



Mining the Minutes

Exploring Different Uses of Historic
Congregational Resources

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Journal of the Annual Convention Diocese of Pennsylvania

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Journal of the Annual Convention, Diocese of Pennsylvania

Journal of the Annual Convention, Diocese of Pennsylvania is the official report of the Pennsylvania Episcopal Diocese's annual convention. The title has varied somewhat from year to year.

Publication History

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania was one of the original Episcopal Church dioceses in the United States, and held its first convention in 1784. The diocese originally covered the entire state. The diocese of Pittsburgh, covering the western part of the state, split off in 1865, and the diocese of Central Pennsylvania split off in 1871. The diocese continues to hold annual conventions to this day.

Persistent Archives of Complete Issues

- **1784-1830, 1837-1841, 1845-1859, 1865-1866, 1868-1878, 1882-1884, 1887-1900, 1902-1914, 1916-1921:** HathiTrust has the journals of the [1st-46th, 53rd-57th, 61st-75th, 81st-82nd, 84th-94th, 98th-100th, 103rd-116th, 118th-130th, and 132nd-137th conventions](#), scanned from the New York Public Library.
- **1838-1847, 1853-1856, 1860-1888, 1891, 1895-1900:** HathiTrust has journals of the [54th-63rd, 69th-72nd, 76th-104th, 107th, and 111th-116th conventions](#), scanned from the University of Wisconsin.
- **1844-1845:** The Internet Archive has the journals for the [60th and 61st conventions](#).
- **2009-recent:** The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania website has the journals of the [226th-228th conventions](#), as of this writing.

The Committee on Claims of Clergymen to Seats were, at their own request, discharged.

The Rev. Dr. Goodwin offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were read and seconded:

WHEREAS, There exists in this country, an organized and armed rebellion, whose avowed purpose is the destruction of our National Union and the perpetuation of Negro Slavery.

And WHEREAS, This rebellion has more and more assumed a character of barbarous fanaticism and murderous ferocity on the part of the enemies of the nation; therefore, in view of the causes and character of this struggle,

Resolved, That this Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, as a body of christian men, pledge to the government of our country, our prayers, sympathy, and support in this war for existence, union, liberty and peace.

Resolved, That the authors and abettors of this rebellion, wherever they are found, are alone guilty of all the bloodshed and desolation on either side, entailed by this contest upon North and South, now or hereafter.

Resolved, That in the long delay of success in suppressing this monstrous rebellion, we see wonderfully manifest the hand of God training by His severest chastisements, this reluctant people to a readiness to do justice and show mercy to a long oppressed and outraged race.

Resolved, That under present circumstances, the National Government, whether executive, legislative or judicial, is in our judgment solemnly bound to use all its power, and employ every authorized and constitutional means for the speedy and total abolition of slavery throughout the land, that as patriots, freemen and christians, we shall hail with jubilant gladness and devout gratitude to God the day of its final extinction.

Pending the consideration of which, the hour of seven having arrived, a motion was made to adjourn, which was withdrawn, upon the Rev. Mr. Childs stating that there were certain matters of routine which required attention before the House adjourned.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Childs, the Annual Report of the Board of Missions of the Diocese of Pennsylvania was read by title, and ordered to be presented and read

The motion of the Rev. Mr. Hatton was then agreed to; and the substitute of the Rev. Dr. Van Deusen, with the preambles of the Rev. Dr. Goodwin prefixed, was adopted, as follows:

WHEREAS, There exists in this country an organized and armed rebellion, whose avowed purpose is the destruction of our National Union, and the perpetuation of Negro Slavery, and

Whereas, This rebellion has more and more assumed a character of barbarous fanaticism and murderous ferocity on the part of the enemies of the Nation. Therefore, in view of the causes and character of the struggle,

Resolved, That we hereby declare our unfaltering allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that we pledge it our willing devotion and

service, and “that as a body of Christians, we will ever pray that in God’s own time and way this rebellion may be put down; that oppression and slavery in all its forms may be done away; that freedom of body and mind, political and religious, may everywhere prevail; that the emancipated negroes, whom God in His providence is committing to our care may be the objects of our liberal and Christian regard and instruction; that war may soon cease throughout all our borders, and that our now lacerated country may again be so united that from the Lakes on the North to the Gulf on the South, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there shall be but one Union, one government, one flag, one Constitution, all converging to and culminating in, that higher glory which shall make this nation Emanuel’s land, a mountain of holiness, and a dwelling-place of righteousness.”

On motion of Mr. John N. Purviance,

Resolved, That the Christian Commission and the Sanitary Commission, with which the Protestant Episcopal Church is so actively co-operating in the good work of providing for the sick and wounded soldiers, has our warmest sympathy in the discharge of their humane mission, and our pledge of our continued encouragement and support.

TEMPORAL RELIEF.

