

MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE

PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA

Oklahoma City, Okla., October 18-20, 1949

The second annual convention of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America convened in the Civic Auditorium at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Tuesday night, October 18, 1949. In accord with the plan for the convention, outlined by the Board of Administration in its meeting in Chicago, Illinois, April 18 and 19, the major emphasis was spiritual fellowship, the business of the association being confined to the morning meetings of the two days. The convention was opened on Tuesday night with a great spiritual rally, the message of the hour being delivered by Thomas Johnstone of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. The local planning committee chose James B. McDonough, local pastor of an Assembly of God church, for the Wednesday morning devotional service, and R. O. Corvin of the Pentecostal Holiness Church for Thursday morning. The afternoon speakers were Howard P. Courtney of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and Wesley R. Steelberg of the Assemblies of God, the latter speaking for the communion service on Thursday afternoon. Sydney Correll, of the Open Bible Standard Churches, Dayton, Ohio, brought a powerful missionary address on Wednesday night, and James L. Slay, Church of God, brought the final evangelistic message on Thursday, the closing night.

Delegates were seated in compliance with the constitutional provision as follows:

Assemblies of God	273,000	enrolled members	15	delegates
The Church of God	95,000	" "	8	"
Int'l Church Foursquare Gospel	66,611	" "	7	"
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	35,500	" "	6	"
Pentecostal Holiness Church	34,000	" "	6	"
Open Bible Standard Churches	25,000	" "	5	"
Int'l Pentecostal Assemblies	10,000	" "	2	"
Elim Missionary Assemblies	3,000	" "	1	"
Church of God, Mountain Assembly	1,600	" "	1	"
Church of the Bible	55	" "	1	"

The names of those serving as official delegates were:

Assemblies of God: W. R. Steelberg, Noel Perkin, J. R. Flower, Emil Balliet, David Burris, G. Kinderman, V. H. Ray, C. L. Bell, A. Newton Chase, M. R. Searles, Chas. F. Parker, A. W. Glandon, E. E. Mason (two places left for later designation).

The Church of God: H. L. Chesser, Zeno C. Tharp, J. D. Bright, J. S. Brinsfield, R. R. Walker, A. M. Phillips, J. H. Walker, James L. Slay.

International Church, Foursquare Gospel: Sidney Westbrook, Daisy Wiltbanks, Floyd Dawson, Frances Larson, Chas. R. Gaines, Welton Parrish, R. J. Walls.

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada: C. B. Smith, C. M. Wortman, Thomas Johnstone, James Montgomery (two places left for later designation).

Pentecostal Holiness Church: Dan T. Muse, Joseph A. Synan, Thomas A. Melton, Hubert T. Spence, W. H. Turner, R. L. Rex.

Open Bible Standard Churches: E. J. Fulton, G. H. Crooks, Wilbur Corman, F. W. Smith, Ralph Isbell.

International Pentecostal Assemblies: R. S. Dunbar.

Elim Missionary Assemblies: Ivan Q. Spencer.

Church of God, Mountain Assembly: Luther Gibson.

Church of the Bible: William Dirks.

John C. Jernigan, Chairman, opened the Wednesday morning session with an outline of the inception, progress and objectives of the Pentecostal Fellowship. Committees were then appointed, each group being given the privilege of naming members to represent them. The committees appointed were as follows:

Missionary Committee: Noel Perkin, Chairman, W. H. Turner, C. M. Wortman, Ralph Isbell, J. H. Walker and Dr. Howard P. Courtney.

Youth Committee: R. L. Rex, Chairman, Louis Willis, James Montgomery, Leonard Collett, Emil Balliet, Frances Larson, Ivan Q. Spencer.

Educational Committee: J. Stewart Brinsfield, Chairman, Vaneda H. Courtney, R. O. Corvin, Thomas Johnstone, W. R. Steelberg.

