



Conseil Protestant du Congo

Minutes - Meeting 28

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE

FEBRUARY 20 - 27, 1949

889. *AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION*

The Constitutional Amendment proposed in 1947 (Minute 804) is now ratified, the Missions having replied in the affirmative. This complies with Article 20 regarding amendments to the Constitution. The 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.”

890. *BY-LAWS*

At the recommendation of the Local Committee, the matter of By-Laws to be drawn up for the Constitution was dropped.

891. *FINANCE*

The report of the Finance Committee with the projected budgets for 1949 and 1950 was read to the Council and accepted.

In accordance with the provision of the Constitution, Article 15, Section 1, authorizing the Finance Committee to arrange for the distribution of the budget among the supporting bodies of the C.P.C., and in view of the fact that many of the missions have not increased their contributions in proportion to the rising costs, it was recommended that all missions review their contributions and consider a rate of Frs. 250 per missionary on their staff as a minimum.

892. *EDUCATION*

A report of the work of the Committee on Education was given by the Secretary, the Reverend E. H. Morrish, and accepted by the Council.

Arising out of discussions following the report on Education, it was resolved that:

1. We place on record our satisfaction that the new Government policy of equality of treatment for Christian missions has now been implemented in the sphere of education.

2. We appreciate the spirit of courtesy, sympathy, and cooperation with which the inspection of our schools has been carried out and value greatly the contacts that we have made with members of the "Service de l'Enseignement".

3. Discussion having shown the impossibility of defining "Circonscriptions scolaires" or of appointing missionary inspectors at the present time, the General Secretary was asked to approach the Governor General requesting that the concession permitting the Legal Representatives of the missions to present the reports on their educational work be continued for the year 1949.

4. We reaffirm Minute 849, Paragraph 2, 1948, as expressing our conviction regarding the establishment of "écoles moyennes" and "écoles professionnelles", but leave to the General Secretary and the C.P.C. Local Committee the decision as to the opportune time at which to approach the Government.

5. The Council urges missions to consider the possibility of creating union "écoles moyennes", "écoles professionnelles" and "écoles normales" and requests regional conferences to consider the question seriously.

6. The General Secretary, in conjunction with the Educational Secretary, arrange for a Conference of representatives of training schools to study the educational program soon to be presented by the Government; that this Conference be held after sufficient time for consideration has elapsed following the issuance of the program,

perhaps in July or August, 1949, and that the necessary expenses for this Conference be charged to the Educational Fund of the C.P.C.

7. As the C.P.C. looks with serious concern on the continuance of the prejudicial position of Protestants in the mining camps and concessions throughout the Congo particularly in regard to the education of children, that a committee comprised of Bishop N. S. Booth, Rev. J. Morrison, Rev. E. H. Morrish and Rev. P. P. Stough prepare suggestions to help missions involved, in the formation of similar presentations to the companies, and that the C.P.C. Secretary be kept informed of the responses received in order that he may ultimately make a direct approach to the companies if it be necessary.

8. The matter of obtaining text books in trade languages for Protestant schools be referred to the educational conference to meet in July or August 1949.

893. *MEDICAL WORK*

It was moved that the report of the Medical Secretary as presented by Dr. Glen W. Tuttle be accepted with sincere thanks for the services rendered to the C.P.C. during his term of office.

894. *FONDS DU BIEN-ETRE INDIGENE*

Discussion on the sources of this fund and the fact that one quarter represents contributions from the Colonial lottery, led to the following resolutions being passed:

1. Seeing that by far the greater part of this fund is made up of moneys that result from the war effort of the mass of the population, we consider it right that our people should participate in the benefits.

2. We regret that the issue should have been compli-

cated by the inclusion of lottery proceeds and the use of the name of the F.B.E.I. as lottery propaganda, and request the General Secretary of the C.P.C. to make clear to the Director of the Fund the position of evangelical Christians in their opposition to lotteries.

895. *LITERATURE*

The Committee on Literature submitted the following recommendations which were adopted by the Council:

1. That "L'Evangile en Afrique" be continued in its present form.

2. That we authorize our Secretary to contact Dr. Ross with a view to his undertaking the collecting, collating and editing of necessary materials from America, Britain, Scandinavia and other countries to be included in a Congo Mission History.

3. That mindful of the expanding mind of the African and his increasing desire for knowledge of happenings in other areas of the Congo and the world, we recognize the need for a publication to feed these searching minds and wish to take steps to meet this need. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Mr. Will Norton be asked to study available publications in Congo directed to Africans and report back to the next meeting of the C.P.C.

4. That all Missions which have textbooks that have been found acceptable by the State inspectors of Education send a list of these to Mr. P. P. Stough and that he in turn make it available for circulation by LECO.

5. That all Missions ascertain from their State inspectors whether or not any textbooks are being planned by the State. If they are, that the Missions also make this information available to Mr. Stough, to be circulat-

ed through LECO.

6. It is difficult to realize the great loss the Continent of Africa suffers in the death of its devoted servant and friend, Miss Margaret Wrong. We, the Congo Protestant Council now in session, record our deep appreciation for her valuable contribution to the development of the Kingdom of God in the Belgian Congo by her consecrated life and by her effective service through literature.

896. *LAUBACH METHOD*

It was moved that the Secretary of the Literature Committee and the General Secretary of the C.P.C. be authorized to contact the Committee on Literature and Literacy in New York regarding the publication of the necessary material of the Laubach method as the manuscripts are presented.

897. *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 following recommendations were presented to the Council and adopted:

1. That "écoles ménagères" be established as soon as possible on all mission stations for the purpose of training home-makers and teachers. In case it seems impossible to establish these schools on all stations of a Mission, the Committee recommends that at least one such school be started in each Mission and that girls from other stations be sent to this central school.

2. That the missions which find it impossible to establish "écoles ménagères", but have students prepared for this school, seek entrance into "écoles ménagères" of other missions.