

Conseil Protestant
du Congo

Minutes - Meeting 27

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 7, 1948

Nominating: MRS. GLEN W. TUTTLE, REV. J. W. TUCKER, REV. I. U. TOWNSLEY.

Finance: REV. W. K. HOBSON, REV. F. WALTANDER, REV. J. RUSSELL, REV. E. I. EVERETT.

Comity: REV. F. BYLIN, MRS. P. D. SNIPES, REV. R. O. YODER, DR. LABAN SMITH, REV. S. F. WESTBERG
REV. R. V. DE CARLE THOMPSON

839 *Greetings*

Greetings were read by the General Secretary from the Reverends H. Wakelin Coxill, H. F. Young, and Virgil Sly. The General Secretary was asked to reply to these messages.

840 *Visit to the Governor General*

It was voted the General Secretary, the President and the Rev. E. M. Morrish be appointed to call on the Governor General during the week to pay the respects of the Council.

841 *General Secretary's Report*

The report of the General Secretary a. i. was read to the Council and accepted. Tribute was paid to the excellent work done by Dr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Anderson. It was voted that a letter be written to the A.P.C.M. expressing the gratitude of the C.P.C. for the release of Dr. and Mrs. Anderson to serve the Council for an interim period of one year and a half.

842 *Local Committee Minutes*

The minutes of the Local Committee Meeting held in December 1947 were read and accepted by the Council.

843 *Legal Representative*

It was voted that the Rev. J. Ohrneman be nominated

to replace the Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill as Legal Representative of the C.P.C., with the Rev. H. J. Watkins and Dr. George W. Carpenter as Alternates.

844 *Travel of the General Secretary*

As the General Secretary stated that it may not be possible for him to undertake much travel among the Congo Missions during the coming year, no definite plans were made.

845 *Finances*

The projected budgets for 1948 and 1949 were presented by the Finance Committee and approved by the Council.

846 *Educational Secretaryship*

The Committee on the appointment of a full-time Educational Secretary presentend the following recommendations:

In view of the continuing uncertainty as to the intention of the Government in educational matters, the Committee considers it inopportune to provide a full-time C.P.C. Educational Secretary. It is not clear whether such an appointment would fit in with the general scheme of mission government relationships which will prevail. The Committee, therefore, recommends the continuance of the present arrangement until we have further light.

We further recommend that Societies which have been contributing to the Educational Budget of the C.P.C. be advised to suspend these contributions until further notice.

We recommend that \$300 of the educational funds representing the contribution of the First Baptist Church of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. given 'for the work of Dr. Car-

penter' since 1947, be transferred to the literature funds held by LECO; that all necessary expenses in connection with Dr. Laubach's visit to Congo in the interest of adult literacy be met from the educational fund, that Educational Committee expenses during the current year be charged to this fund, and that the balance be held for future needs in the field of education.

These recommendations were adopted by the Council.

847 *Amendment to the Constitution*

It was voted that the Constitutional Amendment proposed last year (Minute 804) be adopted and submitted to the Missions for ratification. This amendment reads as follows:

"That Article 8 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the words: The President and General Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all Committees of the C.P.C."

848 *By-Laws*

It was voted that the Local Committee be asked to draw up a set of by-laws for the C.P.C. to be presented at the next Council meeting.

849 *C.P.C. Educational Work*

A report of the progress made during the year toward obtaining educational subsidies was made by the Rev. E. H. Morrish. The report was accepted and the following minutes passed:

Ecoles Professionnelles

Resolved that in view of the need for *Ecole Professionnelle* training and the inability of the Missions to meet that need, an approach be made to the Government urging the

establishment of lay *Ecoles Professionnelles* for training in wood work, metal work, agriculture, etc., that would be open to Protestant students.

Ecoles Moyennes

It was resolved:

- a. That missions be urged to carry their educational program to the standard of the *Ecole Moyenne* at as many of their central station boarding schools as possible.
- b. That in urban areas such as Léopoldville, Coquilhatville, Elisabethville, etc. at least one *Ecole Moyenne* be provided; and that where several different missions have work in the same center a serious attempt be made to cooperate in educational work of the *Ecole Moyenne* standard.
- c. That if it is found that the missions are unable to provide and staff *Ecoles moyennes* in the urban areas, or if they are unable to provide them in sufficient numbers to meet all needs, the Government be urged to establish lay schools. If such lay schools are established, the Missions would expect to have right of entry in order to provide for the Bible instruction and religious training of their students. They would also hope to receive financial help in the establishment of hostels for the use of students who would need such facilities.

