

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: This volume, identified as Volume #7 in the Minnesota Historical Society's collections, is identified on its second flyleaf in English as "Minutes of the Minnesota District Conferences 1873-82 and the St Paul District Conference[s] 1883-89: Constitution of [the] Mutual Insurance Co. on page 222".

In Swedish on this page is also written "Preachers Association's Statutes see Register E".

On Page C-D is written in Swedish "1st District Stewards Meeting Minutes Page 8" and "2nd District Stewards Meeting Minutes Page 35."

On the other side of this page, the following commences, namely "Register E".

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: Entered on the upper left hand corner of the first/register page of "E" is the following: "Revised and adopted at the Annual Meeting in Stillwater, Minn. the 5th of May 1886. O. A. Stead, Sec."

**Statutes
for
Preacher Association
St Paul District**

1. This association's name is "Swedish Methodist Preachers" Association in the St Paul District.
2. The Association's purpose is, that at the Annual Meeting, address questions of general interest for the district's preachers and congregations.
3. Membership in this Association is all Care-possessing preachers within the St Paul District. Also Local Preachers, Foremen and Class Leaders could be elected to the advising with permission through a two third's vote plurality.
4. The Association's officers are a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and a management/executive committee consisting of the Presiding Elder, the preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater and Red Wing.
 - a) The Association's officers are to be elected yearly at the Association's meeting.
 - b) The District's Presiding Elder is the ex officio Chairman.
 - c) The Secretary shall keep minutes over the Association's discussions, issue the call to the Association's meetings and manage the Association's correspondence.
 - d) The Treasurer shall have care/charge of the Association's monies and present to the Association's annual Meeting a report in particulars.
 - e) The Managing/Executive Committee shall prepare a particular/specific program for the Annual Meeting's business.
- 5 The Association [shall] meet for its Annual Meeting on [the last] Wednesday in April or the beginning of the month of May and the meeting should always stand over Sunday.
- 6 Each/every member shall punctually be present at the Annual Meeting, as far as no reasonable impediment comes about.

- 7 The members travel expenses and the Association's continuing expenses should be equally divided upon each member, as far as it is not otherwise decided at the Annual Meeting.
- 8 Particular parliamentary order shall be observed during the discussions at the Association's Annual Meeting.
- 9 Every member shall faithfully and carefully completely prepare himself for the business, which the Executive Committee imposes upon him.
- 10 Whenever a question is up for discussion at the Annual Meeting, the meeting should, as far as possible to arrange, that the same, through the passing of a resolution, leads to a unanimous result.
- 11 These Regulations could, through a two thirds voting plurality, be changed and amended in conformance with the Association's purposes and nature.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT:

On Register Page L-M is written the following:

Reports from:

Missions Com[mittee] – For the Conference held in Red Wing [Page] 71.

Local Preach[ers] – Field of work [Page] 72.

Camp Meeting Com[mittee] report [Page] 73.

On Register Page P-Q is written:

Minutes of the of the First District Conference of the Swedish District [of] Minnesota Conference – Page 1.

Minutes of the District Stewards meeting – [Page] 18.

Minutes over the 2nd District Conference, the year 1872 & 3 – [Page] 19.

“ “ “ 3rd “ “ “ “ 1873 & 4 – [Page] 23.

[Minutes over the] District Stewards meeting “ “ – [Page] 35.

“ “ “ 4th & ½ Annual Meetings of the D[istrict] C[onference] – [Page] 39.

“ “ “ 5th & ½ Annual D[istrict] C[onference] meetings 1874 & 5 – [Page] 60.

“ “ “ Dist[ri]ct Stewards meeting – [Page] 69.

“ “ “ 6th [&] ½ years“ meetings of the D[istrict] C[onference] – [Page] 77.

On Register Page R-S is written:

Reports:

- 1) A report from the Committee of Rules of Order during the 1st Dist[ri]ct Conference – Page 15.
- 2) Report by the Sunday School Committee – Page 16.
- 3) “ “ “ Committee for Writing Greetings to Br[other] in Ill[inois] – Page 17.
- 4) “ “ “ Committee for Camp Meetings for the Con[ference] year ‘73 & 4 – Page 36.
- 5) “ “ “ Committee for Dist[ri]ct Collections – Page 36.
- 6) “ “ “ “ “ L[ocal] P[reachers] Work Areas – Page 37.
- 7) “ “ “ the Subject Committee for Essays – Page 37.

Reports at the S[wedish] D[istrict] C[onference] 2nd ½ Annual meeting for the Con[ference] year ‘73 & 74

- 1 Statistical Report – [Page] 53.
- 2 Missions Com[mittee] Report – [Page] 54.
- 3 Report from the Standing Com[mittee] on S[unday] S[chool] Newspaper & Songbooks – [Page] 55.
- 4 Report from the S[unday] S[chool] Committee – [Page] 55.
- 5 “ “ “ Committee for Churches & P. B.¹ – [Page] 56.
- 6 “ “ “ “ “ the Relationship with C. F. Lundquist – [Page] 57.
- 7 “ concerning Greetings & Offers to Ill[inois] – [Page] 58.

5th ½ Annual Meeting of the D[istrict] C[onference] held in Red Wing 25 Nov. ‘74.
Statistical Report – [Page] 70.

Report from the Committee for the Missions“ Future Relationships – [Page] 71.
“ “ “ “ “ Temperance & the Sabbaths Holidays – [Page] 73.

6th ½ Years Meeting held in Vasa² the 15-17 June „75
Statistical Report – Page 82.

The First District Conference of the Swedish District in Minnesota Annual Conference opened, according to the notice, in the S[wedish] M. E. Church in St Paul at 9 A. M the 10th of April 1873

The Conference opened with the singing of Psalm 120 and prayer by Pastor A. P. Björk – then the P[residing] E[lder] read the 2ns Chapter, Verse 2 of the Epistles to Timothy and followed with a sermon.

Upon motion, C. G. Nelson was elected as standing secretary.

Brothers present: Pastor Oluf Gunderson, P. E., Pastor C. E. Nelson [of] St Paul, Pastor P. . Johnson [of] Duluth, Pastor A. P. Björk [of] Grantsburg,[Wisc.}, Pastor B. Börjeson [of] Red Wing, Pastor John Smith [of] Chisago Lake, and Brother A. Nerrick, District Steward St Paul.

The times for the sessions openings and closings were established to open the morning sessions at 9 A. M. and to closed at 12 noon. The afternoon sessions at 2 P. M to be closed at 5 P. M..

O. Gunderson and C. G. Nelson were elected to the Committee on Religious Meetings.

First Question: Who are the traveling preachers? Answer:

O. Gunderson, P. E.	Aug. Olson
A. P. Björk	L. Dahlgren
P. M. Johnson	L. Lindquist
B. Börjeson	C. G. Forsberg

¹ The meaning of this abbreviation is presently unknown to the translator.

² A Swedish emigrant community in Goodhue County.

John Smith
C. G. Nelson

Q[uestion] 2. Who are the Local Preachers?

J. Sandell
G. Anderson
and P. O. Olson

Q[uestion] 3. Who are the Foremen? Answer: A. P. Backman [and] E. P. Wicklund.

Q[uestion] 4. Who are the District Stewards? Answer:

A. Wirrick, St Paul and Minneapolis
Christian Johnson, Red Wing and Vasa
Magnus Nelson, Grantsburg
Erick Falk, Marine
N. Johnson, Chisago Lake
M. Eklund, Kandiyohi
S. M. Johnson, Duluth
Chas. Holmström, Stillwater and Afton

Q[uestion] 5. Who are the Sunday School Superintendents? Answer:

S. P. Rosenqvist, St Paul
Adolph Gudmundson, Grantsburg
S. M. Johnson, Duluth
Chas. Anderson, Vasa

The Presiding Elder was elected to the Committee to Appoint the Necessary Committees.

To the Committee for General Business as described in Paragraphs 118, 119 and 125.

Appointed: C. G. Nelson, A. P. Björk and B. Börjeson.

To the Committee over matter embraced in Paragraph 120, were appointed A. Wirrick [and] C. G. Forsberg.

To the Examinations Committee were appointed C. G. Nelson, A. P. Björk [and] C. F. Lindqvist.

To the Sunday School Committee were appointed P. M. Johnson, L. Dahlgren [and] August Olson.

To the Committee in agreement with Paragraph 124 were appointed J. Smith, L. Lindqvist and O. Gunderson.

The Conference adjourned until 2 P. M.

C. G. Nelson

The Second Session opened at 2 P. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Pastor B. Börjeson.

- 1) The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.
- 2) The reports were taken up

A report from the Committee over Paragraphs 118, 119 and 125 was taken up in part and accepted.
(See Report No. 1

- 3) The roll was called

Pastor A. P. Björk presented the following Resolution

- 4) Was decided that all resolutions presented for the Conference should be in writing.
- 5) Reports from the Care-having Preachers were taken up.
C. G. Nelson reported in the St Paul & Minneapolis circles.
Pastor B. Börjeson reported on the Red Wing & Vasa circles.
Pastor Aug. Olson reported on the Stillwater & Mound Prairie circles.
Pastor O. Gunderson , P. E., reported [on the] District.
Pastor John Smith reported[on] Chisago Lake & Marine.
- 6) Pastor O. Gunderson presented a question. The Question? In what relationship should we as a Church stand regarding the Adventists?
- 7) Upon motion, Br. J. Smith was elected to open the discussion. Br. Smith took the standpoint that we ought to treat them just as John says “Greet then not on the way/path.”, do not give the least cause or wish the any progress, rather to warn our people about them. Brother A. P. Björk took the same standpoint.
- 8) Upon motion by Br. Aug. Olson, this questions was [forwarded] as a Special Topic for discussion at the next session.
- 9) Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned to the next day at 9 A. M.

The Third Session opened at 9 A. M. the 11th of April through song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Pastor L. Dahlgren.

- 2) The roll was called * +
- 3) The following preface and Resolution was presented by Pastor O. Gunderson:
Whereas we find that the Adventists for the present try to gain entry with our people,
and
Whereas is obviously clear that their faith is nothing other than embellished free thoughts, therefore:
It is decided that we take a positive standpoint against them through
 - a) Do not open our churches to them.
 - b) Do no go to hear them preach.
 - c) Admonish the people to not go and listen to them.
 - d) To try in all ways to eliminate their faith/teachings for the people in general.

- 2) * (The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.)
- 3) + (upon motion, the Special subject for the day was taken up.)
- 5) Brother John Smith opened the discussion now. He sis, “A preacher in our (Chisago Lake) settlement from this type, which asserts that children are born without sin, that they are not a participant in the general nature’s perdition – and therefore could not be judged. – But not either kept/protected holy.
- 6) Pastor A. P. Björk spoke against them.

- 7) Pastor O. Gunderson spoke. He had six reasons why he considered that the Christian churches ought to take a stand against the Adventists embraced in the Resolution: (a) The Sabbath question. They assert that the C Churches have for over 1800 years after Christ's ascension been in the dark on this point – and they (A) now have come with the correct light. (b) The soul's mortality. They assert mankind has no more of an eternal soul than an animal. (c) They deny the presence of an Eternal Punishment. (d) They deny the Salvation after death.- he cited the Bible, the Rich Man & Lazarus. (e) They deny Christ's Godliness. (f) They have several times stated the time for Christ's Second Coming.
- 8) Pastor P. M. Johnson spoke about the difference between man & animal, cited civil laws, which also make the difference. Example, if one slays an ox, one must of course pay someone, but if one slays a man, one must swing by the rope – and give a life for a life.
- 9) The Resolution was adopted.
- 10) The meeting adjourned until 2 P. M..

The Fourth Session opened at 2 P. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Pastor J. Smith.

- 1) The roll was called.
- 2) The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.
- 3) Pastor Gunderson proposed that this session be ended at 4 P. M. in order to give the district Stewards the opportunity to have their meeting.
- 4) Pastor A. P. Björk moved that Pastor O. Gunderson be encouraged to preach [a sermon] directed to the preachers during this meeting. The motion was adopted.
- 5) C. G. Nelson presented the following Preface and Resolution:

Whereas we in general are too little paying attention what books and newspapers, which come in and are used in our Sunday Schools, and

Whereas we believe that this to a degree/in part is the reason why such a great percentage of our children grow up without the Church's communion, therefore

It is decided that we, as preachers, ought to oversee that our Church's books (especially/in particular the Catechism) and newspapers be used.
- 6) A question in regard to our relationship as a Conference towards the Brothers in Illinois. Discussed.
- 7) The meeting was adjourned.

The Fifth Session opened at 9 A. M. the 12th of April 1873, with song, prayer and a reading from the Bible by Pastor P. M. Johnson.

- 1) The roll was called.
- 2) The minutes of the previous session were read and adopted.
- 3) The question concerning our relationship with our Brothers in Illinois was taken up.
- 4) Was decided that we choose/elect a delegate to the Central Illinois District Conference and that the necessary expenses be divided among the preaching Brothers of our District Conference and that the noted amount be drawn from the Fourth Quarter.
- 5) Pastor O. Gunderson was elected/chosen as the noted delegate.

- 6) Was decided that a committee of three be chosen in order to draw up a letter of greeting to be sent the Illinois Brothers through our Delegate.
- 7) P. M. Johnson, L. Dahlgren and C. G. Nelson were chosen thereto.
- 8) Was decided that we send a delegate to the Norwegian District Conference of Wisconsin, which meets in Chicago at the same time.
- 9) Pastor O. Gunderson was chosen [to so be.]
- 10) Reports from the Traveling Preachers were taken up.
The Grantsburg³ Circle was reported on by Pastor A. P. Björk. They intend to build a church this year. [They] have a lot, which cost \$50.00.
- 11) C. G. Nelson presented the following Resolution, which was taken up:
Was decided that we as preaching Brothers most privately sympathize with Bother Björk and we recognized his efforts among us, and ask that God may support him and crown his olden days with a wonderful and peaceful time.
- 12) Duluth and Brainerd were reported upon by Pastor P. M. Johnson. They have a church and a parsonage and two lots altogether worth not less that \$4000.00 on which there is a debt of \$400.00 – One hundred to a bank and three hundred to Church Extension. [They] have approximately forty members , which is very nice and liberal.
- 13) Kandiyohi was reported on by Pastor L. Dahlgren. The intended to build a church (illegible⁰ if possible and also a parsonage.
- 14) Was decided that the Camp Meetings decisions be made a special topic/subject for the Monday 9 A. M. meeting.
- 15) Was decided that the Conference adjourn until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

The Sixth Session opened at 9 A. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Pastor Aug. Olson. . C. G. Nelson became the giver.

- 1) Ten minutes deliberation⁴
- 2) The roll was called.
- 3) The minutes of the previous session was read and adopted.
- 4) The question of Camp Meetings was taken up.
- 5) Petitions from the Circles were presented, namely 1. Marine, 2. Red Wing, 3. Kandiyohi.
- 6) Was decided that we hold three Camp Meetings during the summer.
- 7) Was decided that they be held at the following places & times: The first near Red Wing to begin the 5th of June. The second by Marine to begin the 19th of June. The third [at] Kandiyohi to begin the 1st of July 1873.
- 8) Was decided that all preaching Brothers understand that they are welcome and that they are expected to visit the meetings.
- 9) Was decided that the Presiding Elder and the Care-having Preachers be the leading men.
- 10) Reports from the Local Preachers were taken up in regard to (a) gifts, (b) efforts (c) purposes.
- 11) C. F. Lindquist, represented by Pastor B. Börjeson. He was permitted to pass over [reporting] what “the gifts” regard.
 - 2 Efforts – difficult to say - nothing first – after the annual Conference, he preached some times , but now not at all.

³ A village in Burnett County, Wisconsin.

⁴ The scribe writes “delation”. There is no such Swedish word, perhaps “Swinglish”?

- 3 Purpose – Can not see any purpose from his efforts.
- 4 Appointment - Red Wing during the Care-having Preacher's absence.
- 12) J. Sandell represented by Pastor B. Börjeson.
 - 2 Gifts? Good.
 - 3 Efforts? Is always ready and does all he is able to.
 - 4 Purpose? Good influence bears fruit.
 - 5 Appointment? Vasa in the absence of the Care-having Preacher and as far as possible in Goodhue⁵ and Gamultland⁶.
- 13) G. Newman represented by the same.
 - 1 Gifts? Not sure of.
 - 2 Efforts? A little.
 - 3 Purpose? Ditto.
- 14) Was decided that we adjourn until 2 P. M. .

The Seventh Session was opened at 2 P. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Pastor B. Börjeson.

- 1) The roll was called.
- 2) The minutes from the previous session were read and adopted.
- 3) Local Preachers' names were continued.
 - 1 G. Newman. Appointment? To fill the appointment in the absence of the Care-having Preacher.
- 4) G. Anderson represented by Pastor A. P. Björk.
 - 1 Gifts? Good.
 - 2 Efforts? Average.
 - 3
 - 4 Appointment? Grantsburg in the absence of the Care-having Preacher and in Wood Lake as often as possible.
- 5) P. Olson represented by Pastor L. Dahlgren.
 - 1 Gifts? Somewhat good.
 - 2 Efforts? None.
 - 3 Purpose? Ditto.
 - 4 Appointments? Grove Lake⁷ and Atwater⁸
- 6) The questions about the Foremen were taken up.
 - A. P. Backman
 - 1 Gifts? Good.
 - 2 Efforts? Diligent.
 - 3 Purpose? Good.
 - 4 Appointment? Duluth & Rice Point⁹.

⁵ A town in Goodhue County, Minnesota

⁶ Believe it should have been spelled "Gammalland" or "Gammelland", which was a small locale in Vasa, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

⁷ A village in Pope County, Minnesota.

⁸ A city in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

⁹ A district of Duluth, Minnesota on Minnesota Point.

- 7) E. P. Wiklund.
 - 1 Gifts? Good.
 - 2 Efforts? Very influential.
 - 3 Grove Lake.
- 8) Reports from the committees? No reports.
- 9) Recommendation in agreement with Paragraph 121? No recommendations.
- 10) The deciding of the location for the next District Conference was taken up. St Paul, Grantsburg and Minneapolis were [proposed.
- 11) It was decided that the next District Conference be held in Minneapolis.
- 12) Was decided that we take up the matter for discussion.
- 13) Pastor A. P. Björk proposed the question, “Which standpoints ought we as Methodist preachers adopt in political questions? The proposal was adopted.
- 14) C. G. Nelson presented the following Resolution, which was adopted after debate:

Was decided that we Methodist Preachers, as citizens, take an active part in the political thought: first to seek with all power to prevent evil persons from public office and for the second try to get in good men to such employment.
- 15) Was decided that we purchase a book for[the recording] of the Conference’s business.
- 16) C. G. Nelson was selected as the committee for procuring said book.
- 17) The meeting was adjourned until 9 A. M..

The Eighth Session was opened at A.M. by Pastor A. P. Björk with song, a Bible reading and prayer.

- 1) The roll was called.
- 2) The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.
- 3) Brother P. M. Johnson moved to recall and consider Resolution No. 9, but it was not accepted.
- 4) Reports were taken up: The Sunday School Committee reported (See the Report). The report was accepted.
- 5) The following resolution was presented by C. G. Nelson and was adopted.

Was decided that we elect a Standing Committee in order to weigh [and] consider the measures and steps for [establishing] a Theological School and to report to the next District Conference.
- 6) The meeting was adjourned until 2 P. M..

The Ninth Session opened with song, a Bible reading and prayer by Pastor Aug. Olson.

- 1) The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.
- 2) Reports were taken up.

A report from the Committee for Correspondence’s greeting to the Brothers in Ill[inois] was taken up and referred back to the Committee.
- 3) A report from the Committee over Topics for Discussion was presented and accepted. (See the Report)
- 4) Point 1. Question? How/In what way do we understand our baptismal ritual with regard to the baptizing of children belonging to parents standing outside of all churchly connections? After discussion, the following resolution was presented by C. G. Nelson and it was adopted:

Was decided that we Methodist Preachers should from henceforth not under general condition baptize children belong to parents standing outside of churchly relationships.

- 5) Point 2. Question. How/In what way ought we to proceed at the Quarterly meetings? Answer: Moved and adopted that we (a) Always use the Elements, Bread and Water at Love's Meals. (b) That we do this as a general rule to open the church before the distribution of the Communion.
- 6) Was decided that the Conference express its thanks to the Brothers and Sisters in St Paul for their love and care they have shown us during our Conference. Was resolved and adopted.
- 7) Brother Aug. Olson asked permission to go home. Was decided that Br. Olson stay until we all go.
- 8) The meeting was adjourned to Minneapolis, at 2 P. M.

The Tenth Session opened in Minneapolis at 2 P. M. with prayer by Pastor P. M. Johnson.

- 1) Is there any other business?
- 2) The Committee on the Writing of the Greeting to the Brother in Ill[inois] reported. (See the report.)
- 3) Concerning Class Meetings, it was decided that they be left to the Care-having Preachers and the congregations at [their] locations to oversee the best manner, according to the Disciplines, to institute and conduct Class Meetings.
- 4) Are all of our members taken in accordance with the Disciplines? They are not. Therefore, it was decided that we all, from here on, to a man follow the Disciplines in this and other matters.
- 5) Was decided that the time remaining be used for talks on experiences. Brother Björk, Dahlgren, Börjeson and Olson spoke.
- 6) Pastor Gunderson answered with a suitable speech.
- 7) Was decided that we, through a standing vote, welcome among us Brothers A. Gunderson and L. Dahlgren.
- 8) The Doxology was sung and the meeting ended with the Blessing.

The Eleventh Session was adjourned.

- 1) The minutes of the two previous sessions were read and accepted with necessary corrections.

(O. Gunderson) Chairman
C. G. Nelson, Secretary

Report from the Committee for Rules and Procedures for the First District Conference:

- 1) Your committee asks to report the following arrangement of plans for the Conference's business:
 - a) All meetings should open with song, a reading of a part from the Holy Scriptures and prayer.
 - b) Call the roll.
 - c) To hear reports from the traveling Preachers in accordance with Paragraph 118 of the New Disciplines.

- d) To appoint committees.
- e) To call the names of the Local Preachers in accordance with the 119 paragraph of the New Disciplines.
- f) To hear reports from the committees.
- g) The recommendations in accordance with Paragraph 121 of the N[ew] D[isciplines].
- h) Other Disciplinary business.

C. G. Nelson }
 A. P. Björk } The Committee
 B. Börjeson }

Report from the Sunday School Committee

Your committee asks to report the following:

- 1) We consider it a matter of great weight for our Mission to win and keep an influence over the children and youths within our areas.
- 2) We believe that Sunday Schools, if properly managed, is for this purpose, the most fruitful bearing means we can use.
- 3) We consider ourselves to have managed, under a false impression with regard to language (having too much praised the English) and now get to harvest the fruit thereof.
- 4) Therefore we recommend the following:
 - a) That the Scandinavian language, as much as possible, be used. That the Superintendent opens the school with prayer and speaks to the school in the named language.
 - b) That our Church's Catechism in general be used.
 - c) That we Preacher supervise that the children under our care be instructed in the same, through special meetings considered for this purpose.
 - d) To as far as possible distribute our Church's Sunday School Newspaper.
 - e) To cooperate with the Brothers in Illinois for the bringing about of a Swedish S[und] S[chool] Newspaper.

Aug. Olson }
 L. Dahlgren } The Committee

Report from the Committee to Write a Greeting to the Brothers in Illinois

- 1) Your committee presents the following Letter to send to the Brothers in Illinois, which [we] recommend be adopted/accepted.
- 2) St Paul Minnesota, 9 April 1873

To the Swedish District Conference within the Central Illinois Conference,

 The Tri-union God's Blessing,

Brothers

The Swedish District Conference within the Minnesota Conference sends the [announced] delegate to our Brothers in Illinois [with] our heartiest greetings and sympathy/support in your work and labor for the Lord.

[With] the hope to cultivate a more intimate relationship to each other, [we] empower O. Gunderson to further orally express our innermost participation with you for the Methodist Episcopal Church's general well-being and progress/success among out people.

P. M. Johnson }
L. Dahlgren } The Committee
C. G. Nelson }

District Stewards Meeting 3:30 P. M. the 11th of April 1873 in the Scandinavian M. E. Church in St Paul, Minn.

The following were present representing the following places:

St Paul & Minneapolis	A. Wirrick
Vasa & Red Wing	B. Börjeson
Stillwater & Mound P[rairie]	Aug. Olson
Grantsburg	M. Nelson
Duluth & Brainerd	P. M. Johnson
Kandiyohi	L. Dahlgren
Chisago Lake & M[arine]	John Smith

1st Q[uestion] How much does the Presiding elder need for support for the year?
Brother Wirrick moved \$1000.00 dollars. The motion was adopted

2nd Q[uestion] How much can the congregations provide for the year?

Answer: St Paul & Minneapolis	\$60.00
Red Wing & Vasa	35.00
S[tillwater] & Mound Prairie	30.00
Chisago Lake & Marine	25.00
Grantsburg	27.00
Duluth	<u>20.00</u>
Kandiyohi	<u>43.00</u>
Total	\$230.00

3rd Q[uestion] How much could the congregations collect for next year? It was thought \$285.00.

4th Q[uestion] The Minutes were approved.

C. G. Nelson, Secretary

The Second District Conference for the Conference Year 1872-73 met in Minneapolis the 29th of September 1873

The meeting was called to order by Pastor O. Gunderson, Chair... A verse was sung by and Pastor C. G. Nelson opened with a prayer, where upon the Standing Secretary was called to be the meeting's Secretary.

- 1) The roll was called and the following Brothers answered to their names:

O. Gunderson	A. P. Björk
Aug. Olson	P. M. Johnson
B. Börjeson	L. Dahlgren
C. G. Forsberg	John Smith
J. Sundell	C. G. Nelson
- 2) A question concerning whether the absent Local Preachers' licenses can be renewed was taken up.
- 3) Upon motion by Brother Björk, [it] was decided that the Care-having Preacher represents his Local Preacher or Preachers and that if the Conference finds for good [that] their character(s) pass, [their] license(s) are renewed.
- 4) C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson [and] B. Börjeson were elected as the Examination Committee.
- 5) Reports from the Care-having Preachers were taken up. C. G. Nelson, C. P., reported [for] the St Paul and Minneapolis Circles. The congregations' conditions were [on average] good.
- 6) L. Dahlgren, C. P, report on Kandiyohi. A Church [building] in Kandiyohi ready costs \$1400.00. A like in Atwater costs ?the amount of? \$900.00.
- 7) A. P. Björk, C. P. reported on Grantsburg.
- 8) John Smith, C. P., reported on Chisago Lake & Marine.
- 9) Brother Forsberg asked to be excused from the Examination Committee and Brother A. P. Björk was elected in his place.
- 10) The meeting was adjourned until 10 A. M. o'clock the next day.