Finance Committee: Hubert T. Spence, Chairman, V. H. Ray, G. H. Crooks, C. B. Smith, Chas. R. Eads, Zeno C. Tharp.

Committee on Comity: H. L. Chesser, Chairman, J. A. Synan, A. N. Chase, Sidney Westbrook, William Dirks, R. S. Dunbar.

Committee on Nominations: R. S. Dunbar, Chairman, R. R. Walker, G. Kinderman, Thomas A. Melton, Floyd Dawson.

Thursday Morning

Following the devotional period, the Chair opened the business session by calling for the reports of committees. The committees reported in the following order and all committee reports were accepted by motion.

Dr. C. M. Wortman, serving as Secretary of the Foreign Missions Committee, read the report of the committee as follows:

Report of Missionary Committee

The Missionary Committee recommends that a permanent missionary committee be established to be composed of the missionary secretaries of the various member groups, to function throughout the year by the exchange of information and correspondence.

The committee recommends further, that the convention ratify their designation of Brother Noel Perkin as chairman and Brother J. H. Walker as secretary for the ensuing year.

It shall be the objective of the committee to further cooperation in the various phases of missionary enterprise.

The committee respectively offers the following recommendations:

1. That missionaries on the various fields be encouraged to form fellowship groups, as desired in the homeland.
2. That the various missionary secretaries inform the missionaries of each society of the purpose of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America and the desire of the members of the committee that fellowship be promoted where missionaries are laboring.
3. That the various missionary departments seek to assist one another by extending facilities in connection with receiving homes on the fields, and rest homes in the homeland; by cooperation in matters of literature, such as tracts, Sunday School helps and other printed matter; by cooperating in matters of transportation; by consultation and cooperation in regard to needy areas.
4. That the missionary secretaries inform the committee secretary concerning the facilities of each missionary department as to rest homes, publications, transportation, schools for missionary children, etc.
5. That the committee secretary receive and give information to the various member organizations.

It was moved by Brother Tharp and the motion was seconded that the recommendations in the report be adopted in their entirety. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Committee on Education

Mrs. Vaneda H. Courtney reported for the committee as follows:

The Committee on Education recommends that each organization with Bible Schools and colleges provide a compilation of statistical material, setting forth the number and location of each and the number of enrollment.

Further, that addresses of presidents, deans, principals and business managers be furnished, together with an exchange of catalogues and registration requirements.

Further, that a suitable person be appointed and authorized to represent the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America in meetings anywhere it is advisable to have a united voice in relation to schools and colleges.

The report was received by motion and discussed. It was then moved by J. S. Brinsfield that the recommendations be adopted, and the motion prevailed. Thomas Johnstone then nominated R. O. Corvin to represent the Educational Committee of the P.F.N.A. as may be needed for united cooperation, and the nomination was confirmed by motion.

Report of Committee on Finance

Hubert T. Spence reported for the Finance Committee as follows:

The Committee on Finance recommends

1. That we go on record as pledging our full cooperation in support of the local committee on finance which has the responsibility of raising the necessary funds to cover the expenses of this convention (in Oklahoma City) by free-will offerings.

2. That we request a voluntary pledge from each group represented in this fellowship for the operation of its activities during the ensuing year.
3. That we approve the action of the Board of Administration in covering the present deficit of the Basel office, and the deficit in the international secretary's salary.
4. That we appropriate out of the General Treasury an amount not to exceed \$75.00 per month for secretarial work necessary for the promotion of Pentecostal World Fellowship.
5. That a registration fee of \$1.00 for both delegates and visitors be required for registration at the next annual convention.

On motion the report was received and then considered item by item before adoption. Section one of the report was then adopted by motion.

