, it was agreed that the C. P. C. Secretary should communicate with the Missions laboring in the areas affected to ascertain their desires and their reaction to the proposal of the Y. M. C. A., and that these Missions be asked to come to the February meeting of the Council prepared to take action. X

The C. P. C. wishes to remind all of the parties concerned that the principles of comity for which the Council has always stood should be observed, and that the Y. M. C. A. and similar organizations, as well as missionary societies, should make their proposals and carry on their negotiations through the C. P. C.

782 *Proposed women's department of the C. P. C.* The women members of the West Central African Conference presented the following recommendation to the Congo Protestant Council:

We recommend to the Congo Protestant Council the establishment of a Women's Department whose President and Secretary would eventually, when constitutional changes can be made, become voting members of the Congo Protestant Council. X

This Women's Department would be made up of representative Africans and missionaries officially appointed by their various missions.

After a discussion of the above recommendation it was voted that it be referred to the member Missions for consideration and action at the February 1947 meeting of the Council.

783. *Dr. Laubach's visit to Africa.* Having been apprised of Dr. Laubach's plan to visit West and South Africa in 1947, the C. P. C. unanimously endorsed the suggestion emanating from the W. C. A. Conference that he be requested to include the Belgian Congo in his African itinerary. It was therefore agreed that:

- (1) A copy of the action of the W. C. A. C. touching his proposed visit be sent to Dr. Laubach.
- (2) The C. P. C. canvass the Missions in Congo to discover which societies desire Dr. Laubach to visit their fields.
- (3) If as many as three invitations from major language group areas are received, the Local Committee of the C. P. C. is instructed to invite Dr. Laubach to visit the Belgian Congo.

It is understood that his travelling expenses to Africa will be met by funds from outside sources. His entertainment and travelling expenses while in the Colony will be cared for by the Missions visited.

The Missions issuing the invitations are requested to note that Dr. Laubach can accept only if the following requirements can be met:

- (1) That the necessary arrangements for assembling key missionaries and Africans will be made.
- (2) That provision can be made for a person, or persons, interested in mass education to accompany him. It is preferable that the same person, or persons, collaborate with him during the whole period that he spends in a language area.
- (3) That preparations be made in advance, if possible,

- which will facilitate the printing of needed materials. (We understand that this refers especially to the availability of a press, necessary paper, etc.)
- (4) The Missions interested should be willing to engage in a follow-up programme and to prepare proper literature.

784. *Missionary aviation fellowship.* Miss B. D. Gibson spoke for the Missionary Aviation Fellowship acquainting us with the present status and plans of this organization. She submitted a questionnaire in which "details of travelling done by missionaries" are asked for. These are to be returned to the Secretary of the C. P. C. who will transmit them to the Secretary of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship in London.

785. *Departure of Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill.*

It was with keen regret that the Council realized that this was the last meeting of the C. P. C. which Mr. Coxill would attend as its General Secretary. The Interim Secretary presented to him a folder of letters, composed by missionary co-workers from all parts of the Congo, which express something of the tender affection and esteem in which he and Mrs. Coxill are held by their numerous friends. Dr. Anderson also announced that a Gift Fund was being accumulated with which a tangible token and reminder of the love and admiration of their friends will be purchased for their new home in Belgium. Mr. Coxill, deeply touched, responded with gracious words of thanks and spoke of his and Mrs. Coxill's gratitude

to God for the happy years and the rich Christian fellowship which they have enjoyed in Africa. In the closing prayer of the meeting they were commended to God in prayer, petitioning that their labors in the Brussels Bureau in Belgium may be as fruitful as their service for Christ has been in the Congo.

786. *Expression of thanks to the President.* The Council expressed its appreciation to the President, Dr. A. C. Stanley Smith, of his capable leadership and of the genial and kindly spirit in which he guided the meeting through its sessions.

787. *Place and date of the next meeting.* It was decided that the next meeting of the Council shall be held at Léopoldville February 2nd to the 2nd of March 1947.

788. The July 1946 meeting of the Council was adjourned with prayer.

President:

DR. A. C. STANLEY SMITH

Minute Secretary:

General Secretary: a. i.

REV. HANS P. JENSEN REV. VERNON A. ANDERSON.

LOCAL COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE
CONGO PROTESTANT COUNCIL
OCTOBER 15, 1946

789. *Meeting.* The Local Committee of the C. P. C. met at the call of the Interim General Secretary at Léopoldville on October 15, 1946. The meeting was opened with prayer. Those present were the Reverends H. D. Brown, George W. Carpenter, Arthur Lundblad, W. D. Reynolds, John Södergren and Vernon A. Anderson.

790. *Ad-interim General Secretary.* The General Secretary, a. i. reported that he had received a communication from Rev. John Morrison, Secretary of the A. P. C. M. in which he reminds us that there will be an hiatus between the date when the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Anderson comes to an end in July 1947 and the time of Mr. and Mrs. Öhrneman's return from their furlough, a period of perhaps seven months. It was recalled that this question was discussed at the July 1946 meeting of the C. P. C. At that time Mr. Anderson was asked if he would consider serving until Mr. Öhrneman's return. He replied that he was willing to serve where he can be most useful but that his mission would have to make that deci-