C. G. Nelson, Secretary

The Second Session of the District onference opened at 10 A. M. the 30th of Sept. 1873 with song & prayer by Br. J. Sundell.

- 1) Upon motion, the roll call was passed over.
- 2) The minutes of the previous session were read and adopted.
- 3) Reports from the Pastors were taken up.
- 4) Brother Aug. Olson, C. P., reported for Mound Prairie. Repairs made on the church [came] to a worth of \$200.00.
- 5) Was decided that Stillwater as appointment be left out of the onference minutes.¹⁰
- 6) Br. B. Börjeson, C. P., reported on the Red Wing, Vasa & Goodhue Circles.
- 7) Br. P. M. Johnson, C. P., reported on Duluth & Brainerd.
- 8) Reports were taken up.

¹⁰ This sentence has been literally translated as it was written. It makes no sense and "appointment" is an English word.

A report from the Committee on [the] Theological Scholl was presented. It was taken up, discussed and adopted. – And [it] was decided that a request be sent to the annual Conference for a Swedish Branch in the Theological School.

9) Recommendations were taken up.

A recommendation from Kandiyohi [to the] Qu[arterly] Conference for/by L. Dahlgren was presented.

The Examination Committee reported [the] examinations were good.

10) Br. L. Dahlgren was recommended to the Annual Conference for acceptance on probation and Lay Worker ordination.

11) A recommendation from Mound Prairie [to the] Qu[arterly] Conference for Br. Aug. Olson was presented. The Committee reported [that the] examination was good He was recommended to the Annual Conference for acceptance on probation and Lay Worker ordination.

12) Local Preachers' characters were taken up. Kandiyohi – P. Olson represented by Br. L. Dahlgren, C. P.. P. O. Olson's character passed & [his] license renewed.

13) Grantsburg – Br... G. Anderson represented by Br. A. P. Björk. Br. Anderson's character passed and his license renewed.

14) Br. John Smith's character passed.

15) Vasa, Red Wing & Goodhue Circles – J. Sundell, L. P., represented by Br. B. Börjeson. His character was approved.

16) G. Nyman, L. P., (represented by D[istrict] S[teward]) His character was approved but his license was not renewed.

17) C. F Lindqvist's character was approved.

18) Duluth & Brainerd Circles. – A. P. Bäckman, L. P., (represented by Br. P. M. Johnson, C. P.) His character was approved and his license renewed.

19) The minutes were read, corrected and adopted.

20) The meeting adjourned.

Minneapolis, Oct. 7th, 73

1) At an adjourned meeting of the District Conference held in Minneapolis

2) The following Brother answered to their names:

O. Gunderson, Chair.	C. G. Nelson
L. Lindqvist	L. Dahlgren
B. Börjeson	P. M. Johnson
Aug. Olson	

3) It was decided that the First District Conference be held the 4th of Nov. 1873 at Chisago Lake.

C. G. Nelson, Secretary

The Swedish District Conference's First (half year) Meeting for the Conference Year 1873 & 74 met in the Swedish M. E. Church at Chisago Lake the 5th of Nov. 1873 [at] 2 P. M.

The meeting was opened by O. Gunderson, P. E., with a reading of 3rd Chapter Paul, 1st Epistle to Timothy.

- 1 The roll was called and the following Brothers answered to their names:
 - O. Gunderson, P. E., Chair.
 - A. P. Björk
 - P. M. Johnson
 - B. Börjeson
 - L. Dahlgren
 - C. G. Nelson
 - E. P. Wicklund
 - John Smith
- 2 Upon motion, P. M. Johnson and A. P. Björk were elected to the Examinations Committee.
- 3 A committee was elected on Disciplinary Collections consisting of John Smith, L. Dahlgren [and] E. P. Wicklund.
- 4 A. P. Björk, B. Börjeson and C. G. Nelson were elected to the Committee for Camp Meetings for the year.
- 5 P. M. Johnson was elected to the Committee for Religious Meetings during the conference.
- 6 P. M. Johnson, C. G. Nelson and O. Gunderson were elected to the Committee to Show Local Preachers Their Respective Fields of Labor.
- 7 O. Gunderson, L. Lindqvist and C. G. Nelson were elected to a committee to draw up a constitution.
- 8 Was decided that all resolutions should be in writing and turned in to the Secretary.
- 9 The times for the Sessions openings and closings was decided – to open at 8 (illegible) and to close at 12 noon.
- 11 Sunday Scholl activities were taken up.
 - a) S. S. in St Paul reported by C. G. Nelson (1 school).
 - b) S. S. in Grantsburg reported by A. P. Björk (1 school).
 - c) S. S. in Kandiyohi reported by L. Dahlgren (1 school).
 - d) S. S. in Atwater reported by B. Börjeson (1 school).
 - e) Chisago Lake reported by J. Smith (no school).
- 12 Was decided to have a discussion over the best manner/way to conduct the Sunday School activities. E. P. Wicklund.¹¹ Where upon a lively discussion occurred in which several Brothers took part, after which the following Resolution was adopted.
- 13
 - 1) That Sunday Schools be held on Sundays as near (before or after) the morning's sermon/service as possible.
 - 2) That as far as possible Swedish books (especially our Church's) Catechism is used in our S[unday] S[chools].
 - 3) That a Standing Committee be elected clothed with full rights to manage for this Conference. To consult with the Brothers in Illinois in order that if possible procure a Swedish S. S. newspaper and Swedish songbook with notes.
- 14 O. Gunderson and C. G. Nelson were elected to the Standing S[unday] S[chool] Committee.
- 15 The meeting was closed with the Blessing.

C. G. Nelson, Sec.

¹¹ The name is written, but nothing is attributed to him.

The Second Session opened at 8 A. M. with song a Bible reading and a prayer by A. P. Björk. The roll was called and the minutes of the previous session were read and adopted.

- 1 Are there any complaints against any Local Preacher or Foreman? Answer: No.
- 2 The question concerning the L[ocal] P[reacher] & Foremen's gifts and energy was taken up where upon the onference went into a Committee of the Whole.
- 3 The Committee of the Whole reported and recommended to the Conference the following;
 - a) With regard to Brother C. F. Lindqvist, L. P., [it] was recommended that a committee consisting of O. Gunderson and Aug. Olson be appointed in order to investigate his circumstances and report to the next District Conference.
 - b) That the flowing Brothers gifts and energy be approved.
J. Sundell, L. P.
G. Anderson, L. P. E. P. Wicklund
P. O. Olson, L. P. A. P. Bäckman
John Smith, L. P.
- 4 The Reports and the Recommendations were adopted.
- 5 Was decided to adjourn until when the Chair. the time for [the next] session.

C. G. Nelson, Sec.

The Third Session of the Dist[ri]ct Conference opened at 7 P. M. the 6th of Nov. „73 through song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Br. L. Lindqvist. Br[others] L. Lindqvist and M. Nelson [were present] at this session.

- 1 Who has received Local Certificates? Answer: E. P. Wicklund and A. P. Bäckman.
- 2 There upon the following decision was embraced
 - 4) Was decided that it is expected the Dist[ri]ct Conf[erence] members find themselves at these meetings. And if this is impossible, they at least write and give notice of why they so do. – And that the C[are-giving] P[reachers] declare this necessary for all due form.
- 3 Was decided that the place for the next Dist. Conf. Holding be decided now. Grantsburg Marine, Minneapolis and Atwater were proposed. Minneapolis received the most votes and it was decided that the Dist. Conf. Be held there.
- 4 Br. Dahlgren moved and Br. Björk seconded that all the travel expenses be divided equally between all of the Conf. Members. Br. Björk moved an amendment though to say “All Preachers”. Br. L. Lindqvist moved and amendment through to say “That the Local Preachers organize themselves as a cub for themselves.” After discussion (a) lost (illegible), there next, the amendments lost, where after the original motion was adopted.
- 5 The meeting was closed with the Blessing.

C. G. Nelson, Sec.

The Fourth Session opened at 8 A. M. the 7th of Nov. „73 with a reading from the Bible and prayer by Br. B. Börjeson. The minutes of the two previous sessions were read, corrected and adopted.

- 1 Upon motion by Br. L. Dahlgren, the Resolution on Travel Expenses was recalled in order for the Conf[erence] members to again take it up for consideration. After which the whole matter was tabled.
- 2 Reports from the Pastors upon their congregations" conditions were taken up.
 - a) St Paul reported upon by C. G. Nelson, C. P.. Economically as before/previously. Spiritually [it] is lighter.
 - b) Minneapolis [reported on by] L. Lindqvist, C. P.. With regard to the economic, not ready to report. With the spiritual, [if] a door is open, we are ready to go in.
 - c) Kandiyohi was reported on by L. Dahlgren, C. P.. The economic condition ,all well. [Out] church [is] debt free. Deed (sic) to the Swedish M. E. church and all is right. The spiritual condition is good and expectations are good.
 - d) Atwater and Litchfield was reported on by B. Börjeson, C. P.. The economic conditions are promising, have clear deed (sic) on two lots. The spiritual condition, as far as is known, is good.
 - e) Grantsburg & Alabama reported on by A. P. Björk, C. P.. Have warranty deed (sic) on an acre of land, continue to build a church in Grantsburg costing around eleven hundred dollars. Have on it approximately four hundred dollars of debt. In Alabama we hope soon to have a church. The spiritual conditions are rather good. Especially in Alabama & Trade Lake we have the outlook for a large congregation. The people are poor but respectable and kind.
 - f) Chisago Lake, Marine & Mound Prairie¹² reported on by P. M. Johnson, The economic condition is not so well known. Have 3 churches, 1 parsonage. The spiritual conditions are, as far as is known, somewhat good.
 - g) Vasa & Goodhue. The pastor is sick and not present.
 - h) Red Wing & Hastings¹³. To be supplied. (sic)
 - i) Sauk Center¹⁴ & Round Prairie. Have a Foreman there.
 - j) Duluth. A small congregation. A Local Preacher. Have a church and a parsonage.
- 5 A report from the Committee on Disc[iplinary] Conditions was presented & on motion referred back to the Committee with instructions.
- 6 A Committee on Subjects for Essays for the next Dist. Conf. Was elected consisting of C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren and L. Lindqvist.
- 7 A premise & resolution with regard to "Sändebudet" was presented by C. G. Nelson and adopted.
 - a) Whereas "Sändebudet", a Swedish religious newspaper published in Chicago and edited by Pastor N. O. Westergren is know to be a strong/powerful means for Truth"s defense. And active for the spreading of
 - b) Written religion out in this country. And whereas it now of the proper
 - c) offers a [set of] portraits of John Wesley and all M. E. Church"s Bishops as a premium to each subscriber who sends \$2.00 cash in advance, therefore,
 - d) It is Resolved that we as Preacher will use all diligence in our [power to] spread "Sändebudet" among our people,.
 - e) And as often as possible send money payments with the subscriber"s name --- With regard to the same, P. M. Johnson the following was presented and adopted

¹² A village in Houston County, Minnesota.

¹³ A city in Dakota County, Minnesota.

¹⁴ A city in Sterns County, Minnesota. Also the birthplace of Sinclair Lewis.

- f) As "Sändebudet" is belonging to us and its columns open for Minnesota Brothers as well as for others. Therefore let us use our privileges by, as often as the occasion there to gives, to write about local relationships in the economic and religious regard , which can be of interest.
- 8 The following decision was presented by Pastor L. Lindqvist and was adopted.
That our Love's Meals and Communion Celebrations be held within closed doors where they can permit themselves to be done and only with such who have Love's Meals tickets.
 - 9 Upon motion the question was taken up on the choosing of an Agent to acquire means/monies for a Swedish Theological School.
 - 10 O. Gunderson was nominated and elected thereto.
 - 11 The meeting was closed with the Blessing.

B. G. Nelson, Sec.

The Fifth Session of the Dist. Conf. Opened with song and a prayer by Br. E. P. Wicklund

The minutes of the previous session were read and adopted.

- 1 Upon motion, it was decided to close the session at 9:30.
- 2 A report from the Camp Meeting Committee was presented. L. Lindqvist proposed a change through leaving out Grantsburg from the report. After a lively discussion during which O. Gunderson and B. Börjeson spoke for the change and C. G. Nelson , A. P. Björk and M. Nelson against it, the motion to change lost. Br. Björk moved to leave out Atwater. This change was discussed and lost. Here after, the report was adopted. (Seethe report.)
- 3 A report from the Committee for Disciplinary Col[lections]was adopted. (See the report.)
- 4 A report from the Committee over L[ocal] P[reachers] Work Area was presented and was adopted.

C. G. Nelson, Sec.

The Sixth Session the 8th of Nov. 1873[opened] with a prayer by Br. L. Dahlgren.

On motion, the reading of the minutes was postponed to the next session.

- 1 Br. Björk moved that all indicated/assigned subjects for Essays be written over/struck out and that no excuse for the omission thereof be recognized. The motion was adopted.
- 2 L. Lindqvist moved that an extra session be held at every Dist. Conf. Under/by the name of Reform Session with the purpose a desire for the improvement of the manner of preaching, the cultivation of nature's gifts and the using of the Swedish language among the preachers. The motion was adopted.
- 3 L. Lindqvist moved that Dist. Conference [for] Preaching for preachers be held after the First Session of each Dist. Conference. It was adopted.
- 4 A. P. Björk moved [that] L. Lindqvist preach [to] the Conference Preachers at the next Dist. Conference, (He was elected.)
- 5 Was decided that the Reform Session be the last [session] at every Dist. Conf..
- 6 A question, what Financial System have we within the congregations and how can it be improved was presented by C. G. Nelson.

- 7 Was decided to take up the question Preacher [Nelson] had read and they made their proposals.
- 8 C. G. Nelson's plans was adopted. It is:
 - 1) For general expenses that a collection is taken up during the singing of the second song/hymn before the sermon each Sunday A. M..
 - 2) For the Preacher's Salary:
That the Stewards have books wherein is written down all members' names. And that they at the year's beginning personally encourage each and every one of them to subscribe as much as they can for the whole year. And that the Stewards then turn in a fourth part thereof each quarter.
 - 3) For the P[residing] E[lder's] Support
That the Stewards follow the same plan.
- 9 A question regarding the burial of the dead was presented by Br. Björk.
- 10 Was decided to follow our ritual.
- 11 Upon motion, the Ritual's administration was taken under consideration.
- 12 L. Lindqvist moved that at the Communion's giving out [of the sacraments], the P. E. read the Words of Institution before and that the Preacher or Preachers repeat the latter half of the same during the distribution of the Elements to each and everyone. The motion was seconded during the discussion. The meeting was adjourned.

C. G. Nelson, Sec.

ADDITIONAL TRANSLATOR COMMENT: I should make a comment on my translating of the term "Wård-havande Predikat". I have, in the course of these translations, translated the term literally – "Care- having Preacher", "Care-giving Preacher" and "Caring Preacher". It could also be translated as "Responsible Preacher".

Upon considering these variants, I now shall use the term "Caring Preacher" as more properly reflecting the Methodist Pastor's sense and role in his congregation.

Charles John LaVine

The Seventh Session of the Dist. Conf. Opened at 7 o'clock the 8th of Nov. 1873 with song and a prayer by C. G. Nelson.

- 1 L. Lindqvist's motion with regard to the Ritual's administration at the Communion's distribution was taken up. After discussion, the motion lost.
- 2 Br. O. Gunderson moved to use all of the Institutional Words at the distribution of the Elements to each communicant. It lost.
- 3 Moved by Br. Björk, seconded by Br. P. M. Johnson that the P[residing] E[lder] read all of the Words of Institution before and that the first part of the same be used at/with the Elements' distribution. This was adopted.
- 4 Upon motion by Br. Björk, it was decided that we give our most sincere thanks to the congregation at Chisago Lake and its pastor for the sacrifices they have made for us and the good will shown during [this] meeting.

- 5 L. Lindqvist moved that in the Baptismal Ritual where the word “your servant and servantress”¹⁵ comes forth [that] in such case where someone is known to not be a Christian , only the words “this child’s parents” be used in place of it. It was adopted.
- 6 Upon motion by O. Gunderson, the following decision was adopted – [It] is decided that we herewith express our thanks to Brother C. G. Nelson for the satisfactory manner he has preformed as the Secretary.
- 7 Was decided that we send (illegible) Love’s Meal tickets and that the following be printed on the same, Love’s Meal Everything comes to us mutually - - Caring Preacher’s name.
- 8 L. Lindqvist, C. G. Nelson and O. Gunderson were elected to a committee to procure a thousand such tickets.
- 9 Was decided that the Caring Preachers and the P. E. be a committee to decide the times for the Camp Meeting’s opening and its publication in the “Sändebudet”.
- 10 Was decided that the day for the beginning of the Camp Meeting be Thursday.
- 11 Upon motion by Br. Lindqvist that we separate [but that] we communicate with each other [via] post card or letter as often as possible.
- 12 The minutes of the last three sessions were read and accepted.
- 13 Upon motion, the Conference expressed its thanks to Br. O. Gunderson for the scrupulous manner and careful way upon which he has presided over this Conference . The Chair. gave a speech of exhortation.
- 14 The Conference adjourned Sine Dei.

Chair.
C. G. Nelson, Sec.

District Stewards’ Meeting in the Parsonage at Chisago Lake the 7th of Nov. 1873

Persons present:

O. Gunderson, P. E.
 C. G. Nelson, St Paul
 L Lindqvist, Minneapolis
 L. Dahlgren, Kandiyohi
 B. Börjeson, Atwater & Litchfield
 P. M. Johnson, C[enter] C[ity]¹⁶, Marine & Mound Prairie
 M. Nelson, Grantsburg & Alabama
 John Smith, Chisago Lake
 By proxy Vasa Goodhue
 “ Red Wing & Hastings
 “ Duluth & Brainerd
 “ Sauk Center & Round Prairie

¹⁵ The words “tjenare” and “tjenarinne” are used. In Swedish the adding of “inne” to a male noun give the word a female context. English uses “ess” for the same purpose.

¹⁶ A city in Chisago County, Minnesota. Both Center City and Chisago Lake are adjoining each other.

Was decided that Salary, Travel Expenses & House rent be included for the P[residing] E[lder]. For the year[it] will be \$1063.00

Was decided that the share, which the congregations shall pay, shall be divided equally upon each member in the District. Being one dollar for each member, it will be as follows:

St Paul	\$50.00
Minneapolis	17.00
Grantsburg & Alabama	52.00
Vasa, Goodhue & Red Wing	64.00
C. L., C. C., M. & Mound Pr.	89.00
Kandiyohi	84.00
Atwater & Litchfield	45.00
Duluth	12.00
The congregations	\$413.00
The Mission	650.00
[Total]	\$1063.00

C. G. Nelson, Meeting's Sec.

Report from the Camp Meeting Committee for the Conf. Year 1873 & 4

Was decided that we have three Camp Meetings during the year.

One in Chisago Lake to begin the first week in June.

One in Grantsburg to begin in the third week in June

One in Atwater to begin in the first week of July.

A. P. Björk }
B. Börjeson } Camp Meeting Committee
C. G. Nelson }

Report from the Collection Committee

Your Committee asks to report:

That we preach Missions' sermons and take up collections [for] the Missions in the months of November or December.

That the Church Extension collection be taken up in February.

For Retired Preachers and Pastor to be taken up in May.

That a Collection shall be taken up during the latter part of the Conference year, which shall be divided to the other different collections

That the preachers see to it that their subscriptions and collections are taken up and to use all of their influence there with.

John Smith }

L. Dahlgren } The Committee
 E. P. Wicklund }

Report from the Committee over L[ocal] P[reachers] Areas of Labor.

Your committee asks to show/direct the respective L[ocal] P[reacher] their areas of labor as follows:

Kandiyohi & New London ¹⁷	E. P. Wicklund
“ & Grove Lake	P. O. Olson
Vasa & Goodhue	J. Sundell
Mound Prairie	C. G. Forsberg
Fred Wing & Hastings	C. F. Lindqvist
Chisago lake & Marine	J. Smith
Grantsburg & Trade Lake	G. Anderson

These appointments are given out with the understanding, that if other places need visiting by L[ocal] P[reachers], it is left to the C[aring] P[reachers] to decide.

O. Gunderson }	
P. M. Johnson }	The Committee
C. G. Nelson }	

Report from the Subject Committee for Essays

- 1 Cleansing through Christ's Blood - O. Gunderson
- 2 The Bible's and the Church's History's proof fro the baptism of children – L. Lindqvist
- 3 The Bare/Clear-cutting Sword & Life's Thread – P. M. Johnson
- 4 Reconciliation. How far should it be extended (a) To the converted? (b) To the unconverted? – B. Börjeson
- 5 When is a M. E. Preacher justified to transfer regular work. – A. P. Björk
- 6 Can ?mankind? here upon this earth come into possession of the original blissfulness our First ?Fathers/People? Possessed ?F. F.?¹⁸ – J. Smith
- 7 What does God's Word teach about a True Improvement – E. P. Wicklund
- 8 How can one know [that] one is God's child – P. O. Olson
- 9 Christ's Godliness – C. G. Forsberg
- 10 Reconciliation's Expanse – J. Sundell
- 11 Frugality without Stinginess – Aug. Olson
- 12 A New Creature in Christ – G. Anderson
- 13 The Use/Value of Fasting – L. Dahlgren

C. G. Nelson, Committee Chair

¹⁷ A city in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

¹⁸ I am guessing at and/or have no idea what the abbreviations mean.

Minnesota Swedish District Conference, Second (half year) Meeting for the Conf. Year 1873 & 4 met in Minneapolis the 20th of May, 1874

I Session

opened with the singing of Ps 120 and prayer by Pastor P. M. Johnson, where after the Chair. made an introductory speech and declared the Conference open.

The Standing Secretary took his place and the following Brothers answered to their names:

O. Gunderson, P. E.	
C. G. Nelson, Sec.	
P. M. Johnson	L. Lindqvist
Aug. Olson	L. Dahlgren
B. Börjeson	John Sundell
A. G. Wicklund	John Smith
Hans Dahl	

- 1 The Committee appointed to draw up the Rules reported. The Report was accepted. (See the report).
 - 2 Committees were appointed as follows:
 - a) S[unday] S[chool] Committee - L. Lindqvist [and] B. Börjeson
 - b) K. & P. B. Comm. – L. Dahlgren, J. Sundell [and] C. G. Nelson
 - c) Missions Comm. – O. Gunderson, L. Dahlgren [and] B. Börjeson
 - d) Statistics Comm. – C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren [and] Aug. Olson
 - e) Pub[lication] Comm. - ditto
 - f) Rel[igious] Meetings Comm. – L. Lindqvist [and] O. Gunderson
 - 3 L. Lindqvist was excused from preaching [at] the Conf. (illegible) at this Conference.
 - 4 The times for the Sessions“ opening was set at 8 A. M. and to close at 12 noon.
 - 5 An invitation was received from St Paul through O. Gunderson to the Dist. Conf. to come to St Paul for supper that evening. The invitation was accepted.
 - 6 Upon motion by the hair. O. Gunderson, it was decided that as long as free passes can be gotten from the L. S. & M. and the N. P. R[ailroads]¹⁹ (As a Conf. [that we] make a trip to Moorhead and that we leave St Paul on Friday morning.
- [The 3rd Question] was taken up:
- 7 What can be done for the Church“s charitable goals ? Was decided to leave this question to the Statistics Committee.
- [The 8th Question] was taken up:
- 8 Are there any complaints? Answer: No.
 - 9 Upon motion, the minutes of the last
 - 10 Was decided that the Swedish language be used during the Conference.
 - 11 The minutes were read and accepted , and the meeting adjourned with the Blessing by B. Börjeson.

¹⁹ Probably the Lake Superior & Minneapolis and the Northern Pacific Railroads.

II Session

Opened Thursday the 21st of May at 9 A. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by B. Börjeson.

- 1 A Resolution of a Greeting of Welcome to Br. A. J. Anderson, P. E. & Representative of the Swedish District of Illinois was presented by P. M. Johnson. It was adopted.
- The 4th Question was taken up. Local Preachers were reported.
 - a) J. Smith from Chisago Lake was reported upon by P. M. Johnson, C. P., and his character was approved.
 - b) John Sundell of Vasa was reported upon by Aug. Olson, C. P., & his character was approved.
 - c) A. P. Bäckman reported upon by C. G. Nelson & his gifts and energy were recognized.
 - d) E. P. Wicklund was reported upon by L. Dahlgren, C. P., [and his character], gifts and energy were approved.
 - e) P. O. Olson reported upon by L. Dahlgren, C. P., [and his character], gifts and energy were approved.
 - f) C. G. Forsberg was reported upon by P. M. Johnson and his character, gifts and energy were approved.
 - g) A. G. Wicklund, Rep[resentative] of Red Wing, reported to the Conference.
- 3 A resolution was presented by Br. P. M. Johnson and adopted.

R[esolution] Was decided, the Conference invites Br. C. G. Forsberg to enter in to the regular endeavor when the opportunity opens with regard to his circumstances.
- 4 Essays were read and taken up.
 - a) P. M. Johnson read his essay on the subject The Bare/Clear-cutting Sword & Life's Thread. It was criticized by L. Lindqvist, C. G. Forsberg, C. G. Nelson & O. Gunderson.. A discussion was opened by Br. L. Lindqvist and participated in by Brothers John Smith, Aug. Olson, C. G. Forsberg & A. J. Anderson, P. M. Johnson & C. G. Nelson. Upon motion, the essay was accepted.
 - b) L. Dahlgren read his essay on the subject "The Use/Value of Fasting". Upon motion, the essay was accepted.
- 5 Committee appointments were taken up.
 - a) P. M. Johnson, A. P. Björk & Aug. Olson were elected to the Committee to Show/Instruct L[ocal] P[reachers] their Respective Fields of Labor for the next half year.
 - b) C. G. Forsberg, John Sundell & Lindqvist were elected to the Committee on Subjects for Essays and Discussion for the next Dist. Conf..
- 6 Reports from the Pastors concerning Church Properties' Letters of Purchase Legality.
 - a) C. G. Nelson reported that St Paul has a so-called "Warranty Deed on its property, but there are conditions. [The legal] condition is that we always keep a church on the location.
 - b) O. Gunderson reported for ?Minneapolis?. [They] have a Warranty Deed (sic) [and] all is in order.
 - c) B. Börjeson reported [that] Atwater & Litchfield have contracts for 2 lots in Atwater & 3 in Litchfield.
 - d) Kandiyohi reported by L. Dahlgren [that they] have a contract on 10 acres of land (sic).
 - e) C[hisago] L[ake], M[arine] & M[ound] P[rairie] reported on by P. M. Johnson. Have Warranty Deed (sic). All is alright.
 - f) Grantsburg was passed over for the moment.

