

CONFERENCE OF PENTECOSTAL LEADERS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 3, 4, 1948.

The second exploratory conference of Pentecostal leaders for Christian fellowship among the various Pentecostal groups, convened at the Congress Hotel in Chicago at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 3rd, with Rev. John C. Jernigan, General Overseer of the Church of God still serving as temporary chairman, and J. Roswell Flower, General Secretary of the Assemblies of God, temporary secretary.

Rev. Jernigan opened the meeting with a word of welcome and made the report that an effort had been made to find a hotel with lower rate accommodations, but they had been unable to find just what was needed. Some hotels with lower room rates had wanted to charge \$15.00 per day for use of a conference room. The Congress Hotel had quoted us a rate of \$7.50 per day for rooms containing twin beds, and the conference room was furnished without charge.

A chorus was sung and prayer offered by Rev. Ernest S. Williams. A letter was then read by E. J. Fulton of the Open Bible Standard Churches, which he had received from Rev. R. S. Dunbar. Special prayer was then offered in behalf of Brother Dunbar's recovery from a serious illness and operation.

It was moved by Dr. Wortman of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, that the same officers who served during the last conference continue to serve for this meeting. The motion was seconded and put before the conference by E. S. Williams and the decision was reached unanimously that the same officers continue to serve until there be a permanent organization.

J. Roswell Flower then referred to the minutes of the last meeting, and copies of the minutes were passed out to those present who had not received them previously. He also reviewed briefly the steps that had been taken to bring about a closer bond of fellowship between the various Pentecostal groups.

The chair then stated the purpose of this meeting was to plan for a Constitutional Convention.

Ernest S. Williams was recognized by the chair, and he called attention to a few of the reasons for a Pentecostal fellowship which had been considered, including the education of missionary children on the field; a Missions school to be operated on a cooperative basis; a united front on the mission fields for the training of native workers; fellowship among ourselves in our own country; comity among Pentecostal organizations; ministers to be discouraged from constantly changing from one organization to another; relief in Europe, etc. He reminded the conference that whenever a vote is to be cast in this meeting, each organization will be limited to one vote, although more than one representative of the organization may be present.

A list of those present was then read by the Secretary, as follows:

John C. Jernigan, Church of God, Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tenn.

J. Stewart Brinsfield, Church of God, Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tenn.

H. L. Chesser, Church of God, Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tenn.

Ernest S. Williams, Assemblies of God, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield, Mo.

J. Roswell Flower, Assemblies of God, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield, Mo.

Noel Perkin, Assemblies of God, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield, Mo.  
C. B. Smith, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, 50 Euston Ave., Toronto, Ont.  
Dr. C. M. Wortman, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, 50 Euston Ave., Toronto,  
Howard P. Courtney, and Mrs. Courtney, International Church of the Foursquare  
Gospel, 1424 Fifth Street, Glendale, Calif.  
Dr. and Mrs. Herman D. Mitzner, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel,  
519 - 68th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Richard O. Dalrymple, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 2011  
W. 63rd Street, Chicago, Ill.  
Howard A. Goss, United Pentecostal Church, Inc., 3449 S. Grand Ave., St. Louis,  
Mo.  
Harry H. Hodge, United Gospel Tabernacle, Box 2829, Beaumont, Tex.  
Jack Arnold, Holy Gospel Church, P. O. Box 146, Palmdale, Calif.  
Edward B. Hill, Zion Evangelistic Fellowship Churches, 846 Broadway, East  
Providence, Rhode Island  
Ivan Q. Spencer, Elim Missionary Assemblies, Hornell, N. Y.  
I. Carlton Spencer, Elim Missionary Assemblies, Hornell, N. Y.  
Arthur H. Stanton, Elim Missionary Assemblies, Hornell, N. Y.  
E. J. Fulton, Open Bible Standard Churches, 851 - 19th Street, Des Moines, Iowa  
Charles M. Leaming, Open Bible Standard Churches, Box 22, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
William Dirks, Church of the Bible, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
H. T. Owens, Pentecostal Church of God of America, 1100 Prospect St., Kansas  
City, Missouri  
L. M. Rowland, Pentecostal Church of God of America, 817 Lydia St., Kansas  
City, Missouri  
M. A. MacLean, International Pentecostal Assemblies, 341 Home Ave., Oak Park,  
Illinois  
Jack F. Gwillim, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Box 374,  
Kenosha, Wisconsin, attended the conference during the last few hours.

Brother Fulton expressed his pleasure in meeting with this group of Pentecostal leaders, for it is a manifestation of God's moving for the last days. He was followed by Brothers Hodge, MacLean and Jernigan, all of whom spoke of the need of spiritual fellowship among all those of like precious faith. Brother Jernigan said he has talked with a number and without exception he received a hearty response to the proposal there be an association of Pentecostal believers for spiritual fellowship.