Owing to a variety of obvious causes, the numbers of the needy were greater last year than any previous year, and constant demands were made upon the City Mission for temporal aid. Hundreds of individuals and families have been relieved. Money, coal, groceries and clothing have been liberally bestowed, hungry men, women and children have been fed; wanderers have been lodged and fed; and the sick and maimed have been cared for. Daily calls have come to the office to attend the dying and to bury the dead, to administer Baptism or the Holy Communion, all of which duties have been done to the best of our ability.

The following is a statement of the general work of the Mission:

STATISTICS.

No. of Services, Sermons and Addresses.....	2,202
" " Baptisms, (adults 19, children 254).....	273
" " Persons confirmed.....	14
" " Marriages.....	81
" " Funerals.....	128
" " Holy Communions.....	76
" " Communicants.....	122
" " Sunday School Scholars.....	336
" " " Teachers.....	38
" " Bible Class Scholars.....	50
" " Children sent to Sunday School.....	57
" " Times Catechised.....	99
" " Mothers' Meetings held.....	25
" " Cottage " ".....	10
" " Times Bible Readings.....	529
" " Bibles, Testaments and Prayer Books Distributed.....	469
" " Meals and Lodgings Furnished.....	801
" " Visits, General and Special.....	17,718
" " Consumptives Treated.....	103
" " Different Articles given from Diet Kitchen.....	6,881
" " Grocery Orders.....	2,360
" " Orders given for Shoes.....	206
" " Visits to Hospital Wards.....	1,499
" " Tracts and Magazines Distributed.....	16,277

their exhausted treasuries, and thus equip them afresh for the work which clamors for help and for men all around us. There ought to be a collection for this Board, in every parish and missionary station, once a year, and I fear that the reason why so many parishes have not given, is because those in charge of them have not remembered to ask their alms for the work. I do not believe that any parish which limits its collections to its own needs, can ever be healthful or thriving. If it would expand and grow, it must work and give.

There are many other matters of which I would like to speak, but you have not time to hear them now, yet suffer me one word in reference to an approaching evil, which, like the cloud which the Prophet's servant saw in the West, as he stood on Mt. Carmel, though now no larger than a man's hand, may soon like that burst in its fury upon us before we are fully conscious of its approach. I refer to the effort now being made, ostensibly in behalf of the laboring men, but really by communistic infidels, to bring about a conflict between labor and capital, the rich and the poor, the workmen and corporations, which cannot but result in devastation and ruin. We experienced the first fruit of this outcropping evil in the labor strikes and derangement of trade and travel which so startled us last summer. The power which then put itself forth, was comparatively harmless, because not well organized and consolidated. That defect of last year is being remedied by the party leaders this year. We hear all around us, and especially at the West, of associations and gatherings and drillings with military manuals and arms, of this dangerous and inflammable element.

We see it showing its ghastly face in the effort to make their views and policy felt in the state and general government, and even the sacred seat of justice is being made to do the work of lawlessness and wrong.

This evil, looming up in our midst, may, before we are aware of it, darken our sky and redden our fields. It can be met, not by argument, not by legislative action, but only by physical force to quell its outbreaks or overawe its move-

(1878) The Committee on Feeble Churches, appointed by the last Convention, presented their report, as follows:

The feebleness of some parishes has been seen to be evidently owing to the mere fact of their recent inception. It is the feebleness of infancy, such as in a natural process of growth is likely, under God, to be overcome. Almost all *new* parishes need help from the Church at large; and where the necessity for the existence of the parish and the reasonable prospect of vigor in the near future are apparent, there is to be expected a readiness amongst Churchmen, according to their ability, to respond to appeals for help. The practical difficulty in some cases is, that those who engage in organizing the new parish venture too much in anticipation of what they think they ought to obtain from outside of their own vicinage. Your Committee feels that the most zealous and sanguine promoters of Church extension should take the counsel of their Bishop and of a duly constituted Committee or Board, before making themselves and the Church responsible for any sum beyond that which they have in hand and that for which they have reliable pledges. In fact, they should have authoritative counsel before they decide, positively, that a new parish is needed in any given locality. Your Committee need not attempt to mark

There are, on the other hand, parishes once exceedingly vigorous, which, through changes in the surrounding population, have become feeble, and in some cases, are threatened with extinction. Wherever there is a likelihood that the retention and sustentation of such a parish would enable the Church to reach with her blessed ministrations a class of persons incapable of defraying needful expenses on a moderate scale, such a parish has strong claims upon the Missionary spirit of all who love the Gospel; and, either by partial endowments or by stated assistance, it should surely be perpetuated so long as it could answer the sacred purpose for which it was organized and for which the building was consecrated. If no such likelihood exists, the only wise plan is to transfer the remnant of the parish with the property it may hold to some more favorable location; perhaps to be incorporated with some other parish, which with even a little new strength thus acquired may become strong and efficient.

Your Committee is deeply impressed with the importance



Edited by
DAVID R. CONTOSTA



This Far by Faith

TRADITION
and
CHANGE
in the
EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of
PENNSYLVANIA