- g) Vasa reported on by Aug. Olson. Have a Deed on the Church lots but not on the P[astor"s] R[esidence"s] lots but this they will get.
 - h) Red Wing reported upon by A. G. Wicklund. Have a deed and all is alright.
 - i) Duluth. Has a deed. Alright.
- 7 (a) essays taken up. Br. C. G. Forsberg was called upon. Had no essay.
- 8 Upon motion by L. Lindqvist,[it] was decided that the L[ocal] P[reachers] who have not written upon their assigned subjects be instructed to communicate their ideas regarding them through speeches.
- a) Br. J. Sundell spoke upon his topic "Reconciliation"s Expanse", after which, concerning the subject & speech, a discussion was opened by I. Lindqvist & participated in by Brothers John Smith, P. M. Johnson, O. Gunderson, L. Lindqvist, Aug. Olson [and] A. J. Anderson. During the discussion, the Conference was adjourned.

III Session. Opened at 8 o'clock Friday the 22nd of [May] through song, a reading from the Bible & prayer by Br. A. P. Björk.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and accepted.
- 2 The discussion for "Reconciliation"s Expanse" was taken up.
 - a) Br. Lindqvist wished that we might come to a point and to a
 - b) Common decision . P. M. Johnson did not think that reconciliation and its extension could be separated in the discussion [there over] for in order to discuss this extension , one must establish a definition from self reconciliation.
 - c) Br. A. P. Björk spoke, After which he was called to the Chair and O. Gunderson took part in the discussion. Br. J. Smith asked if one considered that reconciliation extends itself to mankind only or also to God? The answer by O. Gunderson "also to God"s justice" – Brother Sundell"s idea, expressed in his talk, was accepted.
- 3 The previous decided time to hear from the Representative from Illinois was present and Pastor A. J. Anderson presented a written greeting from the Swedish Conference in Ill[inois] and gave a talk of great value to the Conference. Br, the Chair, answered the greeting.
- 4 Br. L. Lindqvist moved that a resolution be drawn up in answer to the Brother in Ill[inois]. Br. P. M. Johnson moved that a committee be appointed with the purpose to draw up the noted resolution- and to propose who shall be our representative to Illinois. The motion was adopted.
- 5 Brothers C. G. Forsberg, L. Dahlgren & B. Börjeson were elected there to.
- 6 Upon motion of C. G. Nelson, [it] was placed upon the same committee to draw up a written greeting to send with the representative
- 7 The S. S. Committee reported.
 - a) Upon motion by A. P. Björk, the second paragraph was struck from the report.
 - b) A discussion arose concerning the word "Confirmation" in the 3rd paragraph. Br. Burch, C. G. Nelson, O. Gunderson, A. J. Anderson & L. Lindqvist spoke. Upon motion, the word "Confirmation" was stricken out & the word "calicatisation" put in its place.
 - c) The report was adopted. (See the report.)
- 8 A report from the Committee on K & P B was adopted (See the report.)
- 9 Upon motion, a standing committee was elected to take under consideration the best way to establish a fund for help for Church and Parsonage building within the District . To this committee were elected O. Gunderson, C. G. Nelson & C. G. Forsberg.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

IV Session. Opened at 8:30 A. M on the 23rd of May through song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Br. B. Börjeson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and accepted.
- 2 The Committee on Subjects for Essays and Discussion read its report. C. G. Nelson moved to change the report. The Chair considered the motion out of order and it was set aside.

Q[uestion] 12 was taken up. A report was presented from the

- 3 The Statistics Committee and [it] was adopted, after which the Conf. sang a song of praise.
- 4 A report was presented from the Committee on Written Resolutions, Greetings, and more.
 - a) C. G. Nelson moved to accept.
 - b) Br. A. P. Björk moved that the paragraph, which names the Representative, be stricken.
 - c) When voting here upon was taken through “yes” or “no”, the Chair thought that the “No” had it.
 - d) the most votes. This was placed in
 - e) question. When the re-voting was taken by standing, the motion was voted down.
 - f) After which the previous motion and [also] there with the Report was adopted.
 - g) C. G. Nelson was elected as Substitute (sic) in the case that C. G. Forsberg could not go as the Representative to the ill[inois] Swedish District Conf.
- 5 The Essays were taken up.
 - a) Br. John Smith read his dissertation over the subject “Can mankind here on the earth come into possession of the blissfulness A[dam] & E[ve] possessed before the fall?”. After this reading, Br. Björk moved that that it be referred back to Br. Smith for improvements. It was not seconded. Notations/remarks were made by L. L[indquist], B. Börjeson, A. P. Björk [and] O. Gunderson after which the essay was accepted.
 - b) L. Lindqvist read part of a dissertation over the subject “Bible and Church History”’s proof for Child Baptism” and orally gave more completely his thoughts there upon. Notations were made by Brothers A. J. Anderson, O. Gunderson, P. M. Johnson & C. G. Nelson. The essay was referred back [to Lindquist] with the request that it be more complete.
 - c) Br. Börjeson read his dissertation upon the subject “Reconciliation. How far should it be extended (a) To the converted? (b) To the unconverted?”. The essay was taken up for discussion. Brothers A. P. Björk, L. Lindqvist, P. M. Johnson, O. Gunderson, C. G. Nelson [and] A. J. Johnson discussed the same. It was accepted.
 - d) Br. Aug. Olson read his essay upon the subject “Thriftiness, how can it be practiced with the individual being considered stingy?”. A. P. Björk & L. Lindqvist made some notations 7 the essay was accepted.
 - e) A. P. Björk read his dissertation upon the subject “When is a Methodist Preacher justified to transfer the regular work?”. It was discussed by L. Linqvist, P. M. Johnson, C. G. Nelson & Br, Björk. It was accepted.

The session adjourned.

V Session. Opened at 2 o'clock P. M. the 23rd with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by C. G. Forsberg.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.
- 2 A report from the Missions Committee was read and accepted.
- 3 An essay upon the subject "What is embraced in the Congregation's care [and] how can we best accomplish it?" was read by C. G. Nelson. And was criticized by L. Lindqvist, O. Gunderson, A. J. Anderson & John Smith, after which it was accepted.
- 4 The question, which essays should be published? Upon motion, the following Essays of the Dist. Conf. were recommended for publication in "Sändebudet":
 - a) Aug. Olson's
 - b) Dahlgren's
 - c) Börjeson's
 - d) P. M. Johnson's
 - e) C. G. Nelson's
- 5 A committee was elected to correct the essays and send them into "Sändebudet" consisting of O. Gunderson, L. Lindqvist [and] C. G. Nelson.
- 6 The deciding of the next place for the next Dist. Conf. next Session was taken up.
 - a) Red Wing and Vasa were proposed.
 - b) It was decided for Red Wing.
- 7 The spiritual conditions of the Dist. Was taken up for consideration.
 - a) St Paul was reported on by C. G. Nelson, C. P..
 - b) Minneapolis by L. Lindqvist, C. P>.
 - c) Atwater " B. Börjeson, C. P..
 - d) C. L., M., Mound Pr., P. . Johnson, C. P..
 - e) Grantsburg & Alabama, A. P. Björk, C. P..
 - f) Vasa & Goodhue, Aug. Olson, C. P..
 - g) Red Wing, A. P. Wicklund, Suppliant.
 - h) Kandiyohi, L. Dahlgren.
 - i) Round Prairie, O. Gunderson, P. E..
 - j) Duluth, " " " "
- 8 The Conference adjourned.

VI Session. Opened Monday the 23^{5th} of May at 8:30 A. M. through song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Aug. Olson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read and adopted.
- 2 Reports were taken up.
 - a. A) A report from the Standing Committee for a Swed[ish] S[unday] S[chool] Newspaper and Song Book was read and adopted/accepted.
 - b. A report from the committee upon the relationship with BR. C. F. Lindquist was presented. Some remarks/notations were made & the report was accepted, where after resolution concerning noted matters was adopted. (See Resolutions)
- 3 Upon motion by Br. Björk, it was decided that the use of the words with the distribution of the Elements at Communion be left the [individual] preacher's best understanding , however in accordance with the Disciplines.

- 4 L. Lindqvist moved that the “reform” session be left until the next Conference. The motion [did not carry]. Br, Björk moved that the Reform Session be the second after this, which was so decided.
- 5 Br. C. G. Nelson was elected to preach the Conference sermon at the next conference.
- 6 The following resolutions were presented by C. G. Nelson and were adopted:
Was Resolved that we convey our thanks to the friends in Minneapolis for the generosity and good will that have shown us during our Sessions
- 7 G. Anderson, L[ocal] P[reacher]’s gifts and energy were approved upon the recommendation of A. P. Björk.
- 8 L. Lindqvist proposed a discussion subject based up on Mathews 23:89.10 concerning our ?due:, Pastor, Brother or Master.
- 9 The minutes were read and adopted.
- 10 The Conference adjourned to meet again in St Paul on Tuesday morning in the same week the Annual Conference meets in the fall.

The Chair.
C. G. Nelson, Sec.

VII Session - Met in accordance with decision in the Swedish M. E. Church in St Paul at 9 A. M. the 22nd of September 1874

And the following brothers answered to their name:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Caring Pastors | |
| B. Börjeson | L. Lindqvist |
| A. P. Björk | C. G. Nelson |
| L. Dahlgren | Aug. Olson |
| O. Gunderson | A. J. Wicklund, Suppliant |
| P. M. Johnson | |
| b) Local Preachers | |
| C. G. Forsberg | |

Question – Are there any recommended Licenses, Orders or Cong[regations] for acceptance on probation in the traveling congregations? The Q[uestion] s taken up by congregation name.

- a) St Paul had none.
 - b) Minneapolis, John A. Johnson.
 - c) Red Wing had none.
 - d) Kandiyohi “ “
 - e) Atwater & Litchfield had none.
 - f) Vasa & Goodhue “ “
 - g) Grantsburg, Anton Erickson.
- 2 Reports from the preachers were taken up. Upon motion, it was decided that the Caring Preachers turn in written reports to the P. E. in the evening.
 - 3 L. Lindqvist, A. P. Björk [and] B. Börjeson were appointed to the Examination Committee.
 - 4 A conversation on diverse subjects took place.
 - 5 Q[uestion]: Has the P[residing] E[lder]’s salary been paid? Answer as follows from the congregations:

St Paul	Assigned \$50.00	Paid \$50.00
Minneapolis	“ 17.00	“ 19.75
Vasa & Goodhue	“ 34.00	“ 30.00
Red Wing & Hastings	“ <u>10.00</u>	“ <u>10.00</u>
	131.00	109.75

Continued

Kandiyohi	“ 84.00	“ 25.00
Atwater	“ 45.00	“ 32.00
Chisago Lake, C. C., M. P.	89.00	“ 45.00
Grantsburg & Alabama	“ <u>50.00</u>	“ <u>52.00</u>
	399.00	268.50

6 The session was adjourned and closed with the Blessing.

VIII Session. Opened at 2 P. M. through song and a prayer by B. Börjeson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and adopted.
- 2 The meeting was adjourned until 4 P. M..
- 3 The meeting opened at 4 P. M..
- 4 The Examination Committee reported. Br. John A. Johnson’s examination. It was good. And he was recommended for Deacon’s Orders and for admittance on probation in a traveling association/society.
- 5 Br. Anton Erickson’s was reported as good and he was given a Local Preacher’s License.
- 6 Br. Björk gave a talk/speech [and] he suggested that he could no continue in the regular effort/work - another year. Wished to be remembered at the Chair of Grace and promised to always remember the Brothers. Warned the Brother of dangerous times, exhorted us to be very careful and to cultivate ourselves for the labors.
- 7 BNr. Lindqvist spoke [that] he hoped to continue in the work/effort, and more.
- 8 Br. O. Gunderson spoke [that he] thought that we ought to be willing to go where ever the labor sends us. And that when it occurs the Brotherly love shall grow thereby.
- 9 Br. C. G. Forsberg spoke. Being at hand with Br. Gunderson. Thought we should always be willing to go where ever the Church sends us. Had never more than once refused or gone – willingly it was when he had been appointed P. E.. But yet went in the fear of the Lord.
- 10 Lindqvist spoke again, Thought that regard ought to be made on a person’s circumstances.
- 11 The minutes were read and adopted.
- 12 The Conference was adjourned.

The Chair.
C. G. Nelson, Sec.

Report from the Statistics Committee for the Half Year, which ended the 20th of May 1874

We are [limited] because of incomplete reports from the Pastors however we are doing it herewith as carefully as possible

1 Members taken by the Congregations:

In full union

On probation

St Paul	11	14
Minneapolis	6	5
Atwater & Litchfield	6	12
Kandiyohi & New London	13	33
Grantsburg & Alabama	11	47
Vasa & Goodhue	4	2
Red Wing & Hastings	3	1
Chisago Lake, M. P. & Marine	4	3
Round Prairie	7	
Duluth	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	65	118

2 Subscribed for Charitable Purposes

	Missions	Church Extension
St Paul	57.50	10.15
Minneapolis	15.70	
Atwater & Litchfield		
Kandiyohi & N. L.		
Grantsburg & Alabama	73.00	
Vasa & Goodhue	40.00	
Red Wing & Hastings	18.00	
Ch. L., M. & R. P.	<u>90.00</u>	
	294.20	<u>\$10.75</u>

And we recommend the following with respect to the coming times.

- 1 That a Statistics Secretary be appoint at every District Conference meeting.
- 2 That every C[aring] P[reacher] henceforth turn in to the statistics Committee at [or soon after] the First Session a written report in answer to the following questions:
 - 1 Have any churches been built or begun during the year?
 - 2 Have any parsonages been built or begun ?
 - 3 Have any repairs been made and at what cost?
 - 4 What has been paid on the preacher's salary?
 - 5 How much has been paid on the P. E.'s salary?
 - 6 How much has been subscribed for the Church's charitable purposes ? (a) Mission; (b) Church Extension.
 - 7 How many copies of "Sändebudet" have been taken?
 - 8 " " " " the S[unday] S[chool] "Klockan"²⁰
 - 9 What is the condition of the S[unday] S[chool]?
 - 10 How many members have been taken into the church during the previous ½ year?
 - a) In full union
 - b) On probation

C. G. Nelson }
 L. Dahlgren } The Committee
 J. Sundell }

Your Committee Concerning Missions Expansion asks to report the following:

²⁰ "Klockan" appears to be a Sunday School publication. Its title translates as "The Bell".

1st That it is absolutely necessary that an effort/activity as important as the above names be expanded every year. For if it is not expanded, it is clear a minimizing is a necessary following. We therefore recommend the following:

- a) That the Pastor in their respective fields of labor tries to spread their efforts as much as possible on that work, which is organized.
- b) That we try to take in Carver, Shakopee & St Peter into the Dist[ri]ct [by] the next year as fast as men and means could be gotten for this purpose.

O. Gunderson }
P. M. Johnson } The Committee

The Standing Committee on a Swedish S[unday] S[chool] Newspaper & Songbook reports the following:

1st We have found out that a Swedish S[unday] S[chool] newspaper is, for the present, not possibly to bring into existence in our Mission in America. But a monthly S[unday] S[chool] newspaper (S[unday] S[chool] "Klockan") is published in Sweden, and we hear with joy through Br. A. J. Anderson that it has already found its way to the Swedish District in Ill[inois] and understand that it costs, postage included, approximately 25 @ 29 cents per copy a year. And it is equally available to us.

2nd With regard to the songbook, one is in printing in Cincinnati, and we hope that it is soon ready.

3. We recommend that the following resolution be accepted:

Resolved that we heartily welcome the S[unday] S[chool] newspaper "Klockan" and promise immediately to spread it among our S[unday] S[chools] and congregations.

C. G. Nelson }
O. Gunderson } The Committee

Report from the S[unday] S[chool] Committee

Inasmuch as S[unday] s[chool] make up one of our principal obligations and for the Mission's support & development [of] utmost necessity, so we wish herewith recommend to all C[aring] P[reachers] within the District :

- 1 For the Swedish Mission's preservation to completely adopt Swedish S[unday] S[chools], where it permits to do so with some hope for progress, and where Swedish books and Swedish teachers [are able to be found] with satisfactory knowledge of the Swedish language.
- 2 That especial weight may be placed upon that, according to the Disciplines, children [up to] 10 year of age be organized into classes for instruction during periods of teaching [in] knowledge about the baptism's connection, and more [and] something making up a Catechism for the Church's children

B. Börjeson }
L. Lindqvist } The committee

Report from the Committee for Church and Preacher Residences

- 1 With regard to Churches, we have 11 within the District located in the following places: St Paul, Minneapolis, Atwater, Kandiyohi, Duluth, Grantsburg, Chisago Lake, Marine, Mound Prairie, Red Wing & Vasa.
- 2 With regard the P[astors] R[esidences] within the District, five located at the following places: St Paul, Atwater, Duluth, Chisago Lake and Vasa.

It is propose to build churches or p[astors] r[esidences] at the following places: In New London a church, in Kandiyohi a p[astors] r[esidence], in Litchfield a church building has begun, in Goodhue a church, at Trade Lake a church, Round Lake a church, in Red Wing a p[astors] r[esidence], in St Paul it is the intention to build a house on the church lots to rent out.

With regard to repairs, that each C[aring] P[reacher] oversee/see to the accomplishment of necessary repairs.

L. Dahlgren }
John Smith } The committee
C. G. Nelson }

Your Committee on the Relationship with C. F. Lindqvist

reports the following:

1st That we investigated as far as was possible in what relationship Br. Lindqvist stood both to the Church and to the Brothers and found the following:

- a) That Lindqvist refused to carry out the obligation placed upon him as a Local Preacher.
- b) That he openly cast reflections upon the Church's teachings as well as several of its preachers.
- c) That Lindqvist openly himself stated that he quit the M. E. Church because he did not believe its teachings, which [he] positively presented to your Committee and that he (Lindqvist) visited the Lutheran preacher in Red wing with the request to enter the Lutheran Church, which for the occasion refused him.

Upon the basis of the above noted, your Committee Chair presented the following to Lindqvist:

- 1 That in the event he (Lindqvist) will improve himself and do his obligations as a member and Local Preacher, we should forgive & forget the past.
- 2 In the event this should not happen, he (Lindqvist) could choose a Church Trial (sic).
- 3 But if he absolutely wished to leave the Church, he must leave his church rights behind. He requested a period to think it over of 2 weeks, which was granted him. But during it, every one of the committee exhorted him to think carefully upon what he did. He became angry and withdrew his parchment and in anger threw it at the Chair of your Committee, with the request to get a certificate, which request [was carried] out by O. Gunderson as P. E. of the Red Wing Circuit (sic).

- 4 Your Committee understands that (Lindqvist⁰ since that time has united with the American [M. E.] Church.
- 5 And your Committee recommends that the Conference come to some decision as to how to consider him in the event a proposition comes to be made to return him the regular work/activity.

O. Gunderson }
 Aug. Olson } The Committee

Report

The Swedish District Conference in 'Central'²¹ Illinois wishes to greet:-

Whereas as the Swedish District onference of Ill [inois] through its representative Rev. A. J. Anderson presented written greetings,

And further through his oral communications to this Conference expressed it participation in our common efforts in the Lord's Wine Garden,

And as it appears thereof that we in truth are one heart and soul, which is of great joy to us,

And our most inner wish is to maintain this confident and pleasant relationship,

Therefore it is Resolved:

1st That we [as well] send a representative to carry our greetings to the respective Brothers in Ill[inois], for which purpose we also nominate Br. C. G. Forsberg.

2nd That a copy of this Resolution be left to him as a presentation to the above named Brothers.

Muck love with grace and peace is wished through Jesus Christ out Lord.

C. G. Forsberg }
 P. M. Johnson } The Committee
 B. Börjeson }

**Minn[esota] Swedish District Conference. Fifth Half-year Meeting met in Red Wing the 25th of
 Nov. 1874 at 9 A. M.**

I Session – opened with the singing of hymn 118, prayer & the reading of 2 Timothy 2 and a short introductory talk by the Chair.

²¹ This is a guess. The word is indistinct.

- 1 The Standing Sec. took his place and read the Conference roll, when the following Brothers answered to their names:
 - a) C[aring] P[reachers]

B. Börjeson	C. G. Nelson
L. Dahlgren	Aug. Olson
O. Gunderson, P. E.	A. J. Wicklund
P. M. Johnson	
J. A. Johnson	
 - b) L[ocal] P[reachers] John Sundell John Smith
 - 2 The Secretary presented his resignation, but it was not accepted.
 - 3 The times for the sessions openings and closings were decided, to open at 8:30 A. M. and to close at 11:45 A. M..
 - 4 It was decided to have two worship services each day.
 - 5 Br. P. M. Johnson was elected as the Statistics Secretary.
 - 6 The appointment of committees was taken up.
 - a) To the Committee on Religious Meetings were elected A. J. Wicklund & Aug. Olson.
 - b) S[unday] S[chool] Committee – J. A. Johnson & Aug. Olson.
 - c) Camp Meetings Comm. – C. G. Nelson, B. Börjeson [and] P. M. Johnson.
 - d) To the Committee on the Missions Future Relationships – C. G. Nelson, B. Börjeson [and] A. J. Wicklund.
 - e) Miss[ions] Committee – Aug. Olson, J. A. Johnson [and] A. J. Wicklund.
 - f) To the Comm. on Temperance and Sabbath’s Holiness – J. Sundell, J. Smith [and] L. Dahlgren.
 - g) Topics Comm. – C. G. Nelson [and] P. M. Johnson.
 - h) Examination Comm. – John Smith [and] C. G. Nelson.
 - i) Comm to Comm. to (illegible) L[ocal] P[reachers] Fields of Work – Aug. Olson [and] L. Dahlgren.
 - j) To Investigate L[ocal] P[reachers] Gifts & Enthusiasm – L. Dahlgren [and] B. Börjeson.
 - k) Comm. to investigate how Far/Wide Our Embraced Decisions are accomplished – John Sundell, J. A. Johnson [and] Aug. Olson.
 - 7 The following resolution was presented by C. G. Nelson and adopted:

Whereas as according to a Proclamation of our Caring President , on the morning of Nov. 26th is set aside to/for a general prayer, fasting and day of thanks\ ,

Therefore it is Resolved that we set aside our regular morning session and use the time as the Comm. on Religious Meetings determines.
 - 8 The reading of the essays was taken up.
 - a) P. M. Johnson read his essay on the subject “The Hope”. It was criticized by O. Gunderson and then was accepted by the Conference and recommended for publication in the “Sändebudet”.
 - 9 A request for Camp Meetings was presented by P. M. Johnson and was referred to the Camp Meetings Committee.
 - 10 P. M. Johnson spoke concerning the Camp Meetings. Was called to the Chair. and Gunderson spoke concerning the same subject.
 - 11 The Conference adjourned until 2 P. M. the 26th.
- II Session** – opened at 2 P. M. the 26th of Nov. with song, prayer and a reading of a chapter of the Bible by Br. J. A. Johnson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.
- 2 The reading of essays was taken up.
 Br. Aug. Olson read his essay on the topic “Growth in Grace”. It was criticized by Brothers B. Börjeson, P. M. Johnson, A. J. Wicklund and Br. Chair. . Br, Olson answered the criticism.
- 3 Upon motion by C. G. Nelson, it was decided to translate the book “Manual of Methodism”, and for this purpose a committee was appointed consisting of C. G. Nelson and P. M. Johnson.
- 4 The Camp Meetings Committee reported. The report was changed/amended and was adopted. (See the report)
- 5 It was now decided to determine the place for the next Conference. Vasa & Kandiyohi were proposed.
 - a) Br. Aug. Olson spoke for Vasa.
 - b) . Dalgren and O. Gunderson spoke for Kandiyohi. It was decided on Vasa.
- 6 The meeting adjourned with the Blessing.

III Session – opened at 8:30 A. M. the 27th of Nov. by song, prayer and a reading of 1 Corinthians, 13th Chapter by Br. P. M. Johnson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.
- 2 The Comm. on the Missions Future Relationships reported. The report was taken up for discussion. Upon motion by Br. L. Dahlgren, seconded by P. M. Johnson, Br. C. G. Nelson was invited, that concerning the report, to read his essay upon
- 3 The subject “Would it be beneficial to us and for the matter’s furtherance within the three , Ill[inois], Iowa and Minn[esota] Missions Districts to unite their in Swedish annual conferences?” The report and the essay were discussed by Brothers Aug. Olson, J. Sundell, J. Smith, A. J. Wicklund, B. Börjeson and the BR. Chair., after which the report was adopted.
- 4 For effecting that which thereafter was proposed, a committee was elected consisting of O. Gunderson, P. M. Johnson & C. G. Nelson.
- 5 Br. C. G. Nelson excused himself as the alternate Representative to Ill[inois].
- 6 A discussion on diverse topics took place.
- 7 The minutes were read and accepted.
- 8 The meeting adjourned.

IV Session – opened at 1:30 P. M. through song and a prayer by BR. C. G. Nelson.

- 1 Reports concerning the spiritual conditions of the congregations were taken up.
 - a) B. Börjeson reported on Atwater and Litchfield. The congregations are small but they try to live for God and with interior love.
 - b) P. M. Johnson reported on the congregation at Chisago Lake, Marine and Mound Prairie. The outlook for improvement/increasing has improved. The winners, life in unity and love.
 - c) Aug. Olson reported on Vasa and Goodhue. The congregations both well as when we first got to know them. Have good, yes blessed meetings. Good hope for the future. Have some Brothers who have placed their shoulders to the efforts, and they have not yet tired.