Section two was then considered and it was reported that members of the Board of Administration in the meetings of the Board at Oklahoma City preceding the opening of the business meetings of the convention had agreed to recommend to their various groups that remittances be made for the operation of the activities of the fellowship during the ensuing year as follows:

Assemblies of God	\$ 500.00
Church of God	225.00
Int'l Church Foursquare Gospel	150.00
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	120.00
Open Bible Standard Churches	100.00
Pentecostal Holiness Church	100.00
Int'l Pentecostal Assemblies	50.00
Elim Missionary Assemblies	50.00
Church of the Bible	50.00
Church of God, Mountain Assembly	25.00
Total	\$1,370.00

Section three of the report was then considered and David J. duPlessis was called upon to explain the need for covering the deficit in the international office at Basel, Switzerland. To close the office and to meet back salary of the international secretary, it will require approximately \$2,000.00. It was stated that the salary and transportation of Miss Neuman to Sweden will be cared for by the Philadelphia Church in Sweden. Pledges were then made as follows:

Assemblies of God, Missions Dept.	\$250.00
Church of God (Gen. Fund \$100; Missions \$100)	200.00
Int'l Church Foursquare Gospel	150.00
Pentecostal Holiness Church	50.00
Open Bible Standard Churches	50.00
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	50.00
Personal Pledges:	
Harry Wiltbanks	100.00
W. R. Steelberg	25.00
J. H. Walker	10.00
J. R. Flower	10.00
Ivan Q. Spencer	10.00
Charles R. Gaines	5.00
Woman (?)	10.00

There may have been other pledges which were not recorded, which the treasurer may have received. L. M. Sharp paid cash for the Church of God, Mountain Assembly \$10.00

The report of the Finance Committee was then adopted as a whole.

(The address of the Treasurer is Rev. Hubert T. Spence, P. O. Box 1652, Washington, D. C.)

Report of Youth Committee

The Committee on Youth was represented by R. L. Rex, who presented the following report:

It is the recommendation of the Committee that our first objective is to endeavor to promote fellowship on the national level. Beginning with the national level, it is hoped that fellowship on the local level will be developed.

It is recommended that there be a youth rally on the opening night of the next annual convention, and that the Board of Administration be authorized to arrange said rally through the aid of the national youth directors of the various groups represented in the North American Pentecostal Fellowship.

The report was first received and then, by motion, the recommendations were adopted.

Committee on Church Comity

H. L. Chesser, Chairman of the Committee on Comity, presented the following report for the Committee, and on motion by J. H. Walker, the report was accepted:

The Committee on Church Comity makes the following recommendations:

1. In view of the importance of comity among the various member bodies, and due to the limited time that the committee has had to work, it is recommended that this convention set up a standing committee (consisting of the members of the Board of Administration) to make a thorough study of the subject of comity and to prepare a report for presentation at the next annual convention.
2. It is recommended further that the leaders of the constituent bodies endeavor to encourage the district, state and local leaders to become better acquainted with the constitution of the P.F.N.A. and its objectives, and by so doing, find a basis for the promotion of fellowship in their respective localities.

By motion, the recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

Report of Committee on Nominations

R. S. Dunbar, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, reported that the members of the committee were in complete unity in their decision to nominate the present officers of the Fellowship for another year's service. They therefore presented the following names in nomination for

Chairman	
John C. Jernigan	Church of God
Vice-Chairmen	
E. J. Fulton	Open Bible Standard Churches
Howard P. Courtney	Int'l Church Foursquare Gospel
Secretary	
J. Roswell Flower	Assemblies of God
Treasurer	
Hubert T. Spence	Pentecostal Holiness Church
Board of Administration	
H. L. Chesser	Church of God
R. O. Dunbar	Int'l Pentecostal Assemblies
Luther Gibson	Church of God, Mountain Assembly
R. Bryant Mitchell	Open Bible Standard Churches
Dan T. Muse	Pentecostal Holiness Church
Ivan Q. Spencer	Elim Missionary Assemblies
Wesley R. Steelberg	Assemblies of God
W. B. Teaford	Int'l Church Foursquare Gospel
Dr. C. M. Wortman	Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

The only changes proposed in the personnel of the Board of Administration were the substitution of the name of Wesley R. Steelberg for E. S. Williams, and the addition of the name of Luther Gibson of the Church of God, Mountain Assembly.