Brother Perkin stated that in this association there is a fellowship now. There is one body and one spirit. The body does not have to be formed. We must recognize it. We could call it the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America. We should restrict it to North America for the time being and should make provision for the fostering of the fellowship. We are one for we have a fellowship and the fellowship is in the Spirit. Our objective is to foster that spirit, for it will be a wonderful testimony to the world.

Then we want to see that this fellowship can be projected in a number of ways for the benefit of all. We must find how we can help one another. Instead of seeking first the kingdom of God, we have been seeking our own kingdom. We should try to get our brethren to see some of these things, try to educate them to see that it is not our own kingdom but God's kingdom.

There should not be an overlapping of effort. Then there is another important matter. We should arrange, if we can, an exchange of information for the recognition of discipline of members. If a person is disciplined by one group, it should be made known and respected. There is a place for church discipline. Then there may be a time that a person should be restored. If we can state that we have a million Pentecostal believers in one fellowship, it will mean something to the world.

#### A Committee to Draw up Articles of Fellowship

It was moved by Ernest S. Williams and the motion prevailed that a Committee be appointed to draw up articles of fellowship to be presented to the conference on Wednesday morning. Those appointed to serve on this committee were J. Roswell Flower, E. J. Fulton, Herman D. Mitzner and H. L. Chesser.

#### A Committee for Foreign Missions and European Relief

It was moved and the motion prevailed that a second committee be appointed for the purpose of bringing before the conference something in behalf of foreign missions and European Relief. Those appointed to serve on this committee were Dr. C. M. Wortman, Howard P. Courtney, Noel Perkin, J. Stewart Brinsfield and I. Carlton Spencer.

Brother Charles Leaming took the floor to emphasize united evangelism. Referring to the Youth for Christ Movement, he said he feels we have something in our movement that is being hid under a bushel. He referred to the Mass Youth Rally in Los Angeles and said if they can have such rallies there, we can have them any other place in our country. There should be a special emphasis placed upon united evangelism. He also emphasized the need of a national meeting with special emphasis upon prayer. We need a refilling of the Holy Ghost. It will work when we are all together, as well as in our individual meetings.

Brother Hodge said he is getting stirred up about this thing. Ministers who do not have the baptism get bigger crowds and are getting more persons saved. If we can get a community Pentecostal minded through united effort, we will all get the benefit of it.

Brother Courtney suggested that the name of the fellowship is important. He suggested that we use the term Full Gospel. Brother Hodge said that we should be sure that if we use the term Pentecostal that we know what we are doing, for all that goes by the name Pentecostal cannot be approved. There are some who go by this name who are anti-trinitarians. He presumed that all here in this conference are trinitarians.

The Conference adjourned for the night with instructions to the committees to bring in reports for the morning meeting on Wednesday, August 4. Deliberations were resumed at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday morning.



### Reports of Committees

After prayer offered by Brother Ivan Q. Spencer and the singing of a chorus, the report of the Committee appointed for the drawing up articles of association was read as follows:

The Committee recommends that the following be incorporated in a Constitution and Bylaws for the new association of Pentecostal Fellowship.

1. That the name be "The Pentecostal Fellowship of North America", with the explanation that this Fellowship is "an association of Pentecostal Evangelical bodies united for the promotion of spiritual fellowship and coordination of missionary and evangelistic effort throughout the world."

2. That the Statement of Faith follow the general pattern of the Statement of Faith of the National Association of Evangelicals, with the addition of one paragraph touching on the distinctive Pentecostal position.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.

2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning sacrifice through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

5. We believe that the Full Gospel includes healing for the body and an endowment of power for service according to the pattern of Acts 2:4; 19:6.

6. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.

7. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

8. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Our Objectives

1. To provide a vehicle of expression and for coordination of effort in matters common to all member bodies.

2. To demonstrate to the world the essential unity of Spirit-baptized believers, fulfilling the prayer of the Lord Jesus "that they all may be one", (Jno. 17:21).

3. To provide services to our constituents which will enable them to accomplish more quickly and efficiently their responsibility for the speedy evangelization of the world.

4. To encourage the principles of comity for the nurture of the Body of Christ, keeping the unity of the Spirit until we all come to the unity of the faith.

#### Membership

Membership shall be eligible to those Pentecostal Evangelical bodies which shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Association and which agree to be governed by the purposes and objectives of the fellowship as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws. Applicants for membership shall be approved by a majority vote of the governing body of the Association, which shall consist of chosen delegates from the constituent bodies.

Paragraph 5 of the Statement of Faith was referred back to the Committee for rewording, after which the conference adjourned for lunch, to meet again at 2:00 p.m.