- d) L. Dalgren reported on Kandiyohi, Willmar²², and New London. Concerning the spiritual conditions on Kandiyohi, they are rather good, yet if we had more religion, it would be better [and we should accomplish more progress. In New London, we have had great opposition, however the Lord is with us and God's business goes forward. I have not visited Willmar for almost a year. Hope to visit the place during the year.
 - e) J. A. Johnson reported on Minneapolis. It is almost a new place. I am a new man. Concerning information on the membership, I have not yet [met] all, but those I have [met] appear to be nice and we have hope for progress.
 - f) A. J. Wicklund reported on Red Wing and Hastings. Have had our trials [as almost] half of the congregation have left and gone over to the Norwegians. They were Norwegians. We need more religion. I have visited Hastings [and] have hope to be able to do something for the matter.
- 2 Was decided to adjourn to meet at 8 A. M in the morning. Songs of praise were sung and the meeting closed with the Blessing.

V Session. Opened with song & prayer and a reading from the Bible by Aug. Olson [at] 8 A. M. the 28th of Nov..

- 1 The Statistics Sec. turned in a partial report .It was referred back [to him] for completion.
- 2 The P. E. presented the necessity of Quarterly reports.
- 3 The Comm. on Temperance and the Sabbath Holidays reported. The report was changed and adopted. (See the report)
- 4 The Miss[ions] Comm. reported. The reported was adopted. (See the report)
- 5 O. Gunderson was elected to try to get the Missions' blanks and cards printed in the Swedish language.
- 6 C. G. Nelson and J. A. Johnson were elected as a committee to procure printed Love's Dinner tickets.
- 7 Br. A. J. Wicklund read his essay on the subject "Walk in the Spirit". The essay was discussed and adopted.
- 8 The investigation/examination of the Local Preachers' character, gift, and energies was taken up.
 - a) E. P. Wicklund's character, gifts, and energies were approved upon the recommendation of L. Dahlgren, C. P..
 - b) P. O. Olson's character, gifts and energies were represented by L. Dahlgren and on his recommendation approved.
 - c) John Smith's character, gifts and energies were approved upon recommendation of P. M. Johnson, C. P..
 - d) John Sundell's character, gifts and energies were approving upon recommendation of Aug. Olson, C. P..
 - e) A. P. Bäckman's character, gifts and energies were approved upon the recommendation of P. M. Johnson, C. P..
 - f) George Anderson's character was approved.
 - g) Anton Erickson's character was not approved. Rather, his license was recalled.
- 9 O. Gunderson gave a talk concerning the call to preach.
- 10 The meeting was closed with the Blessing.

²² A city in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

VI Session – Opened at 9 A. M. the 30th of November through song and prayer by Br. A. J. Johnson.

- 1 The minutes of the two previous sessions were read and adopted.
- 2 Upon motion, Br. C. G. Nelson's letter was recommended (Was read in a private session.) for acceptance in "Sändebudet" when the proper time comes.
- 3 The Subjects/Topics Comm. reported with the recommendation that the topics be published in "Sändebudet".
- 4 The S[unday] S[chool] Comm. reported [with] the recommendation that their matter be taken up for discussion. (See the report)
- 5 The Statistics Sec. reported. The report was adopted. (See the report).
- 6 The spiritual conditions within the congregations were taken up. C. G. Nelson, C[aring] P[reacher], reported [on] St Paul. The spiritual situation is on average good. The outlooks for progress are lighter. Peace and love [rules] in the congregation. Listeners numbers steadily increase. We expect to have the best year [that] we have had at this place/location.
- 7 The following resolution was presented and adopted:
Whereas it is know to us that our P[residing] E[lder]'s health is weak and he needs to rest,
Therefore it is resolved 1st that we excuse him from the 2nd Q[uartern]'s visits/inspection there over. 2nd That we here through expressing our sympathy and participation with him and follow him and his family with our prayers.

C. G. Nelson

J. A. Johnson

- 8 The following resolution was adopted:
Whereas an article in No. 47 "Sändebudet" there by the title "Answer on Speech" by Br. P. M. Johnson sincerely satisfies this Conference and we heartily concur therein,
Therefore be it resolved that we convey to Br. Johnson our most heartfelt thanks for the noted article,
2nd That a copy of this Resolution be published in "Sändebudet".

L. Dahlgren, A. J. Wicklund

Resolved that we convey to the friends in Red Wing our heartiest thanks for the generous, respectful and loving manner upon which they accommodated us during our meetings.

C. G. Nelson

- 9 A discussion regarding the price of our Church's books was taken up. The meeting adjourned.

VII Session – Opened at 2:15 P. M. the 30th of Nov. '74.

- 1 The Chair. made an admonitory speech of the following contents:
 - a) To keep our decisions holy.
 - b) Lie near the cross.

- c) To observe the pastoral care better than up to now. Said that it was one of the most powerful means for progress within our congregations.
- 2 Was decided that the Conference convey its thanks to the Chair. for the serious and obliging way/manner in which he has presided at this Conference.
- 3 The minutes of the two precious sessions were read and approved.
- 4 The Chair. led the Conference in prayer.
- 5 Songs of praise were sung and the meeting adjourned with the Blessing.

O. Gunderson, Chair.
C. G. Nelson, Sec.

District Stewards Meeting of the Swedish Dist. Met in Red Wing the 30th of Nov. 1874

P. M. Johnson was elected as Chair and C. G. Nelson as Sec..

St Paul was represented by C. G. Nelson
 Minneapolis by J. A. Johnson.
 Atwater & Litchfield – B. Börjeson.
 Kandiyohi – L. Dahlgren.
 Ch[isago] L[ake], M[arine] & M[ound] Prairie – P. M. Johnson
 Red Wing & Hastings – C. G. Johnson.
 Vasa & Goodhue – J. Sundell.
 Grantsburg & Ala[bama] - - -
 Carver & Chaska - - -

- 1 Was decided to hear the Presiding Elder’s motion ----
- 2 The P. E.’s salary for the year was proposed to [be] \$1065.00.
 From the Mission \$650
 “ “ Congregations 415
- 3 Was decided to have an apportionment committee to divide the above-named amount upon the congregations according to membership numbers ---
- 4 C. G. Nelson and J. A. Johnson were elected thereto ---
- 5 The minutes were read and adopted.
- 6 The meeting adjourned.

P. M. Johnson, Chair.
C. G. Nelson, Sec.

Statistical Report for the ½ year as changed the 25th of Nov, 1874

	Prob[ationary] Mem[bers]	Full Mem[bers]	Issues “Sändebudet”	Issues S. S “Klockan ”	Church Building

C. G. N, C. P. St Paul	2	7	43	40	
J. A. J., C. P. Minneapolis	2	10	10	20	
B. B., C. P. Atwater & Litchfield	13	2	18		1
L. D., C. P. Kandiyohi, Willmar & New London	7	2	40	50	
Sup[liant] Grantsburg & Alabama		32	21		
P. M. J., C. P. Chisago Lake, Marine and Mound Prairie	9	2	40		
A. G. W., Sup[liant] Red Wing & Hastings	9	5	8	50	
A. O., C. P. Vasa & Goodhue	4	3	20		
Sup[liant] Carver & Chaska					
Totals	46	63	200	160	1

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: It is believed the above figures are for the year only, especially as regards the membership numbers, which are believed to be new members for the year.

Repairs made

St Paul – Pastor’s Residence	\$350.00
Atwater & Litchfield – Church	500.00
Chisago Lake – Pastor’s Residence	100.00
Vasa – Pastor’s Residence	32.00
Red Wing – Church	18.20
Kandiyohi – Church & Pastor’s Residence	<u>71.00</u>
 Total	 \$1071.20

The Comm. on the Church’s Future Relationships met in the Church in Red Wing the 25th of Nov. 1874

And adopted the following Resolution, which it respectfully asks to report:

Whereas we believe it to be necessary for the matter accomplishment within our Swedish Mission to as a District be transferred (sic) from the Minnesota Conference,

Therefore it is Resolved

- I. That it is this District Conference’s conviction that (so long as our Swedish Brothers in Ill[inois] and Iowa have nothing there against [it]), it would be advantageous for us and for God’s Matters accomplishment among us that our district be transferred from Minnesota to the Central Ill[inois] Conference.
- II. That the Conference send to the proper [authority] a unanimous request or Petition for the stated transfer to be accomplished before the next Annual Conference.

C. G. Nelson }
 B. Börjeson } The Committee
 A. J. Wicklund }

Your Committee for the Missions' Furtherance

Asks to report the following:

Taking into account the great need for and the blessed results of our Missions' efforts and the cross that lies upon us as a church.

That so much in our power stands to collect means/monies for the good subject's accomplishment for this Goal's winning

We recommend the following:

1st That we all who stand in the traveling association send to the Missions Board (sic) for the recommended cards or forms for Collections for the Missions [and as] previously understood that we are able to get them in the Swedish language.

2nd That as far as possible, to set into place the Mission Board's assigned plan to appoint and prepare suitable Brothers in the congregations in order to take up subscriptions at official occasions, even from such as do not belong to our Church.

3rd That every preacher make his utmost diligence to through public sermons and private talks inform our peoples about the Missions' matter's use/purpose and necessity that they may be more interested for the good matter's success.

J. A. Johnson }
 Aug. Olson } The Committee

Your Committee on Temperance and the Sabbath's Holiness

Asks to report the following:

- I. As the burden from drinking appears to be one of our countryman's principal sins as well as our membership in some cases stand in danger to not perceive the necessity to completely give up all strong spirits. Rather they in many places/situations use [it] under the name/guise of medicine, and thereby arouse a desire/craving for that evil as well as unhappy example, is a scandal. So wish we most seriously exhort our preacher Brothers to use all of their influence to check this evil.
 - 1 Through one or several sermons show the dangers therein.
 - 2 That in conversation, exhort against [drink].
 - 3 To have a watching eye on those who have given way to this burden.
- II. Keeping Sundays holy appears in many places among our Scandinavian peoples to be diminishing, not so much as to undertake normal labor [so often as] more in an improper way to use the day:
 - a) By on it going visiting.
 - b) Through the undertaking on unnecessary travel.

- c) Unnecessary conversation, and to use a large part of the day for sleep.

We recommend that each/every preachers at every place of preaching preach at least once concerning the Sabbath's holiness, and to remember with example and encouragement each flock of the Judgment.

John Sundell, John Smith and L. Dahlgren, the Committee

The S[unday] S[chool] Committee

Asks to report the following:

- 1 We recommend that the Sunday School topic be taken up for discussion.
- 2 The Comm. sees the S[unday] S[chool] as a spiritual subject which fosters members for our churches.
- 3 Therefore the necessity of having S[unday] S[chool] in all of our congregation is understood.
- 4 That we, as far as is possible, hold them in the Swedish [language] that [they] thereby better serve and care for our own people.

Aug. Olson }
J. A. Johnson } the Committee

The Comm[ittee] on Subjects for Essays and Discussions Report

- 1 "The Apostolic Church" – O. Gunderson.
- 2 "Strength in Weakness" – J. Sundell.
- 3 "How are the Disc[iplines] administered in our congregations?" Discussion to be opened by O. Gunderson [and] B. Börjeson.
- 4 "The best way to treat a fallen man/person in order to save his soul?" – A. J. Wicklund.
- 5 "What signs have we of our Church's enemies and how do we meet them?" – L. Dahlgren.
- 6 "Interpreting the Bible over Luke 16:9" – C. G. Nelson
- 7 "The old person, can he exist in union/association with the new person though the whole life?" – B. Börjeson.
- 8 "Child Baptism, its use and Blessing?" – Aug. Olson.
- 9 "The Conference's Semon, text Psalm 126:6? – A. P. Björk.
- 10 "A Written sermon text on Jacob 3:18" – J. Smith.
- 11 "Why do not many preachers arise from among us?" – P. M. Johnson.
- 12 "The best way to cultivate a deeper going religiosity in family live?" – J. A. Johnson.
- 13 "Is it of calling need that all M. E. Church preachers constantly are in active effort for the great goal of the Soul's salvation?" – C. G. Forsberg.

Report from the Camp Meeting Committee

Four applications were turned in to your Committee with requests for Camp Meetings from persons and places as follows:

- 1 From P. M. Johnson representing the Chisago Lake, Marine and Mound Prairie congregations for a Dist[ri]ct Camp Meeting in the vicinity of St Paul.
- 2 From C. G. Nelson representing the St Paul congregation for a Dist[ri]ct Camp Meeting in the vicinity of the noted place.
- 3 From Aug. Olson representing Vasa and Goodhue.
- 4 From L. Dahlgren representing Kandiyohi.

Upon the basis hereof, the Committee adopted the following decision – That for the summer of 1875 [it] recommends 3 Camp Meetings to be held in the following order:

1st in Vasa to begin the 10th of June thereupon.

2nd in Kandiyohi to begin on the 22nd of June.

3rd a District Camp Meeting in the vicinity of St Paul (at the place the Pastor and Congregation decide/determine) to occur the 1st of July.

At the first two, it is placed upon the Caring Preachers [there] to see to it that the necessary number of preachers are present to support the meeting [need for preachers].

At the Dist[ri]ct Camp Meeting, it is expected that all of the Preachers, Traveling & Local, find themselves present so long as no insurmountable obstacle comes between.

On the Committee's behalf,

P. M. Johnson, Sec.

The Minnesota Swedish District Sixth Half-year Meeting met according to the call in the Church in Vasa at 2 P. M. the 15th of June 1875

The meeting was opened by O. Gunderson.

- 1 Chair. With the singing of the 120th Psalm and prayer.
- 2 The Secretary took his place and read the Conference roll where the following Brothers were found present:

Traveling Preachers

O. Gunderson – Chair.

C. G. Nelson – Sec.

B. Börjeson

A. P. Burch

L. Dahlgren

Aug. Olson

P. M. Johnson

A. J. Wicklund

J. A. Johnson

Local Preachers

Br. Chas. A. Brock, L. P. from Gloucester, Mass. was introduced to the Conference

John Sundell from Vasa

Foremen

Br. Edward Olson from Minneapolis was introduced and announced as a candidate for a Local License.

- 3 Committee appointments were taken up.
 - a) P. M. Johnson was appointed as Statistics Sec.
 - b) Mission Comm. - O. Gunderson [and] B. Börjeson.
 - c) Exam Comm. – P. M. Johnson, L. Dahlgren [and] B. Börjeson.
 - d) Comm. on Local Preacher's Fields of Labor – Aug. Olson [and] A. J. Wicklund.
 - e) Comm. on Topics – L. Dahlgren [and] A. J. Johnson.
 - f) Sunday School Comm. – A. P. Björk, A. J. Wicklund [and] L. Dahlgren.
- 4 The times for the opening and closing of sessions was established.

The A. M. sessions to open at 7:30 and close at 12.
The P. M. “ “ “ “ 2 o'clock “ „ 5.
- 5 Br. Björk asked to be excused from preaching the Conference sermon on the assigned text. He was not excused.
- 6 Upon motion was taken up [the topic] “How are the Disciplines administered in our congregations?” and [it] was led by O. Gunderson. Where after a lively & interesting discussion occurred in which the following Brother took part – O. Gunderson, B. Börjeson, A. P. Björk, L. Dahlgren, C. G. Nelson, Aug. Olson, A. J. Wicklund, A. J. Johnson [and] P. M. Johnson.
 - a) O. Gunderson said the Disciplines administration [was] not as far - where as it ought to be administered within our congregations – impediments. It has been – so long neglected – so those who now try to undertake these demands run in danger to be accused of discovering new things. –

Local impediments for Class meetings - distance, winter storms, [etc.].
Church discipline – are we too afraid to practice, to barely severely observe the Disciplines“ Churchly discipline.
 - b) B. Börjeson said - The Disciplines have not been severe, survived by me [and] the congregation before, but thought that it presently is obeyed much better – hoped to be more perfect on this point.
 - c) Br. Björk said– He had found much unprepared within the congregation he served, but had always tried to keep the Disciplines as far as he [was able to] understand them.
 - d) L. Dahlgren said – That he had very little knowledge. [He] had found that many of the members within his congregation had not been drawn in a disciplinary way.
 - e) C. G. Nelson said – [He] had found so little opposition in the practicing of the Churchly Disciplines - on the basis of its previous neglect and on the basis of the loose manner upon which they were administered by sister congregations, [he] had been accused of discovering new matters/things [and] to be a ?despot? but had never lost, but had always won Disciplinary order, which he firmly insisted upon.
 - f) Aug. Olson said – With regard to the past, there has in me much been lacking, but for the present, [he] tried to return to the Disciplines’] demands [and] hoped in the future to do better.
 - g) A. J. Wicklund said [that] he himself had limited knowledge about the Disciplines administration. [He] tried as far as he understood to survive the same.

- i) Br. J. A. Johnson said [that] he himself had limited knowledge about the management/administration of the Disciplines, but considered it necessary/of use to as far as possible observes the same.
- j) P. M. Johnson said [that] he had been in the work [for] some years without a single Disciplinary occasion occurring [that], either in the Swedish language or the English, that he could not read. [He] now tries to carry out the Disciplinary obligations above all because I consider that all of these regulations have for the object, the [Holy Dominion], both within the Preacher [and] the congregation.
- k) The Chair declared the Disciplines concerned the members' admission into full union.
- l) Upon motion, the Chair was elected a committee to draw up and send into Sändebudet" a pastor letter to the congregations concerning the Disciplinary order.

The meeting was closed with a song of praised and the Blessing by Aug, Olson.

Second Session – Was opened Wednesday morning at 8:30 A. M. the 16th of June '75 with song and prayer by Br. P. M. Johnson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and adopted.
- 2 Br. Björk's Conference Sermon was taken up for discussion.
- 3 A report was received from Br. C. G. Nelson as the Representative to the Illinois [Conference]. Br. Nelson's going there on behalf of the Conference was authorized/approved by the Conference.
- 4 The reading of the written dissertations was taken up.
 - a) Br. Dahlgren read his dissertation upon the subject "What signs have we about our Church's enemies and [and] how should we meet them?". The dissertation was approved. It was moved to appoint a committee to correct the written dissertation , which may, by the Conference, be recommended for printing in "Sändebudet".
 - b) Br. P. M. Johnson's dissertation on the subject "Why are not several preachers arising from among us?" Was read and adopted. Br. Johnson was delegated to correct the same [and] send it in to "Sändebudet". Br. Dahlgren was likewise directed to himself correct his written dissertation [and] to send it in to "Sändebudet".
- 5 The meeting was closed with a song of praise and the Blessing by P. M. Johnson.

The Third Session – opened at 2 P. M. the 16th of June 1875 with song and prayer by Br. Charles A. Brock.

- 1 The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and adopted.
- 2 Pastor E. Skogren, Representative from the Swedish District meeting in Illinois arrived and was introduced to the Conference.
- 3 Upon motion by C. G. Nelson, Pastor Skogren was admitted as a Counseling Member.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: On the left margin at this point is written "continued on page 84".

- 4 The reading of the written dissertations [was taken up]..
 - a) Br. J. A. Johnson read his dissertation on the subject "The Best Way to cultivate more deep-going religion in family life?". The dissertation was accepted.

- b) C. G. Nelson's dissertation on the subject "Interpreting the Bible over Luke 16:9" was read, discussed, and upon motion, approved.
- 5 The investigation/examination of the Local Preachers' Character, Gifts and Energy was taken up.
- a) Br. John Sundell in Vasa. Represented by Aug. Olson, and his character, gifts and energy were approved.
- b) Br. John Smith from Chisago Lake, represented by P. M. Johnson. And his character, gifts and energies was approved.
- c) BR. A. P. Bäckman's License was not renewed.
- d) Pastor C. G. Forberg's character, gifts and energies were approved.
- e) Br. Charles Brock represented by Br. J. A. Johnson and his gifts were approved.
- f) Br. E. P. Wicklund in Kandiyohi represented by Pastor L. Dahlgren and his character, gifts and energies were approved.
- g) Br. P. O. Olson in Kandiyohi. The matter was referred to a committee to here on the same consisting of B. Börjeson, P. M. Johnson and Aug. Olson.
- 6 The examination of the Foremen's characters, gifts and energies was taken up.
- a) Br. E. Olson from Minneapolis represented by J. A. Johnson. His character, gifts and energies were approved.
- 7 The Sunday School committee presented its report. It was referred back to the Committee.
- 8 Written dissertations were taken up.
- a) Pastor Gunderson read his dissertation on the subject "The Apostolic Church" and the dissertation caused a lively discussion, after which it (the dissertation) was recommended for printing in "Sändebudet".
- 9 The meeting was closed with the Blessing by C. G. Nelson.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: On pages 82 and 83, the following was entered:

Statistical Report for the ½ Year ending the 15th of June 1875

Caring Pastor	Prob[ationary] Mem[bers]	Full Mem[bers]	Issues "Sändebudet"	Issues S. S "Klockan"	Ad	Missions	Church Extension
C. G. Nelson, St Paul	25	6	24		30	90	15
J. A. Johnson, Minneapolis	10	2	17	25	25	32	
A. Olson, Vasa & Goodhue	10	7	18		36	40	
P. M. Johnson, Chisago Lake, Marine and Mound Prairie	14	30	29	24	70		
A. G. Wicklund, Red Wing	10	5	15		50	30	
L. Dahlgren, Kandiyohi	4	22	33	50		55	
B. Börjeson, Atwater & Litchfield	1	10	18		9	67	
A. P. Björk, Grantsburg & Alabama	4	6	20			55	5
Sup[liant] Carver & Chaska	11						

Totals	89	58	175	99	174	490	20
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Repairs made:

Carver – Subscriptions for the church	\$300.
Trade Lake – Paid for the church	500.
Vasa – Repairs of the fence (sic)	<u>30</u>
Total	\$830.00

Topic Committee’s Report Topics for Written Dissertations

- 1 Noble Performance – Necessity, Manner & Use – C. G. Nelson
- 2 Preparation for Preaching - B. Börjeson
- 3 Methodism’s Teachings about the Sanctity – Edward Olson
- 4 Letter to the Romans 7:15 – A. J. Wicklund

Fourth Session – opened the 17th of June ,757:30 A. M. with song and prayer by Br. E. Olson.

- 1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and adopted.
- 2 Recommendations were taken up. A recommendation was presented by the P. E. from Minneapolis to the Quart[erly] Conf[erence] for Br.
 - a) E. Olson for a Local License. He was represented by J. A. Johnson. The Examination Committee reported [that] his Exam in Theology as especially good. The Conference approved a Local License for Br. Olson.
 - b) Br. A. J. Wicklund from Red Wing was represented by the P. E. for recommendation at the Annual Conference on probation.. The Committee reported [on] his examination. He was by the Conference recommended for admission on probation into the Traveling Association/Society.
- 3 The Statistics Secretary reported. The report was referred back to the Secretary for correction.
- 4 The committee appointed on the Br. P. A. Olson matter reported as follows:
On the basis of the information the committee has fetched in concerning his matter, it would not be proper to renew his license.

P. K. V. B. B.²³

²³ It is unknown for whom the initials “P. K. V.” stand for. “B. B.” is probably B. Börjeson.

- The report was accepted.
- 5 Br. A. P. Björk was excused from being present at the Conference after this session.
- 6 a) Br. Aug. Olson was called upon for [his] written dissertation upon the Subject “Child Baptism, its use and Blessing”. He asked to be excused because he had not written there upon. He was excused.
- C. Br. John Sundell spoke on his subject “ Strength in Weakness”. Br. Sundell’s talk was approved.
- D. Br. A. J. Wicklund was called upon for his written dissertation upon [his] subject “The best way to treat a fallen person in order to save his soul?”. He had not written it [yet], but he, along with Aug. Olson was enjoined to write upon his [current] subject [for presentation at] the next ½ year’s meeting.
- 6 Upon motion by C. G. Nelson, it was decided that the Subject Comm. be limited to [developing] four topics for written dissertations., and for the rest, to [develop] subjects for conversation to be introduced by delegated/assigned Brothers.
- 7 Br. P. M. Johnson was elected to preach the Conference Sermon at the next Conference meeting. The Sermon to be Written.
- 8 Determining the place for the holding of the next Dist. Conference was taken up.
- a) Marine, Kandiyohi [and] Trade Lake were proposed.
- b) It was decided upon for Kandiyohi.
- 9 Reports from the Pastors upon the spiritual condition of the congregation and S[unday] S[chools] were taken up
- a) Minneapolis was reported upon by A. J. Johnson. The congregation’s condition was rather good., yet not what one would wish for. As for the S[unday] S[chool], has been waning in [these] latter times, yet we hope upon better times.
- 10 a) Pastor E. Skogren from Preachers’ Association of the Swedish Mission District in Illinois presented a letter from the noted Association , which was read by the Secretary. After which Brother Skogren greeted us in a heart-gripping manner, calling down God’s blessing over us in our common work for the Lord, in a speech during which many old and dear memories were awoken in our hearts.
- E. Upon motion by Br. P. Johnson, the following resolution was adopted:
- I. We greet Pastor E. Skogren [with] a hearty welcome among us as the Representative of the Brother in Ill[inois] and Iowa.
- With regard to the representation’s contents,
Be it Resolved,
- 1 That we sincerely ask Br. Skogren to carry to the Brothers he represents , our brotherly participation & wish for success in their work for the Lord.
- 2 That we wish to work renewed enthusiasm for “Sändebudet’s” increased distribution.
- 3 That we wish to work for the School matter’s progress to the best of our abilities.
- 11 a) Reports from the Pastors were again taken up.
- Br. P. M. Johnson reported on Chisago Lake, Marine & Mound. The past ½ year has been my best in this field. The congregations’ conditions are, on the average, good.

- F. A. P. Björk, C. P of Grantsburg & Trade Lake²⁴ reported. We have lost many of our members in Grantsburg through a division with the Norwegians . In Trade Lake we have built a church during the winter . [We] have good, kind people , a good S[unday] S[chool] there [and in where I live.
- 12 The meeting was closed with a song of praise and the Blessing by Br. Skogren.

The Fifth Session – opened at 2 P. M. the 17th of June“75 through song and prayer by Brother A. J. Wicklund.