School Inspection

It was resolved that in the judgment of the C.P.C., it would be preferable for all school inspection to be conducted by official (non-missionary) inspectors attached to the Service de l'Enseignement and free from confessional bias; that if this is not acceptable to the Authorities, the Council would desire that missionary inspectors be recognized on equal terms for the two confessions, with the

proviso that since qualified and experienced Belgian Protestant missionaries cannot be found for such appointment at present, able and qualified non-Belgian missionaries be accepted.

Subsidies

As it is understood that the Government will request from the C.P.C. a list of those Missions which wish and are able to accept subsidies for their educational work, the General Secretary was authorized to present such a list after consultation with members of the Council's Standing Committee on Education.

African Civil Servants

With reference to the new statutes for African auxiliaries (see Bulletin Administratif 1947, page 2862, Article 5), the General Secretary announced that he had been informed by the Government that Protestant students who qualify for Civil Service positions will not be barred because they lack a diploma from an *école agréée*.

Enseignement Supérieur

The Council felt that nothing could be done toward the establishment of such schools now, but that attention should rather be given to establishment of the *écoles moyennes*.

850 *Medical work*

The Medical Secretary of the C.P.C., Dr. Glen W. Tuttle, gave a report of the progress that has been made in Mission-Government relationships during the past year.

After considering the question raised by the Overseas Medical Service concerning the appointment of a part-time Medical Secretary for Africa, it was agreed that the time is not yet ripe for such an appointment.

Following a statement that the Catholic Missions are pressing for separate internats for their medical students, it was voted that the Secretary of the C.P.C., with the Secretary of the Medical Committee, be asked to keep in close touch with the medical service of the Government on the matter of hostels.

851 *Literature and Literacy*

A report of expected publications and of literacy conferences was given by Dr. Carpenter. Announcement was made of the expected arrival of Canon Coleman of the British and Foreign Bible Society and Dr. Nida of the American Bible Society, and plans were discussed concerning a conference with them on literacy. It was voted that Canon Coleman be asked to visit Coquilhatville, if possible, for conferences on the Lonkundu language, and that the Local Publications Committee of LECO meet with Canon Coleman and Dr. Nida in Léopoldville with power to co-opt others if necessary.

Missionary Reference Library

It was voted that a Missionary Reference Library be established as soon as possible in order that copies may be kept of all publications relating to missionary work in Africa. It was further recommended to the Directors of LECO that one or more rooms in that building be set aside for this library.

852 *Women's Work*

A report of the year's activities was given by Mrs. J. Ohrneman and accepted by the Council. Following the Women's Committee meeting, the minutes were read and accepted by the Council and the following recommendations were adopted.

1. We are glad to see an increase in the number of

Women Councillors this year and feel that is a move in the right direction. As the number of women in the C.P.C. increases, an increased emphasis can be placed on Women's and Girls' work which will thus make our total approach to the work more effective. It is recommended that Missions be urged to send more Women Councillors.

2. It is recommended that stress be laid on sending ahead information concerning African Christians coming to Léopoldville from the out-stations. This information should include, not only the names of the persons coming, but the name of the person with whom they will live and the Léopoldville address. This information could be sent to the C.P.C. office to be given to the Mission working in that section of Léopoldville.

3. It is recommended that more emphasis be put on the education of girls.

853 *Libre Examen*

Dr. Carpenter, having been asked to secure (or have prepared) material on *Libre Examen* suitable for use in Congo, gave a short report of progress made. It was voted that he be asked to continue this work with the added help of Bishop J. M. Springer and the Rev. J. Ohrneman. It was suggested that Dr. Carpenter be asked to contact Dr. Hocking of Harvard University regarding the preparation of material on the right of free examination of the Scriptures.

854 *Labour Syndicates*

It was voted that the Committee appointed to study labour syndicates be reconstituted as follows : Col. L.H. Becquet, the Reverends M.E. Persons, H. B. Parris, Ellsworth Lewis, Dr. Stanley Smith and Rev. J. Ohrneman.