

Minutes of the Ninth International Conference of the I.H.C.A.

Held at Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 20th—22nd September, 1955

Tuesday, 20th September

THE Conference convened at 8.45 a.m., the President, Mr. J. C. van Gelderen in the Chair.

1. Worship was conducted by the Rev. D. J. Finestone.

2. Welcome to the Conference was expressed by the Rev. Victor Buksbazen, B.D., President of the Hebrew Christian Alliance of America, at whose invitation the meetings were being held in Chicago, and Mr. van Gelderen made suitable response.

3. Mr. van Gelderen delivered his presidential address.

4. Delegates from Great Britain, America, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, South Africa and Israel presented their credentials.

5. Messages of greeting were read from Dr. Arnold Frank, Mr. Werner Steinberg, Mr. Joseph Isakoff and Dr. Otto Cahn.

6. The Secretary gave notice that the Nominations Committee would consist of Dr. G. Frohwein, the Rev. Victor Buksbazen, Mr. R. Rosen, Mr. R. Metzou, Mr. H. Stern, Mr. C. Modijefsky, Dr. Peter Salzberg, Mr. S. Saiovici, Mr. H. L. Ellison and the Rev. H. D. Leuner.

7. The Conference stood as the Secretary read the names of Hebrew Christian leaders who had passed to their rest and reward since the last Conference. After prayer, led by the Rev. Harcourt Samuel, the Conference joined in the hymn "For all the saints who from their labours rest."

8. The President called for the report of the Executive Committee. This was handed in by the Rev. Harcourt Samuel. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the report be adopted.

ruled the amendment to fail for vagueness. Mr. Robert Rosen moved a further amendment to delete clause (d). He found no seconder and the amendment failed. It was then resolved that the proposal of the Executive Committee be adopted.

15. Mr. Robert Rosen moved that Clause V (1b) of the Constitution be amended as follows:

Four Vice-Presidents chosen by the following affiliated Alliances, Great Britain, America, Israel and the numerically strongest Alliance in Europe at the time.

The proposal was duly seconded. Mr. H. L. Ellison moved an amendment to substitute for the proposal

Not more than four Vice-Presidents.

The amendment was duly seconded and on being put to the meeting was carried. It was then resolved that the motion as amended be adopted.

16. Mr. Robert Rosen moved that there be added to Clause XIII the following :

Every affiliated Alliance shall be represented on the Finance and General Purposes Committee by a specially appointed representative. Such representative shall not necessarily belong to the appointing Alliance, but must be a member of some other affiliated Alliance. The appointing Alliance may change its representative at any time.

The proposal was duly seconded, but on being put to the meeting was not carried.

17. A question having arisen as to the ability of Alliances unable to send one of their own members as a delegate to appoint a member of some other Alliance as delegate with full voting powers, it was moved, seconded and resolved that such appointments be accepted as in order for the duration of the present Conference.

18. On behalf of the Executive Committee the Secretary moved :

That of the twelve members to be elected by Conference to the Executive Committee four shall come from the United Kingdom, four shall come from North America.

The motion was duly seconded. Mr. C. Modijefsky moved an amendment to add the words

and four from other countries, but not more than one from any one such country.

The amendment was duly seconded and on being put to the meeting was carried. It was resolved that the motion as amended be adopted.

19. Mr. C. Modijefsky moved that

Resolution No. 6 of the seventh Conference at Ramsgate in 1947 be rescinded and that in future the most suitable person to represent the Alliance and its ideals be chosen.

The motion was duly seconded. Mr. H. L. Ellison moved an amendment to add the words:

but that no one hold the presidency for more than two terms, consecutive or otherwise.

The amendment was duly seconded and on being put to the meeting was carried. Dr. R. Brinker moved a further amendment to delete the words:

and that in future the most suitable person to represent the Alliance and its ideals be chosen.

This amendment was duly seconded, but on being put to the meeting was not carried. It was then resolved that the motion as previously amended be adopted.

20. The President called for the report of the Nominations Committee and vacated the Chair in favour of Dr. A. J. Kligerman. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Morris Kaminsky.

21. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the Rev. Jakob Jocz, Ph.D., be elected President of the International Hebrew Christian Alliance.

22. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the Rev. Arnold Frank, D.D., be re-elected President Emeritus of the International Hebrew Christian Alliance.

23. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the Rev. Victor Buksbazen, B.D., and Mr. J. C. van Gelderen be elected Vice-Presidents of the International Hebrew Christian Alliance.

24. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the Rev. Harcourt Samuel be re-elected Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

25. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the following be elected members of the Executive Committee:

Lady Levison, the Revs. T. H. Bendo, Samuel, Hugo Spitzer and Nathan Stone, Dr. A. J. Kligerman, Messrs. H. L. Ellison, H. Newmark, R. Rosen, S. Saiovici, N. Scharff and W. Steinberg, and Mrs. A. Moise.

26. Mr. J. C. van Gelderen returned to the Chair and introduced his successor, Dr. Jakob Jocz, who was given an enthusiastic welcome. The new President briefly addressed the Conference.