- 1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and adopted.
- 2 Reports from the c[aring] P[reachers] were taken up.
 - a) Kandiyohi reported on by L. Dahlgren, C. P..
We have two Sunday Schools in Kandiyohi with 40 or 50 children and in New London one with approximately 14 children The Swedish language is used with the exception of a class of older children.
 - b) Br. B. Börjeson reported on Atwater & Litchfield. [They] have a Sunday School in Atwater consisting of approximately 22 children. We use the Swedish language for our Swedish children. The congregation“s condition/situation is good. In Litchfield, the congregation is small. It is rather new, only a half year old. [It] has a pressing debt on the church there[but] hope all may be well.
 - c) Vasa & Goodhue reported on by Aug. Olson, C. P>.We have two S[unday] S[chools] in Vasa & one in Goodhue. Their conditions are rather good. The congregations“ conditions are good. Trust and love rule. The future rather encouraging.
 - d) Red Wing was reported on by Br. A. J. Wicklund, Suppliant. The congregation“s condition is rather good - ?gains? pleasant/nice. The S[unday] S[chool] condition is as well good, has around 40 children – some classes in the Swedish language.
 - e) St Paul reported on by . G. Nelson, C. P.. During the last half year, the Lord has blessed us more that previously. We have experienced rather good progress. However many members have left us with certification for other places.
- 3 Brother Börjeson was called upon for [his] written dissertation upon the topic ”The Old Person“. He asked to be excused until the next conference . Brother C. G. Nelson moved & Aug. Olson seconded that Br. Börjeson be excused. The Chair refused to take a vote, rather set aside the motion. [He] declared it illegal where upon Br. Nelson declared that he intended to appeal to the Chair [at] the next Annual Conference. Where after, Br. Börjeson read a part of the dissertation on the topic, which was referred back for improvement & recommending for printing in “Sändebudet”.
- 4 The Statistics Secretary presented his report upon the motion by L. Dahlgren, seconded by A. J. Wicklund. The report was accepted.
- 5 Br. Gunderson presented a letter concerning church building in Duluth. Upon motion by C. G. Nelson seconded by J. A. Johnson, it was decided that in the case we could get \$1500 dollars for the church property in Duluth, we should then sell it.
- 6 A committee was elected to take over the church property in Duluth to attend to its sale and the proper use of the money. For this purpose, C. G. Nelson, O. Gunderson [and] B. Börjeson were elected.

²⁴ It should have been footnoted earlier that both of these communities, as well as Alabama are in northwestern Wisconsin.

- 7 Br. Dahlgren presented the following resolution, which was adopted:
 Resolved that we now take up ?the reconciliation? Of our Representative’s travel expenses& that they be divided equally upon the raveling Preachers.
 In accordance with this decision, Br. P. M. Johnson was appointed [as the] committee.
- 8 Upon motion by Br. Dahlgren, the Topics Committee was permitted to give topics/subjects after the closing of this Conference.
 The Chair presented the Missions matter to the Conference & expressed [the thought] that the Brothers do everything possible for increased Missions collections.
- 9 The following Resolutions were presented and adopted:
- a) By Br. Nelson:
 Resolved:
 That we on the inner most sincerely encourage our dear Laymen Delegates and Local Preachers to attend our Conference meetings.
 And if they could not possibly come,
 That they at least write upon their assigned topic [and] submit it and give reason why they can not attend.
- b) By Br. Dahlgren:
 Resolved:
 That the Traveling Preachers have a private session called “The Preachers” Class Meeting” to meeting in the morning at 8 A. M..
- c) By Br. Nelson:
 Resolved:
 That we convey to the friends in Vasa and Goodhue our most heartfelt thanks for the loving manner upon which they have entertained us during our meetings.
- 10 The chair read 2nd Timothy, Chapter 2 [and] led in prayer.
 11 The minutes over the meeting were read and adopted.
 12 The meeting was closed with a song of praise and the Blessing.

G. G. Nelson, Sec.

The Swedish District’s Seventh Half –year Conference in Minn[esota]

Opened according to [previous] decision in Kandiyohi on Thursday the 11th of Nov. 1875 at 9 A. M. with song and a prayer by the Chair.

The following Brothers were present:

O. Gunderson, P. E.		A. Olson
B. Borjeson ²⁵	P. M. Johnson	A. P. Wicklund
L. Dahlgren		A. J. Johnson

P. M. Johnson was elected Secretary Pro Tem.

²⁵ The scribe/this scribe is now anglicizing the Swedish names.

Local Preachers present
E. P. Wicklund

Edvard Olson from Minneapolis

1st Session

- 1 The appointment of committees was taken up.
 - a) The Committee for the Holding of Services during the Meetings – A. Olson.
 - b) Statistics Committee – L. Dahlgren.
 - c) The Examinations Committee – B. Borjeson, A. Olson [and] P. M. Johnson.
 - d) Camp Meetings Committee – P. M. Johnson, A. Olson [and] Borjeson.
 - e) Topics Committee – P. M. Johnson [and] B. Borjeson.

Was decided to open the session every morning at 9 A. M. and to close at 12 o'clock and to begin again at 2:30 P. M. and to close at 5 P. M..

- 2 Reports About the congregations' Spiritual and Economic Conditions:
 - a) Atwater B. Börjeson says: The spiritual condition is satisfactory. The economic is well enough however debt still rests on the congregation.
 - b) P. M. Johnson Chisago Lake The spiritual is somewhat good and the congregation has no common church debt.
 - c) A. P. Wicklund Grantsburg & Trade Lake The spiritual condition is all well and the future appears to have a good outlook. The economic likewise good and a parsonage is being built.
 - d) L. Dahlgren Red Wing & St Paul The spiritual conditions are not especially good but we hope on better times. The economic somewhat [good].
 - e) J. A. Johnson Vasa The congregation's condition is good in the spiritual. The economic , depending, [is] well.
 - f) C. G. Nelson Minneapolis & Carver Nelson was away [and] there was not communication to the Conference.
- 3 Question. Where shall the next District Conference be held? Thee nominations: Grantsburg, St Paul and Marine.. After a lively debate, it was decided that the Dist. Conf. be held in Grantsburg in association with a Camp Meeting in Trade Lake. The Conference adjourned until 2 P. M. with the Blessing called down by P. M. Johnson

2nd Session – opened with a reading from the Bible and prayer by B. Börjeson

The minutes were read and accepted. The Topics were called upon.

- 1 Discussion topic "The Proper Wisdom" was taken up for discourse and introduced by J. A. Johnson, which was discussed with interest by the following Brothers:
 - a) A. Olson thought a true fear of God was based upon a "proper wisdom".
 - b) P. M. Johnson spoke and concurred with A. Olson's ideas.
 - c) A. J. Wicklund spoke about the Way of acquiring the "proper Wisdom" saying "the one who embraced Wisdom has asked/begged for "All Faith? Through prayer".
 - d) B. Börjeson considered it to be an important subject and understood that: "the? more we have of Christ, the? more wisdom we have of the "Proper Wisdom". L. Dahlgren: "The Proper Wisdom doe not reject all other wisdom, but need to stand in union with the former."

- e) E. P. Wicklund thought that the Fear of God is the Proper Wisdom and God's from the Origin/Creation.
 - f) O. Gunderson. The Bible tells us nothing, that Piousness is abstract, [it] makes up the Proper Wisdom but is its origins. Wisdom is in the best manner of bringing the Soul to God by studying mankind's properties - in order to reach the wished for goal. Ask and practice religion.
 - g) J. A. Johnson thought that the "Proper wisdom" here in question is the wide separation/distance from the world" wisdom.
- 2 B. Borgeson previous topic "The old and the new person, can they exist in association with each other the whole life together?" was taken up for discussion.
- a) E. P. Wicklund spoke and thought that when a person has been born anew, he is ready and suitable for heaven and has then no longer the old person but need to make use of the means in order to grow.
 - b) L. Dahlgren says that B. Borjeson's dissertation long and good, but did not think that the old and the new person can be joined.
 - c) P. K. Johnson spoke and did not think either that these two can be joined , rather that the old must die.
 - d) A. J. Wicklund was of the thought that the old person must die.
 - e) A. Olson on the matter in question thought that they both exist but the old must be fasten to the cross and killed with [its] lust and desires.
 - f) P. M. Johnson concurred with the previous Brothers' views but adds "there is a time period during which the old person is crucified the earlier he is killed, the better."
 - g) O. Gunderson wanted a better definition of the word old person, but thought that Christ's death is a good illustration of old Adam and can and ought to [have] died the First Day and they can never be joined.

Brother Borjeson's dissertation shall be improved and sent in to "Sändebudet" in accordance with the previous Conference's decision.

Adjourned at 4:30 o'clock with the Blessing by L. Dahlgren.

3rd Session – Friday the 12th of Nov., 9 A. M.. – was opened with song, a reading from the Bible and a prayer by P. A. Johnson.

The minutes were read and accepted.

- 1 The S[unday] School report was taken up.
 - a) B. Borjeson reported one Sunday School consisting of 24 children has not been so well attended during the last part of the year, however we can get [along] here, we can continue for the winter.
 - b) P. M. Johnson says "We have 3 S[unday] Schools with 60 children. [They] are in good shape and well attended."
 - c) A. Olson has 2 S[unday] Schools. Believes they are in good shape but can give any reliable report because of his short time there.

- d) L. Dahlgren. Has 2 S[unday] Schools. Has one in Red Wing with some classes in the Swedish language, the others in English. One in St Paul, small and its condition unknown.
- e) J. A. Johnson - has 2 S[unday] Schools, which appear to be in good condition.
- f) A. J. Wicklund – has 2 S[unday] Schools. Not yet well acquainted with their conditions, but [has good prospect (sic) on that they will be good. The Swedish language is used.

Was moved, seconded and adopted that [we] have a discussion on the S[unday] Schools subject.

After discussion, it was moved by P. M. Johnson and seconded “that Dr. Nast’s Catechism be generally introduce and used in our S[unday] Schools”. The motion was adopted ?unanimously?.

Adjourned at 12 noon with the Blessing by A. Olson.

4th Session – opened with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by A. J. Wicklund.

The minutes were read and accepted.

- 1 Reports from the Committees were called upon.
 - a) The Camp Meetings Committee proposed 3 Camp Meetings for next summer to be held in the following order:
 - 1st Atwater around the 10th of June 1876
 - 2nd Trade Lake the 22nd of June.
 - 3rd In Afton the 1st of July. The report was accepted.
 - b) Statistics Report

Statistics Report	Probationary	Member	Moved
L. Dahlgren – Red Wing & St Paul - No report.			
A. Olson – Kandiyohi, New London	20	6	
P. M. Johnson – Chisago Lake, Marine, Afton	11	6	2
B. Borgeson – Atwater & Litchfield	12	5	
J. A. Johnson – Vasa & Goodhue	2	3	
A. P. Wicklund – Grantsburg & Trade Lake	9	6	
C. G. Nelson – Minneapolis & Carver – No report			
Totals	54	26	2

Building and repairs made:

Kandiyohi – Parsonage under construction. Subscriptions	\$250.00
Chisago Lake - “ , repairs made for	150.00
Atwater - “ “ “ Residence debt	140.00
Vasa & Goodhue – “ “ “ “ “	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$790.00

- c) Examination Committee concerning Local Preachers’ gifts and energies Report
 - John Sandell’s gifts - good, energy – good.
 - John Smith’s “ “ “ “

E. P. Wicklund “ “ “ “
Edvard Olson “ “ “ “

P. Håkanson²⁶ in St Paul was, by the Conference, recommended to get his Local License renewed.

d) Local Preachers field of labor pointed out.

John Sundell – Vasa & Goodhue

John Smith – Chisago Lake & Marine

E. P. Wicklund – Kandiyohi

Edvard Olson – Minneapolis

P. Håkanson - St Paul

- 2 The question was taken up whether to continue to send a Delegate to the Dist. Conf. in Ill[inois]. The Brothers thought it best to do so, and upon motion , O. Gunderson was elected attend there at the first coming Dist. Conf.

A committee was elected consisting of C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson [and] L. Dahlgren [for the purpose] of giving the Representative suitable instructions for the need.

A District Stewards meeting made up of the Preaching Brothers present and the 2 Dist. Stewards namely Andrew Johnson from Kandiyohi and John Carlson from Minneapolis [was assembled]. After some consideration of the P[residing] Elder’s “Support for the Conf. Year 1875-76” (sic), the P. E. lowered his “Estimated Claims” (sic) for the current year to \$950.00, which was approved and adopted. In order to meet this need, 575.00 is to be received from the Mission, 375.00 provided also from the District to be divide upon the full membership in the “district”. P. M. Johnson and L. Dahlgren were elected to divide this expense

The meeting was adjourned with the Blessing by L. Lindqvist.

5th Session – opened the 13th of Nov. At 9 A. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and a prayer by P. M. Johnson.

The minutes were read and accepted.

- 1 P. M. Johnson’s Conference Sermon was discussed.
- 2 B. Borgeson was elected to preach the next Conference Sermon.
- 3 Topics were called upon.
 - A. Olson’s – “Child Baptism, its nature and use/value”. Was discussed by P. M. Johnson, O. Gunderson, L. Lindqvist [and] B. Borgeson.
 - B. Borejson’s – “Preparations for the Pulpit” was not complete but was discussed for a while and accepted as long as it went.

The Conference adjourned with the Blessing by A. J. Johnson.

6th Session – opened at 3 P. M..

The following resolutions were adopted:

²⁶ The scribe has anglicized Borjeson’s name but not Håkanson’s. He is still spelling this name in the Swedish alphabet.

- 1 A greeting of welcome to Dr. Henschen as “Sändebudet”s” new active editor.
- 2 To the same with an Address of Thanks for the reply to “Augustans”²⁷ under the title/heading of “Where does the letter stand, which was carried in “Sändebudet” No. 45 “ with complete recognition of the noted answer.
- 3 That through the Dist. Conf. Chairman on Sunday evening after the service”s dosing, to convey the Kandiyohi Congregation the Conference”s hearty thanks for a good and hospitable accommodating of the Conf. members during the meeting with wishes over them [of] Heaven”s best blessings.

The Conference adjourned in association with and address to the Brothers by the Chair , a final prayer by L. Lindqvist and the Blessing by the Chair.

The minutes have been read and accepted , certified by O. Gunderson.

P. M. Johnson, Sec.

The Presiding Elder”s salary is divided upon the District as follows:

St Paul	\$37	40
Minneapolis	27	20
Red Wing	25	30
Chisago Lake circuit	69	70
Kandiyohi	77	35
Atwater	42	50
Grantsburg	56	10
Vasa	<u>37</u>	<u>40</u>

Total on the District \$373.15 cents

Based upon 85 cents per member

P. M. Johnson
L. Dahlgren
The Committee

Topics Committee Report

- 1 “The best manner to make the S[unday] Schools progress ?completely open?” for discussion by C. G. Nelson & A. P. Wicklund
- 2 “The Thousand Year Kingdom” – C. G. Nelson
- 3 “Uprightness” – O. Gunderson
- 4 “ Hose visits, the best manner/way” – A. J. Wicklund
- 5 “The best way to cultivate a true brotherhood between the preaching Brothers” – J. A. Johnson
- 6 “To with progress treat a fallen person in order to save his soul” – A. Olson

²⁷ A publication of the Swedish Augustana Lutheran Synod.

“Self love, which often clothes itself in the great “I”. How can it best be conquered by a preacher so that get more respect from his Brother in the office?” – L. Dahlgren

7 “Upon what depends Methodism’s well-being?” – P. M. Johnson

1st Session – the Swedish District’s 8th Half-year Conference opened according to decision in Grantsburg, Wisc., Tuesday the 27th of June 1876 at 9 A. M.

with the sing of Psalm 118, a reading from the Bible of 1 Thomas, Chapter 3 and a prayer by the Chairman.

The Conf. roll was read and the following Brothers answered to their names:

O. Gunderson, Chair.		P. M. Johnson, Secretary
C. G. Nelson	B. Borgeson	A. Olson
L. Dahlgren	A. J. Wicklund	N. O. Floberg
A. W. Eklund		

and Larson from Illinois was introduced and taken up as a member in the counseling congregation and L. Peterson from Trade Lake likewise.

The sessions’ openings were established for each day – from 8 o’clock to 11:30 A. M.. To again open at 2 o’clock and continue to 5:30 P. M..

- a) Committee appointments were taken up. The Examination Committee – B. Borgeson, L. Dahlgren [and] C. G. Nelson.
- b) As Statistics Secretary – C. G. Nelson
- c) Committee on Local Preachers Activity – A. Olson, P. M. Johnson [and] L. Dahlgren
- d) S[unday] School Committee – L. Dahlgren, N. O. Floberg [and] A. J. Wicklund
- e) Missions Committee – C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson [and] A. Olson
- f) Literature Committee – C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson [and] B. Borgeson
- g) Topics Committee – A. J. Wicklund, L. Dahlgren [and] A. Olson. Was proposed by Br. C. G. Nelson and adopted that the Topics Committee in association with the Reports to this Conference delivers the topics to the Brothers.
- h) Camp Meetings Committee – C. G. Nelson, B. Borgeson [and] L. Dahlgren
- i) Moved and adopted that in the morning at 10 o’clock to hear the Representative from the Central Ill[inois] Brothers. Likewise adopted [was] that a letter from the brothers in Iowa sent to us through Br. O. Gunderson be read, after the Representative from Ill[inois] has presented his authority and reported.

The Topics were called upon

- k) O. Gunderson had not written out [his] and was excused.
- l) C. G. Nelson had not written his yet], but enjoined to [have written upon his] topic by the next Dist. Conf.
- m) A. J. Wicklund had not written [his yet], but was enjoined to in the morning lead a discussion over his topic.

- n) J. A. Johnson had failed to appear and no paper upon the topic had been sent.
- o) J. A. Johnson was excused for his absence announced via a letter to A. J. Wicklund.
- p) L. Dahlgren read his dissertation upon his topic and it was unanimously accepted with the recommendation for publication in "Sändebudet".
- q) Br. Wicklund, upon request, was permitted to leave the Conf. at 5 P. M. in order to go to Wood Lake together with Eklund to preach.
- r) The Conf. adjourned at 11:30 with the Blessing called down by Br. H. W. Eklund.

2nd Session – opened with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by L. Dahlgren.

- a) The minutes were read and accepted.
- b) Olof Johnson of Trade Lake had arrived.

Topics called upon

- c) P. M. Johnson's topic was called upon. Was discussed with the recommendation for acceptance in "Sändebudet".
- d) The topic "S[unday] S[chool], and more" was opened for discussion by C. g. nelson and A. J. Wicklund.. In this discussion, the other Brothers took part , namely
- e) Floberg spoke and said to produce a good S[unday] School, [it is necessary] that the leaders/teachers possess a true Christianity, one which encourages children, gives them an appropriate credit according to the circumstances.
- f) Peterson agreed with the previous.
- g) O. Gunderson says the question is not only if most of the children, rather it principally is, to get them facing to God, also the great principal question is, about a successful S[unday] School.
- h) P. M. Johnson spoke.
- i) Eklund recommended a Christly leader, the congregation's help, good literature, etc.
- j) B. Borgeson agreed with previous Brothers remarks.
- k) The Conf. adjourned at 4 P. M. with the Blessing by P. M. Johnson.

3rd Session – opened with song, a Bible passage and prayer by P. M. Johnson.

- a) The minutes were read and accepted.
- b) The Brothers expressed views on the topic of S[unday] Schools as a whole were adopted.

Reports with regard to the spiritual conditions within the congregations were taken up.

- c) St Paul – L. Dahlgren – The congregation is in good condition, peace and harmony abides among the people. Red Wing – A great number [of the congregants] have moved. A difficult place for progress. Oppositions exist, yet our services/meetings are well attended.
- d) Minneapolis – C. G. Nelson – The Lord has blessed to work with success, and the soul's savior is out God. In Carver, rather little can be done, however it is a great field of labor with good opportunities.
- e) Chisago Lake, Marine and Mound Prairie – P. M. Johnson – The labor is wide stretched, have not, as it ought to be, been able to manage with the intended progress. Yet have services. [They] are well attended , and some souls have been lead from death to life and been placed to ?the congregations?.

- f) Kandiyohi - A. Olson. [Some] small unpleasant events have occurred, but otherwise good. Blessings and progress with good prospects have there all the same existed, yet the S[unday] School needs to be improved.
New London – The building of a church is on hand. Religion’s movement tolerable – and the future bright.
- g) Atwater – B. Borgeson. Peace and unity abide. Souls have been changed. An increase in the congregation and the spiritual condition is also good. The Sunday School is small but the hopes are full. Litchfield – the situation is good also the time has now come to hear representation within.
- h) Brother Eklund presented, through a letter, his authority and greetings from the Brothers in Central Illinois, followed by an oral greeting with a warm and brotherly wish for God’s great blessing over us and our common labors in God’s wine garden.
The school in Evanston was introduced. The importance and worth of both to support and to utilize was placed forward, to take to heart---
- Sändebudet was recommended for an even further distribution as a church newspaper, and the best in the Swedish language. That a Swedish Annual Conference needs to be called and was recommended most heartily by the speakers.
- i) Br. O. Gunderson answered the Representative from Illinois, recognizing and giving the Conference’s thanks for the representation as well as the speech’s heartiest embracing.
- j) A resolution was presented and adopted. See No. 1.
- k) O. Gunderson presented from the Preachers’ Association in Iowa a written greeting to the Conference and in an oral speech/lecture described these Brothers situation and sympathy with us in our common work in the Lord. A resolution in answer was presented and adopted. See No. 2. [Congregational] reports were taken up again.
- l) Grantsburg – A. J. Wicklund, The condition is good an in expectation of continued progress, also in
- m) Trade Lake a more promising field , and for the future a good outlook. The people have zeal for God’s matters and work, and peace with God and each other mutually, and [we] have a lively S[unday] School in good shape.
- n) Kokato²⁸ & Delano²⁹ – O. Gunderson says, he could well have organized a Class there , but by reason that they are so spread out , with many elements of different thoughts and beliefs , he thought it best to let it rest for the moment.
- o) Are there any recommendation?
- p) Peterson from Trade Lake was recommended for Local Preacher, which was adopted.
- q) Edward Olson from Minneapolis was recommended to enter into the traveling system in accordance with the Disciplines.
- r) The Statistics Report was presented. See the report.
- s) Upon C. G. Nelson’s motion, a song of praise was sung with regard to the report.
- t) Adjourned with the Blessing by L. Dahlgren.

4th Session – opened with song, a reading from the Bible and a prayer by A. Olson.

- a) The minutes were read and approved.
- b) B. Borgeson’s Conference Sermon was discussed, adopted and approved.

²⁸ More properly spelled Cokato. A city in Wright County, Minnesota.

²⁹ Also a city in Wright County, Minnesota.

- c) A. Olson's topic was called up. He had not written it was enjoined to write there upon in order to send it in to "Sändebudet" as soon as possible.
- d) A. J. Wicklund's topic was called upon for discourse by himself. Then the others took part.
- e) Wicklund considered it to be best to take advantage of the available circumstance, which is at hand, for the opening of conversation, which can lead to the goal. It may now get its beginning about the earthly or the heavenly matters.
- f) L. Dahlgren thought that, regarding house visits, it was best to get right to the matter about the heavenly matter and the soul's salvation, [and] then leave as soon as it permits.
- g) Eklund recommends preaching: To adjust it according to circumstances at the house visit, with choice of the best means as well as time.
- h) A. Olson looks on house visits as a rather important matter. Some definite rule herewith can not be followed here, rather time and circumstances must be taken into consideration and carried out in a loving wisdom.
- i) P. M. Johnson thought it best in order to be useful at house visits, that the Preacher keep himself in a quiet and humble spirit before his God. Means, time and circumstances will be well to also take into consideration.
- k) O. Gunderson. House visits are for many a difficulty. But we must go and carry out our Biblical and Disciplinary obligations, whether we are welcome or not. The goal is to save souls, bring them to the Cross. The most suitable time? Afternoon is recommended .
- l) A resolution No. 3 was adopted through standing vote.
- m) The Missions Committee report was accepted. See the report.
- n) The Literature Committee report was accepted. See the report.
- o) The S[unday] School Committee report was accepted. See the report.
- p) The Camp Meetings Committee report was accepted. See the report.
- q) A committee was appointed and accepted consisting of C. G. Nelson, O. Gunderson [and] L. Dahlgren to the next Annual Conference for Minnesota [in] 1876 work up and present petition for an annual Swedish conference within the United States.
- r) St Paul was decided as for the next District onference.
- s) C. G. Nelson was elected to preach the next Conference sermon.
- t) Resolution No. 4 was adopted by standing vote.
- u) Was moved and adopted to meet for the last session a 7:30 A. M.. next morning.
- v) The minutes were read and accepted.

Adjourned with the Blessing by C. G. Nelson

5th Session. Opened with song, a Bible passage and a prayer by C. G. Nelson.

- a) Are there any reports?
- b) The report for the Local Preachers delegated fields of work. See the report.
- c) The Topics Committee report was accepted. See the report.
- d) Was moved and adopted to suspend §about ?obligatory ticket(sic)? Within our congregations as unable and unneeded to carry out.
- e) Moved and adopted that on the 4th Sunday in July to preach a centennial sermon in all of our Swedish churches and to take up subscriptions for our school in Evanston.
- f) Was moved and adopted that the Secretary write to A. J. Anderson [in] Ill[inois] as request in association with a Resolution that Oscar Steed might be sent to Minn[esota] in the fall.

- g) The minutes were read and accepted.
- h) The District Conf. was closed with a moving speech by the Chair, which was answered on the Conference's behalf by P. M. Johnson, a song and a prayer by the Chair.

P. M. Johnson, Sec.

O. Gunderson, Chair.

Resolution No. 1 by C. G. Nelson

Whereas we have had the pleasure to hear a letter and greetings from the Swedish District Association of Preachers in Illinois through its honorable Representative, Pastor W. W. Eklund, their Brother our dearly beloved in the Lord,

Therefore be it Resolved:

- 1 We are heartily happy and thankful for their greetings to us, and we herewith express our hearty acceptance in what they have therein expressed.
- 2 That in regard to our relationships with each other, we hope and ask God that after this year [that] we may meet and see each others faces and make yet nearer acquaintanceship in an annual Swedish conference. The Lord hasten the day!
- 3 That we from our hearts thank Brothers A. Anderson and H. A. Eklund for the help at the Camp Meeting in Trade Lake and here.

Resolution No. 2 by L. Dahlgren

Whereas a written communication from the Swedish Preachers Association within the Iowa District has been received through our P[residing] Elder, which pleased our hearts and lifts our courage to hear,

Therefore be it Resolved:

- 1 That we are heartily thankful for the greetings and agree heartily in the hopes that are expressed therein.
- 2 That we are united in the intimate burden about God's matters' progress among them and us and that we may soon meet in an annual Swedish conference.