The motion was made by J. H. Walker that the report of the committee be accepted and the election of the officers be made by acclamation. The motion was immediately seconded and the election was made unanimous.

Brief statements were made by various ministers and delegates:

E. J. Fulton: "We must present something to a shaking world that is unshakable."

H. T. Spence spoke appreciatively of the blessing experienced at Des Moines last year and that this meeting in Oklahoma City had surpassed that in Des Moines in spiritual power and blessing.

David J. duPlessis suggested it would be a wonderful thing if the members of the Board of Administration will attempt to attend some of the general meetings of other organizations so that we can demonstrate that fellowship goes beyond this annual meeting of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America. He suggested that the secretaries of the various groups submit to the secretary of the P.F.N.A. the dates of general conferences so that the information may be available for general use.

Thomas Johnstone reported that the fellowship meetings which have been held in Toronto, Ontario, have been blessed of God. He stated that once a month the Pentecostal youth get together from the various organizations, and it takes the largest auditoriums to care for the crowds which are assembled together.

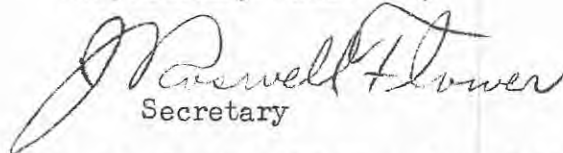
By motion, a vote of appreciation was extended to the members of the local Committee on Arrangements for their labors to make the convention successful, including the members of the Roster Committee, the Housing Committee, Program Committee, Entertainment Committee, Finance Committee, etc., etc.

The business meeting adjourned at noon, Thursday, October 20th. A communion service was conducted on Thursday afternoon and approximately eight hundred persons participated. The lower floor of the auditorium was well filled for the final and concluding service Thursday night.

Without pressure of any kind, 1132 ministers and laymen registered for the meeting, but the attendance at the night services exceeded the registration two or three times. The report of the Registration Committee revealed the following information:

Assemblies of God	488
Pentecostal Holiness Church	273
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	171
International Church Foursquare Gospel	29
Open Bible Standard Churches	4
Church of God of Apostolic Faith	4
Latter Rain Baptist	4
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	4
Free Holiness Church	3
Elim Missionary Assemblies	3
Broadway Gospel Center	3
Free Pentecost	2
Church of God, Mountain Assembly (Tenn.)	2
Free Will Baptist	2
Richey Evangelistic Association	2
Apostolic Christian Church	1
Pentecostal Latter Rain	1
Pentecostal Church of God	1
International Pentecostal Assemblies	1
Church of the Bible	1
Radio Prayer League	1
Prayer Mission	1
Light Bearers	1
Grand Temple	1
The Holy Gospel Church	1
David duPlessis, Secretary	
International Pentecostal Fellowship	1
Baptist	9
Methodist	5
Nazarene	2
Presbyterian	1
Undesignated (no church named)	<u>110</u>
Total Registered	1,132

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

(Address of Secretary: J. Roswell Flower, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Mo.)

PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA HOLDS SECOND GREAT
RALLY IN OKLAHOMA CITY.

The second annual convention of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America was held in the Civic Auditorium of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during the week of October 16. The lower floor of the auditorium which seats 6400 was well filled during the two days and three nights of the convention. The morning services were devoted to business, such as the appointment of committees and the hearing of reports. The afternoon and night services were devoted to the ministry of the Word of God, prayer, praise and testimony. The spiritual fellowship which prevailed throughout the convention was noteworthy and precious.