In the early part of the morning session, a group of Italian brethren was introduced to the members of the conference. Brother Umberto Nello Gorietti, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Italy was introduced, who brought greetings from the Pentecostal churches in Italy and gave a report of the growth of the work in that country and the revival spirit which has caused the movement to grow so that the constituency now exceeds 100,000 members.

#### The Afternoon and Final Session

Brother Mitzner had resigned in favor of Brother Courtney, who met with the committee during the noon hour. When the conference was convened at 2:15, a further report was presented covering the form of organization as follows:

1. The Executive Officers of the Association shall consist of chairman, two vice-chairmen, secretary and treasurer, which officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. They shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Administration.
2. The Board of Administration shall consist of not more than twenty members exclusive of the members of the Executive Committee.
3. A nominating committee of not less than three and not more than five members shall be appointed by the governing body which shall be empowered to nominate candidates for all offices.

#### Terms of Office

All officers shall be elected annually with a maximum tenure of three consecutive years for any one office.

### Voting Constituency

The Voting Constituency shall be determined as follows: All constituent bodies (individual churches, groups; denominations, institutions) shall be entitled to one delegate for each 5,000 members up to 25,000 membership, and one additional delegate for each additional 25,000 members, or fraction thereof.

### Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting of the Fellowship for the election of officers and the transaction of such business as is necessary, the time and place of such meeting to be determined by the Board of Administration.

### Amendment by Substitution for Paragraph 5 of the Statement of Faith

There was some expression that Article 5 of the Statement of Faith should be strengthened and various suggestions were offered. It was the consensus of those present that the following paragraph would be a stronger expression of the Pentecostal position than that offered by the Committee, and this substitution was approved and will be offered to the delegates at the time of the adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws:

5. We believe that the Full Gospel includes healing for the body and the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

The report of the Committee was then adopted as amended.

### Report of Missions Committee

The report of the Missions Committee was adopted unanimously without amendment as follows:

We recommend that the following principles be adopted for cooperation by the associating Pentecostal bodies:

1. That we observe the commonly accepted principles of comity.
2. That we encourage cooperative efforts in
  - (a) Schools and homes for missionaries' children on foreign fields.
  - (b) Missionary receiving homes in foreign port cities and in the home land.
  - (c) Use of facilities of mutual benefit, such as radio, aviation transport, gospel recordings, etc.
  - (d) Printing, literature and translation work.
  - (e) Providing relief through recognized channels.
  - (f) Manning mission stations in absence of fellow missionaries.
  - (g) Providing homes for aged missionaries and ministers.



3. That a standing committee on foreign missions be established with representation from all cooperating bodies.

Brother Ivan Q. Spencer emphasized the need of coming together for no other reason than to pray and to seek the Lord together; to let the Lord melt us that we may flow together in the Spirit. There is a need of getting something fresh from God. We should come together and stay together until we feel God has had His way in our hearts.

#### A Constitutional Committee Appointed

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that a committee be appointed here to draft a constitution and bylaws to have their work ready for presentation to the next meeting, which will be a Constitutional Convention. It was also moved that the minutes of this meeting be prepared and presented to the different groups for approval as early as convenient.

The chair appointed the following named persons to serve on the committee for the writing of a Constitution and Bylaws: J. Roswell Flower, E. J. Fulton, Howard P. Courtney and H. L. Chesser.

It was agreed by all that the next meeting for the purpose of adopting a constitution be held in Des Moines, Iowa, October 26, 27, 28, 1948, beginning with a prayer meeting the evening of October 26. Brother Fulton offered the use of the Church of the Open Bible Standard for this meeting, and it was decided that a Mass Meeting be held on the night of October 27. A local committee of entertainment will be formed in Des Moines, and Brother Fulton was given the responsibility of making the necessary arrangements. Delegates should communicate with Rev. E. J. Fulton, 851 - 19th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, for reservations in hotels or entertainment in private homes.

It was agreed that the Committee appointed to prepare a Constitution and Bylaws meet in Des Moines on Monday and Tuesday, October 25 and 26 for the completion of their work for presentation to the Constitutional Convention.

The conference closed at approximately 5:00 p.m. with a few words of prayer for God's blessing.

Attention is called to the fact that there are still no members of the proposed Pentecostal Fellowship of North America. The work which has been accomplished so far is purely exploratory, and those taking part in the conferences have no official standing whatever. After the adoption of a Constitution in a constitutional convention, and the Board of Administration has been chosen, all Pentecostal groups desiring membership will be required to make application for membership on the basis of the Constitution, and the Board of Administration will be entrusted with the responsibility of acting upon all applications.

Pentecostal churches, institutions, groups and denominations which are interested are urged to send delegates to the convention on the basis of representation proposed for the Constitution. In view of the nature of the Convention, there should also be a large attendance from interested Pentecostal people on a non-voting basis.

J. Roswell Flower, Acting Secretary.