Resolution No. 3 by L. Dahlgren [and] C. G. Nelson

Whereas we hear with joy that a class of three young men come in the fall to graduate from the Theological School in Evanston,

And as the Scriptures teach that one sows and another reaps, we hope to get to harvest some of the School's fruit,

Therefore be it Resolved:

- 1 That we as a District onference unanimously and humbly ask P[residing] E[lder] A. J. Anderson that Br. Oscar Steed from Evanston be sent be sent over to us in Minn[esota] for our help in the Lord's work.

Resolution No. 4 by L. Dahlgren.

Be it Resolved

That we convey to the Swedish M. E. Church in Grantsburg our thanks for their hospitality and loving accommodating [of us] during our Conference.

Committee Reports

Missions Committee Report

Whereas in accordance with §124 in the Disciplines, the Committee has taken into consideration the Missions³⁰ and the Church³¹'s expansion, accordingly:

- 1 The Committee recommends to place in the Conference³² minutes [that] the engaged places namely St James³⁰, St Peter³¹, Cokato& Delano³² in want of people and means.
- 2 Kirkhoven³³ appearing as having better outlooks for the future than any of the other newly engaged locations, and likewise
- 3 [We] recommend Plumb Creek in Wisconsin to be taken up/engaged as a Supplicant.

C. G. Nelson, P. . Johnson, the Committee

Literature Committee Report

Your Committee on Literature has taken in special view these matters/things/items and find : To the newly considered Literature, we count:

- a) The Bible in our Swedish language, the principal book of all literature.
- b) The Disciplines, the Church³¹'s standard and her book of laws.
- c) We have in our own language our own hymnal for public worship services and "Andliga Sångar"³⁴ for use at special services.
- d) We have in our own language and issue/printing of Dr. W. Nast³³'s "Large and Small Catechism" for our youth in S[unday] School.
- e) Of newspapers, we own "Sändebudet", a beloved and valued newspaper [and] our Church³¹'s organ.
- f) Some books and tracts are already in circulation , approved and available in our book stores in the country, therefore we consequently
- g) Recommend and expect each preacher within our District try, as far as it is upon him depended, to spread out among all of our countrymen the presently available literature as well as that, which in the future in our own language, appears for our Church³¹'s future well-being.

C. G. Nelson

P. M. Johnson

B. Borgeson

³⁰ A city in Watonwan County, Minnesota

³¹ A city in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

³² A city in Wright County, Minnesota.

³³ A city in Swift County, Minnesota.

³⁴ "Spiritual Songs".

Sunday School Committee Report

The Sunday Schools are in tolerably good shape. The Swedish language is used in almost without exception in all of the schools and the preachers appear to have this important matter to heart more than at any time before. Yet there are many things that can be improved:

- 1 The preachers should oversee that the Sunday School director and teachers are persons with a true fear of God and active in their congregation with a sincerely love for children.
- 2 That lively songs, good Literature and pray meetings are held as often as is permitted in order to make the Sunday School rich in progress.

L. Dahlgren

A. J. Wicklund

A. Floberg

The Committee

Camp Meeting Report

- 1 That each congregation that wishes to have a Camp Meeting next year, will deliver is wish through it preacher at the first District Conference, which will determine the times for holding them.
- 2 That each Caring Preacher where the Camp Meeting shall be held, procures the Brothers whom he wishes to be of assistance to him.
- 3 That the Conference establish a time for a Camp Meeting called the District Camp Meet, which should be held [in either] St Paul or Minneapolis, [and that] it is expected as well that all District preachers are present and a delegation, if possible, from each congregation be represented.

C. G. Nelson

L. Dahlgren

B. Borgeson

The Committee

Committee on Local Preacher's Character Report

- 1 The Committee has investigated and found E. P. Wicklund, Kandiyohi, E. Olson, Minneapolis, John Smith, Chisago Lake, and John Sundell, Vasa being without complaint in their characters and active in their calls to preach working for God's work, therefore they are all recommended.
- 2 Brother M. Håkanson in St Paul's character is good, but because of age and poor health, seldom preaches but is recommended.
- 3 The Committee can not say anything about C. G. Forsberg [as] he has not preached nor been visible in the congregation for some time, rather we transfer his matter to the District Conference for consideration.
- 4 Br. A. Floberg of Minneapolis' character and diligence is good and is recommended as a Foreman.

A. Olson

L. Dahlgren

P. M. Johnson

The Committee

Committee on Local Preacher's Fields of Labor Report

C. G. Forsberg – St Paul and Afton

E. Olson – Minneapolis

John Sundell – Vasa & Goodhue

John Smith – Chisago Lake & Marine

E. P. Wicklund – Kandiyohi & New London
 L. Peterson – Trade Lake & Grantsburg

The Committee

Topics Committee Report

“The Thousand Year Kingdom” – C. G. Nelson
 “What influence does it have on God’s [Work] if a preacher is not careful in his economic affairs?”
 – O. Gunderson
 “The Soul and the Spirit, difference and relationship with the body” – P. M.
 “Complete Love” – P. M. Johnson
 “Patience – its proper use” – B. Borgeson
 “What is Love called the greatest?” – A. Olson
 “Resurrection” – L. Dahlgren
 “The true humility” – A. P. Wicklund
 Local Preachers and Foremen were encouraged to choose their own texts.

A. P. Wicklund L. Dahlgren A. Olson The Committee

Statistics Report

Congregation	Full Member	Probationary	“Sändbudet”	S. S. Pupils	a a d ³⁵ S. S.	Missions Support
Minneapolis & Carver	10	15	27	70		\$
Atwater & Litchfield	15	17	24	23		48.00
Grantsburg & Trade Lake	23	14	27	55		60.00
St Paul	7	12	18	25	30	
Red Wing & Plumb Creek	10	10	24	60	75	15.00
Kandiyohi & New London	16	11	31			
Chisago Lake, Marine & Mound Prairie	6	4	35	50		55.00
Vasa & Goodhue	No report					
Totals	87	89	186	283	105	178.00
Financial Report	Residence	Church	Repairs	Debt	Paid	On Debt

³⁵ The letters “a a d” are written. Their meaning is unclear to the Translator.

Atwater & Litchfield						50.00
Grantsburg & Trade Lake						242.00
From Church Extension		200.00				
St Paul Church improved (sic)		800.00	400.00	400.00		36.00
Red Wing & Plumb Creek		1300.00	500.00	500.00		328.00
Kandiyohi & New London	1	1	645.00			

C. G. Nelson

Swedish District 9th Half-yearly District Conference

Opened in accordance with the call in the St Paul Church Tuesday the 14th of Nov. 1876 with the singing of Psalm 124 & the reading of the 13th Chapter of 1 Timothy and prayer by the Chair.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: On this page, Page 112 of this record, the following is written in the upper left hand corner: "Conference roll called + See the roll/register".

- 1st Session** a) The sessions' openings were determined for 9 o'clock and closing at 11:30 A. M. and the afternoon sessions to begin at 1:30 and close at 4:30.
- b) For [leading] the religious services during [the Conference] were elected L. Dahlgren [and] O. Gunderson.
- c) Missions Committee – L. Dahlgren [and] B. Borgeson.
- d) Statistic Committee – C. G. Nelson [and] A. J. Wicklund.
- e) Examination Committee – C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren [and] P. M. Johnson.
- f) Camp Meeting Committee – P. . Johnson, A. J. Wicklund [and] P. A. Johnson.
- g) Topics Committee – A.J. Wicklund, B. Borgeson [and] Sundell.
- h) District Conference Committee – O. Gunderson, L. Dahlgren [and] B. Borgeson.
- i) S[unday] School Committee – C. G. Nelson, E. Olson [and] P. M. Johnson.

The investigation of the local Preachers' and Foremen's character, gifts and energies was taken up.

Local Preacher John Smith at Chisago Lake ---- suitable

John Sundell, Vasa Circuit ----- "

M. Hokanson,³⁶ St Paul ----- "

C. G. Forsberg was not passed.

Edvard Olson, Chisago Circuit ----- "

E. P. Wicklund, Kandiyohi Circuit ----- "

L. Peterson, Trade Lake Circuit ----- "

Foremen's character, etc.

A. Floberg, Minneapolis ----- "

E. Davidson, Trade Lake ----- "

Charles Peterson, Minneapolis ----- "

³⁶ His name is now anglicized.

Adjourned with song and the Blessing by P. M. Johnson.

The minutes were read and accepted.

2nd Sess[ion] a) Opened the 15th of Nov. 1876 at 9 A. M. with song and a prayer by John Sundell. Brother C. G. Nelson was elected as Secretary Pro Tem.

A committee consisting of J. Sundell, E. Olson and J. A. Johnson was elected to assign how much was to be collected for charitable this year in the District.

The 3rd Disc[iplinary] Question was taken up, Reports from the Preachers upon the spiritual conditions within the congregations.

St Paul & Mound Prairie, L. Dahlgren reports [that] he was very engaged with other tasks since [the last] Conference, therefore [he] has not made so many pastoral visits as usual but the spiritual condition was good.

Minneapolis, C. G. Nelson reports. The spiritual condition is rather good. We trust on God for progress – have 30 old and 6 new subscribers to “Sändebudet”. Have tried to spread our Disciplines among the people/population and make them acquainted with our teachings/faith.

Grantsburg & Trade Lake, A. J. Wicklund reports. The spiritual condition is good. Souls are being awoken and recognizing their needs. 27 subscribers to “Sändebudet” and try to spread/distribute Bibles and our books, especially Wesley’s “Sermons”.

Chisago Lake & Marine, E. Olson reports. Have tried to make myself familiar with the congregation’s conditions. Find the people in part very kind and in part not what one could wish. Yet on the whole, good social meetings, well attended. Try to spread our books and “Sändebudet”.

Vasa & Goodhue & Red Wing, J. A. Johnson reports. In Vasa and Goodhue [it] is small but good. As regards house visits, I manage well. We have not been able to spread out books [around] much. We draw forth great use of and distribute it [around], and try to get it read outside of the congregation and [thereby] harvest good fruit. The economic has been shoved to the side, but we have decided to collect money for the debts on the church in Vasa. In Red Wing there is hope that in this regard to make some progress.

Carver & Extension, O. Gunderson reports. In Carver a little congregation on probation. Rather little has been able to be accomplished in spite of best efforts. There are ten subscribers to “Sändebudet”. As the P[residing] Elder [for] the District, [I] preach two to three times every Sunday besides my travels and the quarterly meetings. With regard to the conditions, they are only average good. I think our people mean to live for God but do not possess the deepness of religion, which they ought to for the matter’s best progress. We all, Preachers and members need to humble before God that we may find the power from on High.

(3) Local Preachers’ reports were taken up.

John Smith reports. Have for the last 3rd years gotten to preach in Chisago Lake 2 out of 3 Sundays.

Fell well [in both] body and soul. Live by God’s grace to the soul and ?embrace? of the body.

John Sundell in Vasa reports. My desire and my goal is to do God’s work. Have tried through God’s grace to fill my place. In Vasa, I have engaged in most of my work. Have preached there, and in other places almost every Sunday. Will continue as long as God gives grace.

Brother A. Olson, (Supernumerary) reports. As under “rest”, I feel good/well in the soul. [I] have not once since the Conference been home. Try in some degree to be active and do good. Wish with the depth of my heart that the time returns to take [up] the labors. Agree with the P[residing] Elder for my part and believe that we need a greater power from on High.

The 3rd [Discipline] Question was taken up again.

Kandiyohi & New London, P. M. Johnson reports. Have tried, since I arrived at the congregations to make myself acquainted with the circumstances. The people appear to be willing to go forward and to be rooted and based in Grace. In the economic [regard], both work and insurance is needed. The outlooks are rather dark. We ought to build a church in the Burbank³⁷ settlement instead of the intended in New London. In Kandiyohi [there] remains a debt on the church and pastorate of \$300.00. In Kerkhoven there is great opposition but the friends are determined to work on God's work while there is day, and the thought upon even there to build a house to God's honor circulates among our people. We have 30 subscribers to "Sändebudet".

Atwater & Litchfield, B. Borgeson reports. Am happy to be able to say that the most seek the living God. Have a kind people. To my surprise, I was for the fourth year sent back. It is however to the majority's pleasure. Regarding the economic, in Atwater on the church property is a debt of \$300.00. In Litchfield the circumstances are rather dark. We need a helping hand, if any can be extended to us. If it/this does not occur, I declare that we lose that which we have already accomplished. Have 26 subscribers to "Sändebudet".

Adjourned with song and the Blessing by C. G. Nelson.

3rd Session opened with song, a Bible passage and a prayer by G. Newman. No readings of essays/dissertations this Conference although [they] were called upon.

Moved and seconded to adjourn in order to permit the committee to work, and to meet again in the morning at 9 A. M..

Thursday the 16th, 4th Session – opened with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by B. Borgeson.

C. G. Nelson's Conference Sermon was taken up for discussion. Brother Nelson's sermon, which was written and read from the pulpit, was recommended generally for acceptance into "Sändebudet".

a) Are there any recommendations for permission to preach?

G. Newman from Goodhue is recommended for a Local License, according to the Quarterly Conference wish and the recommendation by Vasa of the 21st of Oct. 1876.

O. Gunderson, Chair.

J. A. Johnson, Sec.

b) Are there any reports?

The Topics Committee presents its report, as enjoined by the Conference to present to each Brother his topic before the Conference and [for] the Conference's approval and to not be published in "Sändebudet".

The Committee fulfilled its obligations. See Report 1.

³⁷ A village in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

Was moved and adopted that the Brother who has preached the last Conference Sermon possesses the right to name his successor for the next Conference Sermon, but the Conference has jurisdiction to accept or reject it.

District Committee Report.

The Committee recommends that only one District Conference be held a year and may be called in union with one of the summer's Camp Meetings.. The report was accepted.

Where shall the next District Conference be held?

Vasa & Minneapolis were proposed, but in accordance with the voting Minneapolis was elected for the next Conference. L. Dahlgren shall preach the next Conference Sermon . Brother A. Olson submitted a request if he could leave the Conference in the afternoon. His request was approved.

Adjourned at 12 o'clock with a song of praise and a prayer by Brother Smith.

5th Sess[ion] – opened a prayer by Br. Borgeson.

The S[unday] School Committee reported. The report was accepted. See Report 2.

The Statistic Committee reported. The report was accepted as it is, but can not be published. See the report.

The Camp Meeting Committee report was accepted. See Report 3.

The District Stewards met and were made up of O. Gunderson, Chair., P. M. Johnson, C G . Nelson, B. Borgeson, J. A. Johnson, L. Dahlgren, A. P. Wicklund, E. Olson, John Sundell [and] G. Newman in order to consult on how much the P[residing] Elder needs for his support for the year.

The Brothers accepted that \$800.00 should be needed. In order to meet this need, \$500.00 was assigned to the Mission, \$100.00 from the Boston Donation, the remaining, accordingly \$200.0, to be divided upon the congregations as follows:

St Paul	18.40	Carver	20.00
Minneapolis	18.86		
Chisago Lake	27.60		
Grantsburg	27.60		
Vasa, Goodhue	23.00		
Atwater	27.60		
Kandiyohi	39.40		

7th Question. It there any other business?

Moved, seconded and adopted that the following Brother ought to visit the summer Camp Meetings at the pales as follows: O. Gunderson – Vasa, C. G. Nelson – Trade Lake, L. Dahlgren – Kandiyohi – Camp Meeting.

Resolution No. 4 was adopted by standing vote.

Each Preacher is authorized by the Conference that in his own Circuit [he] shall direct/assign the Local Preachers the field of work/labor [that] he as such shall visit.

The minutes were read and accepted.

The Conference was closed with song and prayer by P. M. Johnson., The Blessing was called down by J. Sundell.

O. Gunderson, Chair.
P. M. Johnson, sec.

Reports

Report No. 1 The Topics Committee Report – to write upon the following topics:

To O. Gunderson – Topic. “Where was the prison, which Christ preached about, for ?those?³⁸ who did not believe in ?the present?.”

To C. G. Nelson - Topic “The Thousand Year Kingdom”.

To P. M. Johnson – Topic “The Soul and the Spirit, the differences and relationships to the body”.

To L. Dahlgren – Topic “The Resurrection”.

To B. Borgeson – Topic “Patience, its proper use”.

Discussion Topics are as follows:

“Camp Meetings, the best way to lead them for a desired result.” To be introduced by A. P. Wicklund

“Can a person (sic) who has been completely consecrated and later lost the Communion thereafter, can he likewise be retained in a justified condition?”. To be introduced by A. Olson.

“Complete Love”. To be introduced by E. Olson.

“What is God’s Temple?” by Sundell [and] J. A. Johnson.

“The true humility” by John Smith.

“Sorrow according to God’s sense” by L. Peterson.

Ebenezer 12.1 by M Hokanson.

“Justification” by G. Newman.

“New birth” by E. P. Wicklund.

“The best way to win/gain our growing/developing youth for God and the Church” by A. J. Wicklund.

Report No. 2 The s[unday] School Committee reports

What happens in the S[unday] Schools in the District, we are afraid that we have not yet arrived to the regularity and harmony, which can assure the best progress, [therefore] we recommend here upon:

That our already adopted decision be better observed.

That we all place this beyond measure important matter more to heart and exhort congregation members to do so.

³⁸ The scribe writes “andame”. There is no such word in Swedish, therefore I have made a substitution of what I think he meant.

That at the next District Conference set aside at least one morning session for discussing this subject .
 And that a S[unday] School festival be held on an evening during the sessions.
 That we heartily exhort al S[unday] School Superintendents who are members of the Conference to be present and take part herein and each and everyone give to the meeting a report from each of their schools.

C. G. Nelson }
 E. Olson } The Committee
 . A. Johnson }

Report No. 3 The Camp Meetings Committee reports:

The Committee proposes that, during the summer of 1877, be held Camp Meetings at the times and places within the Swedish District in Minnesota namely:
 1st – In the Kandiyohi circuit to begin the 13th of June.
 2nd – Vasa and Goodhue to begin the 14th of June.
 3rd – Trade Lake & Grantsburg to begin the 20th of June.
 4th – A district Camp Meeting to held between St Paul & Minneapolis to begin the 25th of June.
 And recommends in as far as it is possible that a Camp Meeting at Carver around the 5th of June 1877.

Sincerely,

The Committee

Report No. 4 Statistics Report

Congregation	Proba- tion	Member	Sändebu- det	S Scho ol Klockan	Collect- ed	? ³⁹
St Paul	3	12	20	25	25.00	
Minneapolis	8	15	36		25.00	8.00
Grantsburg & Trade Lake	2	3	30		30.00	5.00
Vasa, Goodhue & Red Wing			24			
Atwater & Litchfield			26		40.00	7.00
Plumb Creel & Stockholm no report						
Chisago Lake & Marine			23		45.00	3.00
Carver no report						
Kandiyohi no report						
Totals	13	30	159	25	165.00	23.00
Financial Report						
	Church	Parsonage	Debt	Paid off		

³⁹ What appears to be written is “Chevi”. This could be an abbreviation for “chevalersk” = “chivalrous”.

	building					
St Paul	209.00	38.00	175.00	500.00		
Minneapolis	505.05		300.00			
Atwater			800.00	60.00		
Carver	75.30		230.00			
	\$ 789.55	38.00	15.05.00	560.00		

C. G. Nelson }
A. J. Wicklund } The Committee

The Swedish District's 10th Half-yearly Conference

Opened its discussions in the Minneapolis Church Tuesday the 3rd of July 1877 at 10 A. M. with song, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Br. Borgeson. B. Borgeson was elected the Chairman Pro Tem.

The roll was called and the following Brothers answered to the call: P. M. Johnson, C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson [and] A. J. Wicklund.

1st session – The times for the sessions' holdings were established to begin at 8:00 A. M. and close at 11:30. The afternoon sessions to begin at 3:30 o'clock and closed/end at 4:30 o'clock.

Committee appointments were taken up.

C. G. Nelson was elected for worship services during the Conference.

Examinations Committee – L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson [and] A. J. Wicklund.

Sunday School Committee – A. J. Wicklund, J. A. Johnson [and] E. A. Davidson.

Missions Comm. – C. G. Nelson, A. J. Johnson [and] B. Borgeson.

Topics Committee – P. M. Johnson, E. Olson [and] A. Olson.

A Standing Camp Meeting Committee for the year with the authority to therewith manage according to the determining circumstances – P. M. Johnson, C. G. Nelson [and] L. Dahlgren.

Memorial (sic) Committee – C. G. Forsberg, B. Borgeson, [and] A. J. Wicklund. The time was established for a Memorial Service (sic) at Thursday 10:30 A. M..

Statistics Secretary – Chs. Peterson.

O. Gunderson arrived at 10:30 and took his place as Chair.. Brothers J. A. Johnson and A. Olauson arrived at 9:45.

Reports upon the congregations' conditions were taken up:

B. Borgeson was called and says; our people try in all [ways] to fear God . Peace and unity counsel in the congregation but opposition to our and God's matters is unfortunately not absent. In the economics, there is, for the present, a dark outlook. The S[unday] School is small but in good condition.

- P. M. Johnson was called and says: The Outlooks for the economic [aspects] dark. The farmers fields are black because of the grasshoppers (sic) destroy the crops and leaving/moving fever has taken on large dimensions. In the spiritual, it is better. Out people try to live a life in God and with God. The building of the church continues in the vicinity of Lake Andrew⁴⁰. The S[unday] School is in full activity and good. All is well. The Conference stood up and sang 413.
- L. Dahlgren says: A good sister has left our efforts (namely Sister Johnson in St Paul) but she left there in peace. The soul as a whole is for the present good in St Paul. I am in Afton every 3rd Sunday. Many people come to the services under a good ?influence? of the sermon, yet without any special progress [noted].
- A. J. Wicklund says: With regard to Grantsburg, that there are few in number there, but it is a wonder that these remain under such unpleasant circumstances. One has been excommunicated and a family taken in, and progress is expected. In Trade Lake, I had an extended service during the winter with a good influence during Prayer Week, 11 got peace with God, [who] is our Lord. In West Sweden I have had services as often as I can, and the people are interested in the. In Trade Lake, the Camp Meeting was good and [there were] many people at our meetings/services.

Adjourned with the Blessing called down by C. G. Nelson.

2nd Session – opened with prayer by A. J. Johnson. The minutes were read and accepted.

- C. G. Nelson says: [During] the last half [of the year], some members have moved from here. The extended services during the winter were good and [in] blessing has brought 12 or 13 to join with us. But after the extended service, some unpleasantness was noted resting upon my soul but could not get any clarity in the reason before the month of April. The reason was finally discovered for the sadness for myself and the congregation. But finally trust came from God and frankness came again to my mind, and now after an undertaken cleansing within the congregation to get the villain away, the services have been better attended and their influence good. In the economic, it is dark because work is absent for the people. A good subscription is signed up, if it comes in.
- Olauson reports and says: Is thankful to God for His grace, granted to me at my new location/place. Has at present 14 full members, 12 on probation. Outlooks are bright and encouraging and conditions on the whole good. Influence good. The think about building a church for which 7000 [board] feet for lumber has been found.
- P. A. Johnson says: I have tried to do my best on my field of labor, however I have not found the fruit I wished. A stagnation has developed for the present moment, and [it is] as rather hard location for progress, yet we remain in hope and the basis of an influence-rich Camp Meeting, which is now recently finished, to see an opening made here for God's assured progress. The Camp Meeting gave us the following results: around 40 awoken or changed, 28 entered the Church, and the future seems bright. A new church is built in Red Wing, which was consecrated the past Sunday. One in Goodhue is built and soon ready for consecration, and all will be.

Because of the reports over the District Camp Meeting, a song of praise was sung [and the session] adjourned with the Blessing by P. M. Johnson.

Conference Sermon by L. Dahlgren at 8 o'clock in the evening. Ext 2 Timothy 4:5.

⁴⁰ A lake in Andrew Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

3rd Sess[ion] – The Conference opened with song, a Bible passage and prayer by L. Dahlgren. The minutes were read and accepted.

L. Dahlgren’s sermon was taken up for discussion.. Br. Dahlgren’s sermon was approved and accepted.

Are there any recommendations for Local Preachers to preach? Yes – Erik A. Davidson, who has been examined by the Committee got a Local License.

Carl Johan Peterson was examined and recommended for a L[ocal] License.

Local Preachers’ characters, gifts and energies were taken up.

John Sundell – Vasa	passed
G. Newman – Goodhue	passed
John Smith – Chisago Lake	passed
Edvard Olson - ditto	passed
M. Hokanson – St Paul	passed
A. Olauson – Plumb Creek	passed
E. P. Wicklund – Kandiyohi	passed
C. G. Forsberg, Local Elder – Afton	passed
A. Floberg – Minneapolis	passed.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: On the margin next to these entries is written: “Each Pr. in Chge⁴¹ has been ?instructed? to determine his Local Preacher’s field of labor.”

C. O. Gunderson’s report: In Carver [it] is bright as previously. In the District, weaknesses have however appeared in some places, but they are to an extent [being surmounted] , and the outlooks for the future appear to be bright.

Edvard Olson reports and says: It is not completely as one should wish , yet the meetings/services are well attended. The S[unday] School is progressing and interesting, 30 school children are at Chisago Lake. In Marine [there] is also a S[unday] School with around 12 to 15 children. The congregations’ conditions are good, 15 accepted among us on probation, and I am thankful to God for His goodness to us.

P. M. Johnson’s topic was taken up for discussion, but was referred back as being incomplete.

Olson sends his greetings to the Conference with the request for excuse for his absence – he was excused.

Adj[ourned] until the morning at 8 A. M. with the Blessing by C. G/ N..

4th Sess[ion] – opened the 15th of July at 8 A. M. with song, a Bible passage and prayer by A. J. Wicklund. The minutes were read and accepted.

Where shall the next District Conference be held? Trade Lake was proposed by Br. Wicklund and Vasa by J. A. Johnson. Through voting, Vasa was elected/chosen.

⁴¹ Believed to be an abbreviation in English reading “each Preacher in Charge”.

Are there any reports? No.

D. The time for memorial services was present, and the Conference Chair. O. Gunderson presented Psalm 666, which was sung. Prayer by . G. Forsberg. Bible passage of 2 Timothy 4 by A. J. Wicklund. Psalm 546 was delivered up.