27. The Rev. Victor Buksbazen offered prayer and the session concluded.

Thursday, 22nd September

The Conference convened at 9.15 a.m., the President, the Rev. Jacob Jocz, in the Chair.

28. Worship was conducted by Dr. A. J. Kligerman.

29. A roll call showed that representatives of all affiliated Alliances were present.

30. The minutes of the proceedings on Wednesday, 21st September, were read and confirmed.

31. The Rev. H. D. Leuner submitted a report on his work as Secretary for Europe.

32. Mr. Robert Rosen moved that Conference take note of the declaration of the Austrian Alliance dated 19th September, 1954, as follows:

"We the members of the Hebrew Christian Alliance assembled in Vienna on 19th September, 1954, hereby give expression to our conviction derived from Holy Scripture:

1. That the Jewish people, believers in Christ as well as those who have not yet turned to Him, are, according to the will of God, called to maintain their existence as a nation and must remain such.
2. That the evangelization of those Jews who have not yet found their way to Christ must not endanger or prejudice their existence as a nation.
3. That therefore the freedom of Jews converted to Christ should be such as to enable them to live, not by assimilating with the surrounding peoples, but as Jews in the bosom of their own people, maintaining their fellowship and systematically fostering their social life.

He further moved that Conference adopt this declaration in its entirety and demand its observance by all affiliated Alliances as an integral part of their Hebrew Christian duty. The motion was duly seconded. On behalf of the British Alliance the Rev. Harcourt Samuel moved an amendment declining to accept the declaration, but instead to commend to affiliated Alliances the following statement concerning the relationship between Hebrew Christians and the Jewish people :

1. Seeing that the New Testament states expressly : " God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew . . . for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance," and that this statement has been amply substantiated by the history of the Jewish people both down to the present and in the present, every Jew who has come to faith in Jesus the Messiah should consider earnestly before God what are his duties and responsibilities to the people from whom in God's providence He has sprung.
2. Both churches and societies, and individual men and women who seek to carry out their Christian duty by presenting Christ to the Jewish people, should recognize and respect " the mystery of Israel," and should do nothing to hinder or make more difficult the Hebrew Christian's relations with his people according to the flesh.
3. Seeing that the national existence of the Jewish people now finds its expression in the State of Israel, the Hebrew Christian should interest himself in its problems, needs and welfare.
4. The Hebrew Christian should seek to bring his membership of the Church of Christ and his relationship to the Jewish people into such spiritual harmony that he may be able to interpret the Church to the Jew and the Jew to the Church.

The amendment was duly seconded. It was then moved, seconded and resolved

that consideration of the question be postponed and both proposal and amendment be referred to the Executive Committee for further study, for con-

sideration of the constitutional position and for report.

33. The Rev. Victor Buksbazen took the Chair.

34. The Chairman called for the report of the delegation sent to Israel by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Board of Abraham's Vineyard Limited. This was handed in by the Rev. Harcourt Samuel. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the report be received and its conclusions endorsed as follows :

The present task of the Alliance in Israel is :

1. To foster the life of the newly formed Israeli Alliance, to strengthen its fellowship and witness, till it becomes, under God, an effective influence for Christ within the nation.
2. To work out and propagate, both in Israel and among Hebrew Christians generally, a truly Biblical Zionism. To do this is probably more important than to plan for a Hebrew Christian Church, which will almost certainly come into existence by itself. Such a Biblical Zionism rightly understood can contribute much to the shaping of an indigenous Church in Israel.
3. To encourage immigration into Israel of suitable Hebrew Christians and to discourage emigration from Israel of any who can usefully contribute to the life of the Alliance and of the State.
4. To help Hebrew Christians in Israel to earn their living in such occupations as really help the building up of the country.
5. To help those who by reason of age or illness find themselves unable to work in this way or to maintain themselves.
6. To provide one or more centres for recreation and fellowship.

35. The Chairman called for the report of the Board of Abraham's Vineyard Limited. This was handed in by the Rev. Harcourt Samuel. It was moved, seconded and resolved that the report be received.

36. Dr. A. J. Kligerman moved that a committee be appointed to consider the establishment of a missionary branch as part of the Alliance's activities and that the Executive Committee be empowered to receive its report and take such action as it considers fit.

the proposal was duly seconded, but on being put to the meeting was not carried.

37. Mr. Robert Rosen moved that in order to further the work of numerically strong national Alliances the necessary financial means be put at their disposal to enable them to produce literature of a popular type, setting forth the ideals of the Alliance. The proposal was duly seconded. Dr. Jakob Jocz moved an amendment referring the matter to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The amendment was duly seconded and carried.

38. Mr. Robert Rosen moved that propaganda literature be distributed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in interested circles in countries where there is no national Alliance. Dr. A. J. Kligerman moved an amendment referring the matter to the Executive Committee for consideration. The amendment was duly seconded and carried.

39. The Rev. Jakob Jocz returned to the Chair.

40. The President delivered the final address to the Conference.

41. The President pronounced the Benediction and the Conference ended.