Fifty-two official delegates were seated, representing ten Pentecostal groups, on the basis of one delegate for each five thousand constituent members up to twenty-five thousand, and one delegate for each twenty-five thousand members thereafter. The delegates were chosen on the following basis:

Assemblies of God	273,000 members	15 delegates
Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn.	95,000 "	8 "
International Church Foursquare Gospel	66,600 "	7 "
Pentecostal Holiness Church	34,000 "	6 "
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	35,500 "	6 "
Open Bible Standard Churches	25,000 "	5 "
International Pentecostal Assemblies	10,000 "	2 "
Elim Missionary Assemblies	3,000 "	1 "
Church of God, Mountain Assembly	1,600 "	1 "
Church of the Bible	55 "	1 "

Committees were appointed to bring in reports on matters common to all in the fields of foreign missions, youth work, education, finances, church comity, etc. The reports of all committees were adopted unanimously and without opposition. The unity of spirit which prevailed throughout the convention was commented upon repeatedly. The statement was made by some that such unity of spirit was thought to have been impossible a few years ago, and this effort at fellowship and understanding is meeting with success far beyond our expectations, which proves that it is certainly of God.

One could not tell from the discussions on the floor or from the ministry of the Word in the afternoon and night services there were any distinctions of doctrine or practice. The messages were heart-searching and the congregational response was spontaneous and unrestrained. Some three hundred or more ministers and Christian workers came forward at the conclusion of one service to reconsecrate themselves to the Lord, and on the last night of the convention a number of sinners came forward for salvation and a large prayer line for healing was formed, the brethren from all the cooperating groups joining in prayer for deliverances.

The communion service on the afternoon of the closing day of the convention was most precious. Wesley R. Steelberg, General Superintendent-elect of the Assemblies of God, brought the message from the Word and some eight hundred or more partook of the Lord's supper.

The Beginning of the Movement

The European Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, two years ago was responsible for the first effort to bring the Pentecostal leadership in North America together. Representatives of several Pentecostal organizations in Canada and the United States were challenged by the European delegates that if they desired to see European cooperation and fellowship, they ought to do something about fellowship in America. The hint was sufficient to bring together a number of the leading Pentecostal brethren who were in attendance at the N.A.E. convention in Chicago in May of 1948 in an exploratory meeting to ascertain what might be done toward the promotion of a Pentecostal Fellowship for North America. The first meeting resulted in the calling of a second gathering, with a larger representation, which met in Chicago in the month of August. At this meeting it was decided to issue a call for a constitutional convention to be held in the City of Des Moines, Iowa, in the month of October. That gathering was so successful and so blessed of God, it was decided to hold a second convention in Oklahoma City.

The first meeting of the Board of Administration of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America was held in Chicago just preceding the annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals on April 18 and 19. At this meeting, applications for membership were received and acted upon. At the present time, a total of ten groups have been accepted into membership, including the major Pentecostal organizations of Canada and the United States.

The Purposes of the Movement

There was no thought on the part of any who participated in these meetings that a super-church should be organized for the Pentecostal Movement. The necessity of recognizing differences of church government, custom, practice and doctrine was evident to all. But it was recognized also that, in view of the common experience of the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, there is a basic unity of spirit, and there should be greater fellowship and cooperation in the ranks of Pentecostal people. That fellowship must of necessity start at the top, and when it is manifest that the leaders of the larger Pentecostal bodies can come together for spiritual fellowship and understanding, the spirit of fellowship should filter down through the ranks until it touches localities where the members of the different organizations are laboring in more or less close proximity.

Experience has taught already that in the local communities where the Pentecostal people can and will unite in a common bond for a common purpose, they have an influence for the cause of Christ all out of proportion to what any individual church can do by itself. It is suggested, therefore, that the possibilities for local cooperation and fellowship be explored and developed. Under no circumstances does the P.F.N.A. advocate the breaking down or the disintegration of any organization, group or affiliation, but it does recommend that wherever possible local groups of the member bodies seek to arrive at a better understanding and respect for each other and that they labor for the promotion of the Kingdom of God on a basis of true Christian fellowship and understanding.