1st by C. G. Forsberg. The Committee's Chair, C. G. Forsberg, entered the speaker's chair and says: "For around 24 years since, I made my first acquaintanceship with the love of mankind of the Father Hedström⁴² in New York. He was, to me, a father in Christ, in the spiritual recognition. The first time I heard him preach, his text was on the 10 men of Derision/Fools, which sermon made a deep impression upon my youthful mind. For seven years' time, I had the opportunity to stand under his fatherly care and upbringing/education about what serves to life and Godliness, and I found him always to be the same humble, honorable and gracious person who stretched a helping hand to all of those who sought his help and support in the moment of need. – that his sermon was powerful – in the petition's spirit and life – and a belief, which lifted him from all insignificance. 3 times during the last 17 years the Speaker had visited him and the last time was this past fall when I with open arms was greeted welcome at the old warrior in conversation, pleased that our countrymen's well-being still lay dear to his heart. The moment of departure at the station [to which] Father Hedström [had] followed me, was deep going and moving and the tears streamed unabashedly down our cheeks. The death notice, which I received from his son, made upon me a deep impression and [the memory of him] will not be forgotten [in my] life, however I live in the hope to get to see him again in the First Born's Congregation among those who stand without contamination before God's Throne." The Speaker closed with an exhortation the Preaching Brothers to hold fast to the end, wishing oneself to get to die the sacred death. Song 92, Sankey's Songbook.

2nd B. Borgeson took the speaker's chair and says: "For 22 years past, I first made the acquaintanceship with our beloved, now departed Father Hedström. I can not say that he was my Spiritual Father in Christ, however I was encouraged and cared for under his leadership. During/For 17 years I had the opportunity to more or less make personal acquaintanceship with him, and one year I was exclusively his assistant on the old Bethel Ship in New York. He always had an open heart for necessity's children, especially if they were in spiritual or temporal need. . In the spiritual, he was as a father, ready with counsel, trust and admonishment. In the temporal matters, he was likewise ineradicable with counsel and help according to the circumstances. Upon the death notice, a great loss was felt of a hero being gone to Israel to rest, who placed/rested himself heavily in my heart at the solemn time's moment – with a solemn wish from deep in my heart that his mantle might fall over us. Many of the Ocean's sons are rearmed by him as a means in God's hands from the Spiritual death and need. A hero in Israel has fallen but a multitude of the Witness have entered into the leadership as fruit of his labors in the Great Herdsman's service, and over the whole world as well as the West's villages in the state of Minnesota, shall his memory be in blessing, wishing that we all [at the end] get to meet Father Hedström in heaven."

3rd A. J. Wicklund now took the speaker's chair with regard to the departed Local Preacher Br. Lars Peterson of Trade Lake and says: "When Br. Peterson first came up to these settlements, he felt himself alone, but as soon he was joined/united with the Church, he was soon thereafter elected as a Class Leader, [and] as a Class Leader, [and] his life was a living example of Godliness and the

⁴² Both Olof Hedström, his brother and the Betel Shipp or Bethel Ship have been previously cited. See previous footnotes.

Heavenly Kingdom. I thought of him as my father and can not enough esteem Br. Peterson or his family I was a welcome guest in their home, I always felt myself at home, and fortunate in his surroundings. The last word he spoke at his sudden departure was, "Lord Jesus help [me]". His funeral was the greatest/largest, which [up to now] had occurred in Trade Lake,. Sorrowed and missed by all, but most of them who are in/part of his House. The Congregation's well-being lay tenderly in his heart because he loved them." The Speaker wished that the father's mantle might fall upon the son, and God's love be poured over his soul."

- 4 C. G. Nelson spoke and wished to be able to follow Father Hedström's example to, as he, fight for the Crown so as he can win victories for Christ's Kingdom, over Darkness' power, and to a final victory over death itself in order to meet the departed In the World of God.

Adjourned at 12 o'clock with the singing of Sankey's hymn 124 and the Blessing given by C. G. Forsberg.

5th Sess[ion] – opened at 2:30 P. M. with song and a prayer by Chs. J. Peterson. The minutes were read and accepted.

- 5 O. Gunderson speaks and says: "I met him in Norway 15 and ½ years ago. The first time was in Porsgrund, the 2nd time was in Fredrikstad. Father Hedström has left after himself an unalterable memory in the Methodist Church, and the Scandinavian Church will thank God that there was once a man who bore the name O. G. Hedström, who founded the Scandinavian Methodism, with the expressed wish that his spirit and mantle may fall on each and everyone of us."
- 6 E. Olson spoke and says" "Father Hedström was the first Methodist Preacher to place his hands upon my head [on] the second day that I came to America and exhorted me in a friendly voice to give my heart to God. He was not a direct means to my turning, but he gave me advice on how to seek God and to flee sin. For 5 years I was in his presence and under a fatherly care.

Reports were called upon. See the reports.

Was moved and adopted that each Brother takes up from his congregation a collection in order to support (illegible) expenses to the Annual Conference and then to commonly divide them.

J. Wicklund was nominated and by the Conference recognized to preach the next onference Sermon with the right to choose his own text.

Was moved and adopted that O. Gunderson and C. G. Nelson as a committee make a request with/to the railroad companies (sic) to get half fare tickets (sic) to the Annual Conference in

Was moved and adopted that the Swedish District send a representative to the Nordic District Conference next year at the time and place, which in the future is decided. P. M. Johnson was elected as this representative.

The minutes were read and accepted and the Conference's discussion closed.

O. Gunderson, Chair

P. M. Johnson, Sec.

Reports

1st S[unday] School Committee reports:

With regard the future of our congregations, their futures depend in large part on our S[unday] Schools, therefore it is necessary for us to pay a proper attention to this aspect so important to the Church, so we recommend:

- 1 That as long as possible to hold our S[unday] Schools in the Swedish Language.
- 2 To use the lessons, which are given in "Sändebudet".
- 3 That Sanky's Songbook, also in Swedish, be used
- 4 That we present two S[unday] School newspapers, taking "Morgonstjernen"⁴³

A. J. Wicklund, J. A. Johnson
E. A. Davidson, the Committee

2 Statistics Report

	Probation	Member	Moved in	Moved out	Deceased	Excommunicated	Sändebudet	S. S. Pupils	Morgonstjern	Other Newspapers	Mission Subscriptions
Minneapolis	13	8	3	7		1	32	30	25		\$30.00
St Paul	20			6	2		30	25		30	50.00
Atwater-Litchfield	3	2					24	21			
Red Wing – Goodhue	18	2	2			1	22	45	15		
Kandiyohi-New London	21	8		2		2	27	25	16		
Carver							5	60		50	
Grantsburg-Trade Lake	12	2	5	4	1	2	24	60	40		
Chisago Lake-Marine	5						19	40	15		
Plumb Creek	12	14					6				
Totals	104	36	8	21	3	6	189	306	71	120	\$80.00
Financial Report	\$	Cents									
Red Wing	1000										
Goodhue	300	00									
St Paul	134	00									
Chisago Lake	35	00									
Minneapolis	75	50									
Total	1486	50									

⁴³ Translates as "Morning Star".

Chs. J. Peterson

3rd Missions Committee Report

- 1 We feel the need called upon that if measure and means can be found, a man ought to be sent to Kirkhoven and to several places, but we fear [that] it is not a practical work for the present.
- 2 We believe that the matter/[effort]'s well being at Red Wing be separated from Vasa and Goodhue as a Circuit, and that if possible, a powerful person with abilities in both financial as well as spiritual regard be appointed as the Daring Preacher [in Red Wing] for the coming year.
- 3 That because of the grasshoppers (sic) infestations in the Kandiyohi and Atwater Circuit, it is necessary to immediately give them increased a mission contribution for the coming year.

Sincerely,

C. G. Nelson, J. A. Jonson, B. Borgeson

Resolutions

- 1 With regard to Father Olof Gustaf Hedström's departure for [this world] to God's World.

Whereas Pastor O. G. Hedström has been, by our dear God, been called home from work to rest, from the battle field to the eternal victory, and

Whereas the Church has lost in him a successful preacher and a belief's hero who strong influence spread itself widely in this and other countries, but who is now taken from us, and

Whereas both of the meetings in Ill[inois] and Iowa have adopted resolutions concerning the deceased,

Therefore be it Resolved that we as a District Conference concur in the noted Resolutions.

C. G. Forsberg, B. Borgeson, A. J. Wicklund, The Committee

- 2 With regard to the death of Local Preacher Lars Peterson.

Whereas through an unfortunate accident, which happened since our last District Conference, our beloved Brother and fellow worker Lars Peterson, L. P. in Trade Lake, has been suddenly call away out of the present and from his family, congregation and us, in deep sorrow and loss,

Therefore be it Resolved

- 1 That in Brother Peterson's [departure from us], we have lost a valued Brother and trusted fellow worker, but we believe that our loss is his eternal gain.
- 2 We, as a District Conference, express our heartfelt sympathies to the departed's family and ask God to strengthen them with all spiritual blessings in the Heavenly Court in Christ, and that we, with them, may get to meet our friend there, where no further separation shall be.
- 3 That a copy of this resolution be presented to the sorrowing family.

C. G. Forsberg, B. Borgeson, A. J. Wicklund

3 Whereas a Sunday School newspaper by the title of “Morgonstjernen” during the past half year has become available through Brother B. Witting’s publishing office,

Therefore be it Resolved that:

- 1 That we heartily welcome it upon the spiritual horizon for the S[unday] School (illegible, possibly “efforts”) among us, the new hope’s morning star, and we express our thanks to Br. Witting for the enterprise.
- 2 That we will, as soon get the Subscription to the English S[unday] School newspaper we have is done, [that we seek with all diligence to introduce “Morgonstjernen” in its place, and do our utmost for its distribution and maintenance as a District Conference.
- 3 That we express this as our thought, based upon [our] knowledge/understanding, that during the present hard times and on the basis of the peoples’ hard circumstances, [that] it is difficult to spread/distribute a S[unday] School newspaper of “Morgonstjernen’s” present cost, and that therefore that if the price can not in any other way be reduced, it would be better to give out/issue it only half as often, that is to say two instead of four times a month, and that we think/believe if the price remains 35 cents, both to small and poor S[unday] Schools as well as large and rich S[unday] Schools, it should be able to be distributed more than double as much, and therefore better pay for itself than now, and we recommend this change to the Publication.

C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson, J. A. Johnson

4 Whereas a person by the name of Wenberg from Stockholm, Wisc. has not been nor is recognized as a Methodist [or] a as a preacher within the Minn[esota] Conf[erence], and

Whereas the noted Wenberg through thoughtless joking misrepresents [himself] as a preacher’s guardianship on Christ’s Evangelium in its performance, also recognition is given that Wenberg does not have, nor neither can make any claim to the M. E. Church’s rights or take part as a preacher[and] neither can the Church be held responsible for his personal conduct up to now.

The Conference

5 Whereas the Swedish District Conference has been heartily greeted by the Congregation’s Pastor C. G. Nelson in Minneapolis, as well as heartily welcomed by the Church’s members in their house, and well entertained at their table during the times of the sessions,

Therefore be it Resolved that to the Congregation’s Pastor as well as his respective Congregation through the Chair find us, by standing vote expressing our common thanks.

P. M. Johnson

I Sess[ion] The 11th Swedish District Conference in Minn[esota] opened its discussions at the stated time in the Goodhue Church in Goodhue Co[unty], Minn[esota] the 26th of June 1878 at 10 A. M. with song, a reading from the Bible, prayer and a short speech to the Conference members by C. G. Nelson, P[residing] Elder and Chair.

The Conference roll was read and the following Brothers answered their names:

C. G. Nelson, C. G. Forsberg, L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson
A. J. Wicklund, J. A. Johnson, P. M. Johnson

Local Preachers present:

A. Olauson, Harald Lindqvist, E. P. Wicklund,
John Sundell, E. Davidson

Foremen:

J. A. Palmqvist, A. Farrell

Sunday School Directors:

Charley Anderson

The appointing of committees was taken up.

- a) For the holding of worship services during the [Conference] meetings:
C. G. Forsberg
- b) Examinations Committee
C. G. Forsberg, J. A. Johnson, A. P. Wicklund
- c) Missions Committee
C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson, L. Lindahl
- d) Sunday School Committee
E. P. Wicklund, H. Lindqvist, J. A. Palmqvist
- e) Statistics Secretary – J. A. Palmqvist

A standing committee for Camp Meetings for the year was elected, which was made up of C. G. Nelson, P. E. and the Caring Preachers in St Paul and Minneapolis.

- f) The times for the Conference's Sessions were established to begin at 8 A. M. with a have hour's prayer meeting and discussions to begin at 8:30 and to close at 11:30A. M..

The Conference adjourned until 8 o'clock in the morning with the singing of a song of praise and the Blessed called down by P. M. Johnson.

A sermon at 2 P. M. by A. M over Romans 7, Chapter 24.

The Conference Sermon at 7 o'clock in the evening by A. J. Wicklund upon David's 126:6.

II Sess[ion] commenced with a prayer meeting at 8 A. M. the 27th of June by H. Lindqvist and the discussions open at 8:30.

The minutes were read and accepted.

- 1st (a) A. J. Wicklund's Conference Sermon was taken up for discussion by the Brothers and was approved.
- (b) A motion by A. J. Wicklund was approved by the Conference that J. A. Johnson shall preach the next Conference Sermon.
- (c) Was decided by the Conference that the Conference Sermon hereafter be criticized only in the presence of the Conference members.
- 2nd (a) Are there any reports? Yes. See the reports

- 3rd (b) Where shall the next District Conference be held?
- (a) Red Wing represented by C. G. Nelson.
 - (b) And Litchfield represented by J. A. Johnson.
 - (c) Litchfield was decided [upon] through voting for the next conference.
- 4th (a) Are there and recommendation for permission to preach?
- (b) A. Farrell received a Local License with the recommendation to the Theological School in Evanston.

III Sess[ion] opened with a prayer by E. Davidson at 1:30 P. M..

The minutes were read and accepted.

The Conference adjourned at 1:30 P. M. with songs of praise and the Blessing called down by B. Borgeson.

1st Recommendations for permission to preach was taken up again

- (a) J. A. Palmqvist received a Local License.

2nd Local Preachers gifts and energies and characters were taken up:

- (a) John Sundell's gifts, energies and character were approved.
- (b) G. Newman approved
- (c) A. Olauson approved
- (d) John Smith approved
- (e) E. Olson approved

3rd Which Local Preacher's licenses are renewed?

- (a) E. Davidson with the recommendation to the school in Chicago.
- (b) Harald Lindqvist " " "
- (c) E. P. Wicklund's and
- (d) C. J. Peterson's were renewed.

4th Reports from the Caring Preachers were taken up.

- (a) St Paul and Mound Prairie: L. Dahlgren says:

Peace and unity counsels within the congregations, the people come well to our meetings/services and the influences are well/good. In the economic, the condition is good and all is well. At Mound Prairie, the people come out rather well to our services even there, but the influence [there] is so limited that I am compelled to emphasize to at least for a year leave this location for our efforts.

- (b) Minneapolis B. Borgeson says:

Peace and calmness have entered within our borders, after a storm of troubles (sic) and opposition has passed their way through our society, and the services have been well attended during the past winter, and some [individuals] labored for the congregation, which with sincerity and seriousness with to [give] recognition on for the Crown on high.

In Carver, [it] is a difficult place – there drunkenness and free thinking is practiced by our countrymen, placing a marked hindrance in the path of true religion.. However during our extended services this past winter, 6 persons joined with the congregation as probationary members at this location , and for the future a good outlook opened.

- (c) Atwater & Litchfield: J. A. Johnson says:

The spiritual conditions are good within the congregations. Peace and harmony counsel among the people located here. The meetings/services are well attended and God's work goes forward. At the now recently finished Camp Meeting, 18 people enter on probation into our society and the people love God and each other internally.

In Litchfield the folk also come there rather good, and an opening for God's and out people has taken place even there. In the economic, it is well enough, but not yet as desired and needed. Yet we hope upon better times, even in the financial.

(d) Kandiyohi & New London: P. M. Johnson reports:

My regular places of preaching are 5 in number, stretching our 35 miles north and w35 miles west, where each and every one of these have received regular preaching and visit at least once a month. On the other side, I have many times stayed for some days and preached from 4 to [anywhere] 12 sermons during the visit.

The influence/results have been good and the spiritual conditions are good. [The] 3 S[unday] Schools are in good shape and the Swedish language used in all of them.

In the financial, it has been an especially 'pressing' year for our poor people in the West through/because of the grasshopper devastations the last 2 years, yet we now have a new church ready in New London with only \$100.00 in debt, which now rests upon the congregation. The outlook for progress appears bright, and a division of my field of labor is, of need, called upon.

(e) Trade Lake & Grantsburg: J. A. Wicklund reports:

Grantsburg is economically rather good. Our church debt [has been reduced]. Against our expectations for our church's 'day of consecration', because it succeeded above the expectations [of] Brothers C. G. Nelson and L. Dahlgren, that on a 'day of consecration' through Subscription, to lower the amount of debt significantly.

In West Sweden, a school house has been purchased [which] can easily be made into a church. At the church in Trade Lake, there is only a little debt remaining.

Peace and harmony counsel within the congregations and our services are well attended. 3 Class Meetings are held a week, and progress is expected in each location in my field of work.

(f) Plumb Creek: Olauson says:

The Lord has been good to us in my field of labor during the past year. A steady progress exists [in spite of] the storms and conflicts from the outside. The past winter, God became apparent to us with a special blessing and many souls became changed, [and it is hoped] that several come to peace and life in God through belief in God's Son. A S[unday] School is organized.

(g) C. G. Forsberg reports:

Vasa Peace, harmony and love owns room in the congregation. Our meetings in general are well attended by our people, and the spiritual condition is good. Yet it appears/seems that the Waldenström⁴⁴ views/thoughts for the present place some obstacles in the way for progress. At White Rock⁴⁵ the outlook for progress is good and a host of people meet me there in order to listen to the Word's [preaching] with new attention and under a good

⁴⁴ Waldenström was an important leader of the Pietist movement within the Swedish Lutheran or State Church and made an extensive visit to the United States and Canada in the late 1800s. The Swedish and Swedish – American Covenant Church grew out of his theological preachings.

⁴⁵ A village in Vasa Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota

influence. The economic condition is good, and our people in Goodhue have done well [in that] only \$45.00 of debt remains on our members there with regard to the newly built and tasteful [and] last year's completed church.

In Vasa, there still remains some debt, however insignificant, and which shall soon be paid off.

The Sunday School is in good shape.

(h) From Chisago Lake and Marine, no reports.

(i) In Red Wing, C. G. Nelson reports:

The Lord has been good to us. A vigorous attendance was harvested among us the past winter during our extended meetings/services when 20 persons were admitted upon probation among us and 9 in full union. We have a pleasant and good S[unday] School of different denominations. The economic condition is good because \$560.00 has been paid off on the Church's debt, however there remains a smaller sum, which soon shall be covered.

And as the P[residing] Elder, may I get to say: A great labor has been placed upon my shoulders this year. I have therefore imperfectly been able to fill our peoples' expectations, and maybe there expectations as P[residing] E[lder] because I have had the congregations' care/responsibility in association with the P[residing] Eldership. However I have tries [to the best I can] to do the Lord's work in this united labor for God's people and the Church's well-being, hoping the time will return when the P[residing] Eldership will be separated from a congregation's care.

Following [the above], the Brothers expressed their views on this subject and the decision was embraced to request/commission the P[residing] Elder to try as far as possible with regard to means and degree (V. Cabinet) get the P[residing] Elder employment separated fro a congregation's care.

5th Reports were taken up.

(A) From the Missions Committee:

The Missions Committee proposed the following:

- a) In association with Atwater and Litchfield [that] Kokato⁴⁶ be taken up as a preaching location.
- b) If possibly and in a suitable manner, divide the Kandiyohi Circle into two Circuits at the next Conference.
- c) In association with Carver, take up Clear Lake⁴⁷ in Nicollet Co[unty] as a Circle. –
(Adopted)

C. G. Nelson, L. Dahlgren, P. M. Johnson, the Committee

(B) The motion that the next District Conference may be held at the end of Oct. at the beginning of Nov. 1878, and that the travel expenses from here after be divided equally to the Preachers with Care. -)Adopted)

Sincerely,

⁴⁶ Currently/properly spelled Cokato. A city in Wright County, Minnesota.

⁴⁷ There is no such place name in Nicollet County, Minnesota according to "Minnesota Place Names" by Warren Upham.

P. M. Johnson

(C) S[unday] School Report

Since the S[unday] School is for the Church a very important matter, so we consider the Church's duty to be to take this planting under the greatest interest, and therefore we recommend:

- 1 That the Swedish language be used as much as possible in our S[unday] Schools, and
- 2 That a Swedish [language] S[unday] School newspaper might be procured and given out to our children, and
- 3 That Swedish books of instruction might be procured to each S[unday] School.

E. P. Wicklund, H. Lindqvist, J. A. Palmqvist, the Committee.

(Adopted)

(D) Statistics Report

	Proba- tionary	Mem- ber	Moved in	Moved out	Died	Ec- Comm= unicated	Sänd- ebnud- et	Sunday School Pupils	Teach- ers	?Diff= erent? News- papers	Miss- ions
Red Wing	20	9	3	6			27	35			
St Paul & Mound Prairie	12	10		8			38	20	3		
Minneapolis & Carver	7	5		6			20	65	10		
Kandiyohi, New London	32	29		2	2	1	27	50	6	36	
Atwater, Litchfield	32	17						35	4		
Trade Lake, Grantsburg	7	6				3	28	50	9		
Vasa & Goodhue	3	7	1	4	1		20	27		25	
Plumb Ctreek	34	9	4	1			15	25	2		
Totals	147	92	8	27	3	4	175	301	34	61	-----

Chisago Lake, Marine and Lake Superior, no reports.

Financial Report.

Paid on the church in	\$	cents
New London	300	00
Paid on the debt in St Paul	210	00
Up taken collection and subscription in Grantsburg & Trade Lake	364	10
Paid on the debt in Carver	35	00
Red Wing	560	00
Vasa's paid off debt	135	00
Total	\$1604	10

(E) Local Preacher's fields of labor

J. Sundell – Vasa & Goodhue

C. J. Peterson – Grantsburg & Trade Lake
E. P. Wicklund – N. L. Crow Lake
H. Lindqvist – Grass Lake⁴⁸
J. Smith – Chisago Lake
E. Olson – Marine Mills⁴⁹
E. A. Davidson – Plumb Creel
A. Farrell – L. Plumb. Chippewa

Foremen's fields of labor
Louis Johnson – Rosendahl's School House
W. Ringqvist – Plumb Creek
O. E. Olauson – ditto

7th Resolutions

That the Conference expresses its heartiest thanks to the Congregation and its Pastor for the hospitable and occurring manner upon which the Conference has been received.

L. Dahlgren

Sermon at 7 o'clock in the evening by J. A. Johnson and admonitions/exhortations by B. Borgeson and P. M. Johnson, where after the Conference was dismissed

P. . Johnson, Secretary

C. G. Nelson, Chair.

Minnesota Swedish District Conference met in Litchfield, Minn. the 29th of October 1878 [at] 9 A. M.

And the meeting opened with song, a prayer by Br. Forsberg and a reading from the Bible and some ?suitable? introductory remarks by the Chair.

The previous Secretary held the roll call of the Conference members where at the following Brothers [were found present]: C. G. Nelson, C. G. Forsberg, L. Dahlgren, B. Börjeson, J. O. Nelson, O. J. Stead, J. A. Johnson, P. M. Johnson [and] A. G. Johnson.

J. O. Johnson was elected as Secretary.

Committees were appointed.

- a) Examinations Committee:
C. G. Forsberg, L. Dahlgren, O. J. Stead
- b) Missions Committee

⁴⁸ A village in Brunswick Twn., Kanabec County, Minnesota

⁴⁹ The early name for Marine-on-St Croix, Minnesota.

- C. G. Forsberg, C. G. Nelson, B. Börjeson
- c) Committee to show/indicate work fields to Local Preachers and Foremen [and] Caring Preachers in their respective congregations
 - d) Topics Committee
O. J. Stead, A. G. Johnson, P. M. Johnson

Time determinations

The session should begin at 8:30 A. M. and close at 11:30 with the exception of the next following day when the session shall close at 10:15 A. M..

Worship Committee – J. A. Johnson was appointed.

Written dissertations were listened to

P. M. Johnson presented a dissertation over the following topic: “The prison in which Christ preached and the others for which He preached”. The dissertation was discussed, where after the Conference adjourned with the Blessing spoken by A. G. Johnson.

Second Session opened with a devotional offering by O. J. Stead.

B. Börjeson and A. P. Wicklund had arrived and A. Dahlberg. The previous session’s minutes were read and accepted.

The financial question within the congregations was taken up. A committee consisting of Brothers O. J. Stead, L. Dahlgren and C. G. Forsberg, which shall draw up suitable resolutions for our congregations in the collection of the necessary means/monies in order to exist and work as a congregation.

S. M. Johnson’s dissertation was again taken up. . It was decided that the dissertation shall be published in “Sändebudet”, but it first shall undergo necessary corrections by the author himself with assistance by C. G. Nelson and C. G. Forsberg.

The Insurance Committee presented the following report:

We recommend herewith:

- 1 That we as a District organize us into a mutual help society against fire damage on our churches and residences within the District and that Swedish M. E. congregations outside of the District could on request at their respective quarterly Conferences be taken up/accepted in the society, which shall become effective when 12 in number [of the] Quarterly Conference within the District have sanctioned it.
- 2 That a Board of seven consisting of three preachers and four laymen, elected by the District Conference, which should serve until its other officers are elected, and in this Board, the Presiding Elder shall be the Chair.

- 3 That this Board shall meet for organizing upon the call of the Chair when the previously determined number of congregations through their quarterly conferences approved the plan in question and then the board shall meet when the need calls it.
- 4 That in the event of fire, no taxation shall exceed one dollar per member, and if the damage does not arise to such a large amount as here represented, the cost [of the same] shall be equally divided upon the members.
- 5 That in the event of a fire, the Board make itself properly informed about the size of the congregation's loss and through its, the Board's Secretary, divide the amount upon each congregation according to its number of members, which the congregations should send the requested amounts to the board's Treasurer who shall send it to the congregation, which has suffered the loss.
- 6 That a congregation whose church widely exceeds in value the amount represented by the society, it can seek additional insurance in any insurance company, if it so wishes.
- 7 That the Board's expenses shall, through [its] Secr., be divided upon the congregations [enrolled in] the society according to [their] membership, which amounts the congregations' pastors should sustain and send to the Board's Treasurer.

Sincerely,

The Committee
C. G. Nelson
J O. Nelson
L. Dahlgren

The report was discussed paragraph by paragraph.

