

OFFICIAL BOARD
HIGHWAY MISSION TABERNACLE

Meeting of the Official Board, called by the Pastor, held on Monday, June 8, 1953, at the Church, 19th and Green Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

There were present: Rev. Wallace S. Bragg, Pastor; Brothers Charles Krause, Robert Alexander, Edgar Overstreet, Elders; Thomas P. Griffith, Elmer H. Day, Oscar Schmell, Walter McAnney, Charles MacPherson, Trustees; Albert Clarke, Samuel Dursey, Frank Fratto, Deacons, Margaret Griffin, Maude Nethery, Emma Zehner, Deaconesses, and Fred Hepworth, and C.M. Payne, Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Overstreet and the Pastor.

Rev. W. S. Bragg, Pastor, presided.

The Pastor stated that sometime ago, at the request of the Official Board, he agreed to draw up a letter to send to Headquarters relating to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and he desired to read that letter and the answer from the General Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis.

Both of these letters were read by the Pastor, and copies thereof are attached hereto.

The Pastor stated that it had been suggested that in cases of Dedication of children it would be wise to secure the names of both father and mother, the mother's maiden name, the address of the parents, as well as the date of birth and name of the child, and the same information should be secured with reference to Water Baptism.

On motion of Bro. Fred Hepworth, seconded by Bro. Edgar Overstreet and carried, that forms for this purpose should be printed, so there will be a permanent record for future reference.

The Pastor asked whether there was a reception committee for visiting speakers, as it would seem that some of our ministers, visiting friends, etc. have not always been taken care of properly especially when it comes to getting their meals, as the Robert Morris Hotel does not serve dinner on Sunday. It was also suggested that the Service Men be included as a part of the duties of the said Committee.

On motion of Bro. Overstreet, seconded by Bro. Fratto, the Pastor is authorized to appoint a Reception Committee.

The Pastor appointed Bro. Frank Fratto, Edgar Overstreet, Oscar Schmell and Emma Zehner as the Reception Committee, with the privilege of choosing their own chairman.

The Pastor brought up the question of taking pictures at weddings, and said he would like the Official Board to give him the privilege of choosing a member from each Board and one from the church to form a committee to formulate rules for taking pictures.

He said that some time ago rules had been made, but they were not valid, had not been completed. He said that especially at two weddings the rules had not been kept, and at one, after given the rules, the bride said she would call the President of the Trustee Board. She went to the phone and came back and said she would take them any way. The Pastor said he was unable to cope with the situation under these rules.

Bro. Griffith stated that if there had been any difficulty the matter should have been brought to the Board of Trustees. Said he did not have a copy of the rules, but that those desiring marriage first go to the Pastor, who then requests that they see the Trustees and get permission to have the wedding in the church. In most cases both parties, together with the Pastor, are present, and the rules are read to them. The rules state that they are allowed to come into the main auditorium and the photographer will take one picture, before they are married they can have a picture taken and one after they are married, and then they have the privilege of using the Sunday School room to take other pictures if they want them.

The Pastor put the question on the motion and there was perfect silence both for and against.

There was further discussion, in which it was stated that the matter should have been brought to the Board of Trustees.

The Pastor put the question again on the motion and it was carried.

The Pastor stated that he had received a letter from the editor of the N.A.E. paper, asking why he had not presented to the church membership the privilege of subscribing to the U.E.A.

On motion of Bro. Overstreet, seconded by Bro. MacPherson, the Pastor was asked to secure a number of copies of the U.E.A. so the members could see it should they desire to subscribe. This motion was carried.

The question of canvassing the neighborhood was again discussed. It had previously been thought that 10,000 or 15000 copies of the Pamphlet "What Must I do to be Saved" and "How I know I am Saved", with space for the services of Highway on the back, and distributed, before a series of special meetings. It was suggested that it would be rather expensive, especially if they were just thrown in the streets, but the thought was to get a pamphlet that covers well the doctrine of salvation.

On motion of Bro. Overstreet, seconded by Bro. Clarke, and carried, it was agreed that pamphlets be secured and distribution made in the neighborhood.

The Pastor brought up the question of a City Wide Fall Campaign, saying that invitations had been sent to Erricson and William Branham, but there have been no answer. The letters were sent about a month ago.

It was also suggested that a letter be sent to Gale Jackson, an Assembly of God man. This was done about two weeks ago, but no answer has been received.

Brother Day suggested that if our Fall Campaign could be conducted on the order of those in previous years when we had an outstanding speaker, a Young's People's Rally on Wednesday night and a Missionary Rally on Thanksgiving Day, he felt that the people of Highway would come out and there would be a real lift in the meetings, as well as a boost for Highway, the General Offering and the Missionary Offering.

The Pastor asked what the pleasure of the Board was with regard to a delegate to the General Council. He said that Sister Bragg was going with him, that Sister Foote was up in that neighborhood, and that Sister Kyle was going. We have the privilege of one delegate to the Council.

On motion of Bro. Krause, seconded by Bro. Overstreet, and carried, it was agreed that a further announcement be made, and if no one desire to go that Sister Bragg be elected as our delegate to represent Highway.

Bro. Day said he felt it would be a good thing to send out an informative questionnaire to every member of Highway with reference to the church moving from this section to another location, where, etc.

On motion of Bro. MacPherson, seconded by Bro. Overstreet and carried, it was agreed that such a questionnaire be prepared and mailed to the members of the church.

The Pastor asked if there was anything further that should be brought up.

Bro. Albert Clarke said that the Trustees had informed the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses that the evening offering on Communion Sunday would be discontinued.

There was quite some discussion, in which Bro. Griffith said that when the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses were informed of the recommendation of the Board of Trustees they were told to talk it over with the Board and if there was any disagreement to bring it back to the Board of Trustees. Instead, he went over the head of the Boards and has brought it before the Official Board tonight, where it does not belong.

On motion of Bro. MacPherson, seconded by Bro. Schmell, it was requested that the evening offering be discontinued.

After further discussion, Bro. Krause moved that envelopes be printed and an announcement made at the evening service that anyone who was not present in the morning and desired to give toward this fund will find envelopes in the pews for that purpose. This motion was duly seconded.

The Pastor put the question on this amendment to the previous motion, and it was carried, with two opposing.

The Pastor then put the question on the main motion, and it was carried, with two opposing.

Bro. Clarke asked that a vote be taken by a show of hands.

The Pastor called for a show of hands, and the motion was carried, with two opposing votes.

The Pastor then put the question on the entire motion, and it was carried, with two opposing votes.

The Pastor told the Board he did not feel the spirit of the meeting had been pleasing to the Lord, as we had gotten in our own spirits, and called us to prayer. The Pastor himself prayed and asked for forgiveness and the covering of the blood.

After prayer Bro. Albert Clarke asked the Pastor for forgiveness and Bro. Thomas Griffith.

The meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Clara M. Paupel
Church Clerk