The time [of the session] was extended by 15 minutes for topic discussion.

The Conference was adjourned at 10:15 with a song of praise and the Blessing.

Br. Dahlberg preached immediately thereafter upon Mark 16:15.

Third Session opened with a devotional offering by A. G. Johnson.

The minutes were corrected and accepted.

The Insurance Committee's report was accepted.

The Missions Committee begged to get to report the following:

According to the information/knowledge the Committee has in regard to the extension of the Mission, we recommend that a place named Minnekauna⁵⁰, which appears very promising, to be taken up in association with Escanaba, and that a person be sent there in order to work.

Respectfully,

⁵⁰ This appears to possibly be a place name in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

C. G. Nelson }
C. G. Forsberg } The committee

The report was accepted.

The Committee for ravel Expenses To and From the Conference:

- 1 That the Brothers submitted travel expenses in all came to \$42.43.
- 2 That this amount be equally divided on 11 members comes to \$4.13 per member.

O. J. Stead }
J. A. Johnson } The Committee

The report was approved.

It was decided that the Topics Committee permit the postponement with its report in order to at long last/later [place it] through "Sändebudet".

Question: Are there any recommendations for permission to preach?, was called up.

A. Dahlberg received a Local Preacher's authority and recommendation to our Theological School.

The Caring Preachers' reports:

Minneapolis – J. A. Johnson. He was happy for his arrival in Minnesota and hopes God's Work flowers.

St Paul – J. O. Nelson. He was pleased and happy over his arrival to his new place of labor and had good outlooks for progress.

Red Wing – O. J. Stead. The labor in Red Wing, I do not see favorably [upon]. The speaker begged[God's] intercession for the location.

Vasa and Goodhue - . G. Forsberg. The meetings/services are influential and peace counsels within the congregation, however they have of necessity expelled a member. One of the member's has died and died well.

Atwater & Litchfield – J. A. Johnson. No especial changes have occurred since the last district Conference. In Atwater [all] is well, but in Litchfield the situation is somewhat depressing.

Kandiyohi – P. M. Johnson. The speaker had lost two Local Preachers and 50 members through the division of the Circle. A good influence has been felt since the last Camp Meeting. The economic situation is not bright in that 400 dollars of debt rests upon the congregation.

New London Circle – A. P. Wicklund. Conditions in New London and Crow Lake⁵¹ are good but in Kirkoven are in difficulties' path, which prevents God's Work. A Brother in Kirkoven has overstepped the limits.

Chisago Lake & Marine – B, Börjeson. He has been well received by the people and they have it well among themselves. The speaker had up to now experienced Christ's help and was determined to persevere.

Grantsburg & Trade Lake – L. Dahlgren. The speaker is well satisfied at his new location. There the people are very God-fearing. The financial position good. On his personal part, happy and hopeful.

⁵¹ There was a town by this name, now Belgrade, in Stearns County, Minnesota. But is this the same?

District's Presiding Elder – In Plumb Creek Br. Anderson is a diligent worker. They have decided there to build a church. Carver is a God pious place There also a debt presses the congregation. In Clear Lake, they wish to build a church With regard [thereto], the speaker has generally worked to try to make the best [of it] and thanked the Brothers for the sympathetic cooperation.

The Finance Committee reported:

- 1 That we consider it necessary that each/every congregation as much as possible ought to be alike in manner to proceed in their financial supporting.
- 2 That the Assessment Committee take in consideration for the preacher's salary, for the Presiding Elder's [and] for the running expenses an amount , which at the Annual Meeting shall be announced for the congregations.
- 3 That many tickets be obtained where upon each member of the Stewards are requested to note down also much as each member is willing to give to the present question's goal and shall be by the Stewards quarterly be collected.

L. Dahlgren }
O. J. Stead } The Committee
. G. Forsberg }

The report was accepted.

The question of where the next District Conference shall be held was taken up. An invitation from the Congregation in Carver was read, which place was nominated along with Red Wing, but the vote fell for Carver, there the next Conference shall be held.

The quest about Local Preachers' energies and characters was taken up.

John Smith – His character and efforts were approved.

John Sundell - “ “ “

A. Olauson - “ “ “

and [their] authorities renewed.

M. Håkanson – His name shall continue to stand on the Local Preacher list.

Edvard Olson – His character was passed upon and his work approved and his preaching authority renewed.

E. P, Wicklund – Ditto

Ch. J. Peterson - “

A. Farrell - “

J. A. Palmqvist - “

It was decided that the Conference, through the Presiding Elder, express it thanks to the Congregation & its Pastor for a hospitable accommodating.

L. Dahlgren was excused from being present at the next session.

The Conference adjourned with a song of praise and the Blessing to again meet at 2:30 o'clock.

Fourth Session opened at 3 o'clock after the District Stewards meeting's close.

The minutes were corrected and accepted.

To the Insurance Board were appointed/named J. O. Nelson, C. G. Forsberg, and O. J. Stead [from] among the Preachers and P. G. Johnson from St Paul, Claes Johnson from Minneapolis, B. Youngquist from Red Wing and John A. Anderson from Vasa.

C. G. Nelson and A. G. Johnson should make up a committee to procure 1 or 2 thousand finance cards to be used within the congregations

It was decided that the Local Preachers should be exhorted to, that at the District Conference, present reports upon their fields of labor.

The Conference adjourned to meet again in Moline, Ill[inois], a chairman's conference.

The Sermon was held at 7 o'clock in the evening by O. J. Stead, where after the meeting was closed.

Fifth Session met in Moline , Ill. The 3rd of Sept. 1879

The meeting opened with a suitable devotional offering by the Chair.

The following members were present: C. G. Nelson, P. M. Johnson, C. G. Forsberg, B. Börjeson, J. A. Johnson, O. J. Stead, A. J. Wicklund, E. P. Wicklund, J. A. Anderson, J. A. Anderson, A. G. Johnson and J. O. Nelson.

1st Question. "Is anyone recommended to be entered into the Traveling Society?" Br. J. A. Johnson is recommended to be entered into the Traveling Society on probation and ordained as a Local Deacon.

2nd Question. "Are there any others recommended?" No!

Br. C. G. Nelson expressed his feelings of thanks to the Brothers for the love they have expressed to him through the presentation of a pocket knife.

Brothers Börjeson, Forsberg and J. O. Nelson led in prayer, where after the meeting was closed with the Blessing expressed by the Chair.

C. G. Nelson, P. E.
J. O. Nelson, Sec.

The District Conference of the Minnesota Swedish Mission District met according to call in Carver, Minn. the 14th of Oct. 1879

The meeting was opened with song, a reading from the Bible and a prayer by the Chair. J. O. Stead was elected Secretary.

At the roll call, the following Brothers answered to their names: C. G. Nelson, C. G. Forsberg, J. O. Nelson, A. G. Johnson, O. J. Stead, E. P. Wicklund, A. J. Wicklund, L. Dahlgren, J. A. Anderson [and] B. Borjeson.

Of Local Preachers [present, there were] A. Farrell and E. Davidson.

Determination of [meeting] times:

Sessions should begin at 9 o'clock and end at 12 o'clock.

2nd Question. What committees should be appointed?

- 1 Examinations Committee for Local Preacher Authority: L. Dahlgren and A. G. Johnson.
- 2 Missions Committee: C. G. Forsberg, C. G. Nelson and B. Borjeson.
- 3 Committee to Direct Local; Preacher their Fields of Labor: The preachers in their respective congregations.
- 4 Topics Committee: J. O. Nelson and L. Dahlgren.
- 5 Committee on Travel Expenses: A. G. Johnson and J. A. Anderson.
- 6 Committee on Devotional Offerings: A. J. Wicklund.

Written dissertations:

“On what ways should the basic fund for our Theological School be increased, so that it [by itself] could support at least one professor and a suitable school building be erected?” A. G. Johnson gave an extemporaneous speech on the subject, as he did not have the opportunity to write upon the topic.

The speaker maintained that first zeal is needed to be awakened among the preachers, then next that the preachers awaken zeal among the people, from whom ought to be expected circa \$1 per member a year. He thought also [that] over all a suitable agent ought to be appointed to work on this matter.

Br. C. G. Nelson reminded [all] on the decision at the Annual Conference on the School matter's accomplishment, where to he wished the Brothers cooperation [on the matter]. He thought that the School's treasury ought to be increased by \$1000 a year. An article will appear in “Sändebudet” for the School matter's encouragement among the people. The Brothers continued with energy to talk about the topic.

“How should extended meetings/service be led?” C. G. Forsberg spoke on the subject and expressed with emphasis the necessity of making use of carefulness and discrimination.

A. J. Wicklund pointed out the necessity of both the preacher and the congregation to be prepared for the activity/enterprise.

Br. Davidson spoke about the leading of the meeting [with] friendliness [and] with ?avoiding? leadership.

B. Borjeson considered that supervision of the souls upon whom God's spirit works is important. A. G. Johnson questioned afterwards the exchange of preachers during the extended meetings was useful and what could be done to get the people out.

J. O. Nelson noted that if the purpose/goal with these meetings was the sinner's conversion and God's children's growth in grace, so should the efforts directed there to.

L. Dahlgren pointed out that they who cooperated should be the ones to find.

C. G. Nelson said however great the necessity of carefulness was, we (illegible) ought for much take notice of the world's judgments.

The speakers thought that the distribution of tracts and prayer meetings in the houses will help to get the people out to the meetings.

The Conference adjourned with a song of praise and the Blessing to again meet at 4 P. M..

The Second Session opened with a devotional offering by J.O. Nelson.

The previous session's minutes were read and accepted.

A letter was read from the beloved and venerated Brother P. M. Johnson who had moved from this district. [Another letter] was read from Br. J. A. Johnson wherein he asked to be excused for his absence, [presenting] as the excuse his employment the collection of money for the Litchfield Church's debt.

3rd Question. Are there any reports?

The P. E. presented the District's situation and said that the past year, with regard to progress had been the best in the District's history and that the outlooks are better than previously.. This notwithstanding we have much to wish [for] us. Among others it was pointed out was our need for a Sunday School newspaper, which well could happen through a J. K. Corporation.

A larger interest needs to be taken in the Class Meetings, Sunday Schools and Love Dinners

The Caring Preachers presented the conditions within their congregations.

Minneapolis – A. J. Johnson says peace and harmony counsels within the congregation and the meetings/services are well attended. The speaker was deeply moved by the weight of his office.

The preachers elected to the Camp Meeting Committee were J. O. Nelson, A. G. Johnson and A. J. Wicklund.

The Conference adjourned with a song of praise and the Blessing by Br, Stead in order to meet the next following day at 9 A. M..

3rd Session opened with a sermon by Br. Olauson at 8 A. M. and the Conference turned to its business at 9 o'clock.

The previous session's minutes were read and accepted.

The Brother continued to give their reports.

St Paul – J. O. Nelson said that there was a dark side. A large problem lay therein that people were moving away from the place the whole time, but otherwise the situation is rather good.

Red Wing – C. G. Forsberg said [that he himself] had not yet been able to make any order at the location since he has just recently come to the place, but the enterprise's outlook is somewhat declining.

Vasa & Goodhue – J. A. Anderson said himself to have come among a Godly people and wished that he had the grace and power to be useful at the place.

Chisago Lake & Marine – B. Borjeson says that the influence is good there and he thought that the past year's efforts have not been for nothing. He had been weak in health, but it was now better with him.

Grantsburg & Trade Lake – L. Dahlgren felt good at the location. The work is blooming.

Kandiyohi & Buffalo Lake⁵² - O. J. Stead has been in an encouraging manner been received by his new people among whom the enterprise was hopeful.

New London & Kirkhoven⁵³ - E. P. Wicklund says that the conditions in the Circle were rather good and thereby the outlooks for the future.

Carver & Clear Lake – A. J. Wicklund said that the enterprise's/activities' field was so great that it extended itself into 3 counties. Steps forward were made and several were to be followed up. He has entered in 67 in full union and 27 on probation during the past year.

Ishpeming, {Michigan} – Br. Andrews was absent, but C. G. Nelson presented that matter in his place and said that the conditions there were rather good.

Reports from the Local Preachers with regard to their activities.

Br. Dahlberg said that he had preached every Sunday with few exceptions and he has preached at to places/locations where he experienced/enjoyed the peoples' love and God's blessings.

4th Question. Are there any complaints?

John Smith's character and efforts were recognized. John Sundell's Character and efforts were approved. Charles Peterson's character and efforts were approved and his authority to preach renewed. The same with And. Farrell. E. Davidson's character and efforts were approved, his authority to preach renewed and [he] received a recommendation to the [Theological] School. A. Dahlberg's character and efforts were approved and his authority [to preach] renewed. E. P. Wicklund's character and efforts were approved and his authority renewed.

The Committee on ravel Expenses reported that the Conference travel expenses were \$30.30, which comes out to 2.75 and ½ per member.

The Conference adjourned with a song of praise and the Blessing to meet on the following day at 9 A. M..

4th Session

Opened at 9 o'clock after the District conference's close.

4th Question. Are there any recommendations for permission to preach?

⁵² A city in Renville County, Minnesota.

⁵³ This has been a probable miss-spelling of the name. There is a Kerkhoven, Swift County, Minnesota but no Kirkhoven.

Br. Olauson was granted the authority as a Local Preacher and received a recommendation to the [Theological] School.

Br. Swanborn from Clear Lake was granted the authority as a Local Preacher and received a recommendation to the School.

The Board for the Insurance Society was elected the old [board] with the change of Carl Johanson in Minneapolis in place of Claes Johnson, who has moved from Minneapolis.

The Mission Committee reports as follows:

Whereas the field witness to harvest and workers is so, and it has come to our understanding that at several locations in Minnesota and Dakota they wish visits from our preachers, therefore we recommend:

- 1 That during the 2nd & 3rd quarter our P. E. get the opportunity to, after proper determination, to travel out & visit these places and that we try during this time to fill his place through assisting wherever with noted quarterly meetings.
- 2 That the P/ E. seek up and arrange the preaching locations for our studying Brothers so near around the School as possible.

Respectfully,

C. G. Forsberg, B. Borjeson, C. G. Nelson

The report was accepted.

The determination of the location for the next meeting.

Invitations were presented from Red Wing and Chisago Lake, which at the latter places the Conference decided itself for.

Is there any other business?

It was decided that the Caring Preacher in Carver shall express the Conference's thanks to the Congregation for the hospitable treatment [received].

The following resolutions were turned in and adopted:

Inasmuch as we for the moment bring about/accomplish all too little with our District meetings, Therefore be it Resolved,

That these meeting begin on Wednesday and to continue over Sunday and that we meet next summer after our last Camp meeting.

Dissertations:

"The condemned's eternal punishment". O. J. Stead read a dissertation thereon, which was approved and recommended for publication in "Sändebudet".

"Suffered Christ to His Godly nature or only as a man?". L. Dahlgren read a dissertation, which was discussed and upon which one decided that it shall again be taken up at the next Conference.

“What means Christ’s word in John 20:20?” A. J. Wicklund had not written upon it, but promised to do it by the next District meeting.

The minutes were read and accepted.

It was decided that the Conference shall close after a suitable devotional offering in order to again meet upon call.

The Chair closed with a prayer.

A letter was presented to Br. Stead containing an amount of money to support him in his loss with his moving for which Br. Stead conveyed his thanks

“The Blessed Band” was sung and the Blessing spoken.

C. G. Nelson, P. E.

J. O. Nelson, Sec.

The Fourteenth Minnesota Swedish District Conference met in Center City the 2nd of July 1880 and opened with a, for the occasion, suitable devotional offering by the Presiding Elder, C. G. Nelson

Saturday the 3rd of July 1st Session opened with prayer and a reading from the Bible by C. G. Forsberg.

J. O. Nelson was elected as Secretary.

1st Question: what Brothers are present?

C. G. Nelson, J. O. Nelson, C. G. Forsberg, L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson, O. J. Stead, A. Farrell, E. A. Davidson, L. S. Calander, A. Dahlberg [and] John Smith

The times for holding sessions were decided from 8 A. M. to 10:45. Preaching at 11 A. M., 2 P. M. and 7 P. M..

2nd Question: Which committees should be appointed?

- 1 Examinations Committee for Local Preachers: C. G. Forsberg and O. J. Stead
- 2 Examinations Committee for Local Preachers in their Reading Circuits: A. G. Johnson and L. Dahlgren.
- 3 Missions Committee: C. G. Forsberg, C. G. Nelson and B. Borgeson.
- 4 Committee to Direct Local Preachers’ Field of Labor: The Caring Preacher and Presiding Elder C. G. Nelson.
- 5 Topics Committee: J. O. Nelson, A. G. Johnson [and] C. G. Forsberg.
- 6 Devotional Offerings Committee: C. G. Nelson [and] B. Borgeson.
- 7 Travel Expenses Committee: A. Farrell [and] E. A. Davidson.

The dissertation upon “Mankind’s free will” was read by O. J. Stead. The subject was discussed where after the dissertation was approved and recommended to be made public in “Sändebudet”.

The Conference adjourned with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by J. O. Nelson in order to meet on the following Monday at 8 A. M..

Monday the 5th of July. The 2nd Session opened with a devotional offering led by L. Dahlgren. The previous minutes were read and accepted.

Discussion topic: “Our obligations as preachers to our predecessors and successors with regard to the “traveling system””, was taken up now for discussion. C. G. Forsberg was appointed to lead this subject/topic, but he excused himself, and because of this, C. G. Nelson introduced it. He pointed out the most important and thereafter the topic was discussed.

Exposition upon 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 were now orally discussed by C. G. Nelson because he did not have time to write there upon. The topic was discussed, and then [it was] decided that C. G. Nelson shall properly write upon the topic and publish it in “Sändebudet”.

The Conference adjourned with the sing of songs of praise and the Blessing spoken in order to meet the following day at 8 A. M..

Tues[day], the 6th of July. 3rd Session opened with a devotional offering led by O. J. Stead. The previous session’s minutes were read and accepted. Because of sickness on J. O. Nelson’s family, he was permitted by the District Conference to travel home , and A. J. Johnson was elected as Secretary in his place.

Discussion topic: “The Sacrament’s meaning” was taken up for discussion and was introduced by J. O. Nelson. Upon a seconded motion by A. G. Johnson, it was decided that J. LO. Nelson should publish his introductory speech in “Sändebudet”. It was also decided to discuss this topic in the afternoon.

3rd Q[uestion], 2nd Part. Whereas J. O. Nelson should travel home, so [therefore] the 2nd Part of the 3rd Question was taken up and J. O. Nelson reported for St Paul and Mound Prairie that the congregations’ situations are good and God has been sincerely good during the year. 29 people have been taken in into full union and 31 on probation during this Conference year. The students at the Theological School there have been very active and zealous for the saving of souls, and our common work has not been without fruit. Honor our God. The school has been a great blessing for the whole Minnesota District. May God’s honor further bless the young Brothers. With regard to myself, I wish to make heaven as my home and fight for the Crown, and be true until the end. May God give me grace thereto. Pray for me!”

A. G. Johnson now read his dissertation upon the topic of “Sin against the Holy Spirit”. The dissertation was approved and recommended for publication in “Sändebudet”.

Now this topic was taken up for discussion. O. J. Stead had asked if not God would save the person who caused the sin? Stead himself was of the thought that God would save, but that the individual who made this sin would not be saved. Calander asked what the difference was between sin against the Holy Spirit and between blasphemies? Dahlgren was the first [response] on Stead's speech and said that there is a boundary line for each person within which he can practice the bad/evil and likewise perceive God's calling voice, but when he passed this boundary line, so does God leave him. Then he answered Calander's question and said that sin against the Holy Spirit is, in a certain meaning/sense, all types of sin, but blasphemy is a sin until death, as the dissertation plainly presented it. Smith thought that God would save the person so long as he in a time of grace, but that the person would not be saved.

The Presiding Elder C. G. Nelson said that the dissertation agreed completely with his understanding about this topic. He would that only one sentence should be improved a little, namely this, "All sin, which a person commits is a sin against the Holy Spirit" He would have it read "All sin, which a person commits is in a certain sense a sin against the Holy Spirit." Davidson said that he thought that there was a little difference between Stead's and Dahlgren's interpretations, but when they further expressed their thought, so was there in reality no difference. Davidson wondered over that the old man who spoke in the dissertation would work/labor for God's progress. C. G. Nelson showed first with the example of the rich man that such a wish warms his fellow man. Then he spoke about a young man/person who, during the time he laid upon his death bed, asked the preacher who stood by his side that he should promise him one thing. The preacher promised that he should do what the dying asked him, if he could. The dying said, "You can, promise me that you do it." The preacher promised to do it. Then the dying man said, "When I am dead and you shall preach my funeral sermon, so must you place your fingers in my lips : This person is now in hell's torment." The preacher said, "How shall I be able to do this?" The dying man said, "You have promised it." and so he died, and the preacher kept his promise.

B. Borgeson thought that the topic was basically discussed and wished that God might protect all of us from committing this sin. Dahlberg asked if they who were not Christians could commit this sin. A. G. Johnson answered that it was possible even for them who were not Christians to commit this sin for the Pharisees had not been Christians neither those to whom Paul wrote to in Romans 1:24 and in Ephesians 4:17-19 and these had likewise committed this sin. It was decided that this dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

The Conference ended with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken to at 3 P. M..

The 4th Session opened with the usual devotional offering led by A. Farrell. The previous session's minutes were read and accepted.

The topic "The Heavenly Kingdom's Keys" was taken up now for discussion. A. J. Wicklund, who had been appointed now for two years [to address the topic], had not had time to write [upon it], but it was decided that he should give an extemporaneous speech upon this topic, which he also did. Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to discuss the subject.

Dahlgren presented [the thought], “that Peter received this power but that it can not be transferred to others.” Stead thought “that no one can forgive another the moral crime, which mankind committed, on the basis of that none of the Apostles had done it.” A. G. Johnson thought “that with the Heavenly Kingdom here is meant Grace’s Kingdom of the Christ’s true Church, and with the Keys is meant God’s Word or teaching about salvation through belief of Christ. So thus Peter is like all of the Apostles, for what Christ said to Peter, He said to the others, the authority to preach God’s Word, and if they preached the whole truth, so became they who thought [themselves] freed, and those who did not believe [were] bound or condemned. This shows also that only the true believing ought to be admitted within the Christian congregation . The Lord’s servants have gotten the power to take up [person] in Christian congregation and to exclude from the same, but they should at one time stand responsible for how they have [themselves] conducted, and it is best if they see to it so that they themselves do not become bound hand and foot and thrown into eternal darkness, where tears and the gnashing of teeth is. With regard to John 20:23, so it shows that the Apostles could not forgive, rather only proclaim the sinner’s forgiveness, for they had now received the commission to preach the teaching of redemption, and if the Apostles could not do it, so can neither mankind do it.”

Calander spoke about an event, which occurred in Sweden 3 years ago, when two students preached in Calander’s house, so 3 person became awoken , and after the sermon’s finish, the students said to the awakened, “I Jesus say to you H., C. and A, the sins are forgiven. Go in peace.” Calander thanked God that he has never carried out such a practice although he before had preached among people who practiced it.

C. Hammarstrom said that his understanding was the same as A. G. Johnson’s. Farrell said that if we had the power to forgive sin, we did not need to ask so much for sinners as we do, rather only to forgive.

The Presiding Elder C. G. Nelson thought that the Heavenly Kingdom here means Grace’s Kingdom or Christ’s true Church and that forgiveness is three fold: 1st - What one personally committed against each other. This we could forgive each other for, but never the less the guilty does get to need forgiveness from God. For what is committed against a neighbor is also committed against God, because He has said, “You shall love thig neighbor as your self.” 2nd - What personally is committed against church, the preachers could forgive, for they are Christ’s ambassadors. It is this type of sin and forgiveness, which Paul has in view in Corinthians 2:10. 3rd, “What directly is committed against God. This can only God forgive.” In Mark 2:7 we read “?Who? can forgive sin except God.” The writing spoke the truth upon this occasion. This Jesus showed through Jesus to not deny this. In Upp⁵⁴ 3:7 we read, “This says the Holy and the truthful, those who have David’s keys are it there granted, and no person ?again allowed?, it there again allowed/granted and no person admitted.” These words make up the whole [of it], for they show that no “Priest” or any other person can release and bind in the spiritual regard, or either forgive sins in God’s place, rather this must God Himself do.

Dahlberg spoke that when he was awakened, he went to a certain Mission preacher in order to get advice/counsel and instruction. This one said to Dahlberg, “I say that your sins are forgiven. Be with a good courage. Go in peace.”

⁵⁴ The translator can not determine what book of the Bible is being referred to.

“Sacrament’s meaning” was taken up for discussion.. Stead pointed out that the Sacraments are of great weight and that they are a sign and a mind picture of Godly things. Smith said that he believed what the Apostles and our Church taught about the Sacraments’ meaning, for he had found that our Church’s teachings agreed with God’s Word. A. G. Johnson considered/thought [there was] insincerity in the Lutheran teachings/faith with regard to the Sacraments meaning and how difficult it was for the Lutheran “priests” to prove truth’s sincerity of their faith. C. G. pointed out our Church’s teachings about the Sacraments’ meaning and they showed in a clear way that they agreed with God’s Word.

The Conference adjourned with the singing of songs of praised and the Blessing spoken, to again meet the next following day at 2 P. M..

Wednesday, July 7th. 5th Session open with the usual devotional offering led by Calander. The previous session’s minutes were read and accepted.

Now the 3rd Question was taken up. 1) A report from the Presiding elder C. G. Nelson. “We have paid off a large part of our church debts during this year. We have built two churches during this year, one of the consecrated debt free, but on the other we have a little/some debt. We have purchased a church and a school house, which has been equipped as a church. With regard to myself, God is my helper and supporter. I wish however that my service as Presiding Elder would be soon finished, for the much traveling is injurious to my health. Some people , they there have been in my service, could stay home from Monday to Saturday the most weeks, but so is not the situation with me. I consider that one who is a leader ought to make a good example. Brothers let us therefore give good example and live in near union with God so that we may be able to say to our congregations and our surroundings, “Follow me, I follow Christ.” As far as I know, peace is present among the Brothers in the District and the situation is good. The outlook for progress is great. Invitations come from all directions that we should come and preach to them. I have built new Classes at some places during these latter times and more could be built if we only had more time and the means to travel around and do it. May God bless us all in His efforts. Pray for me.

2) Reports from the preachers:

Chisago Lake and Marine, B. Borgeson: “God is with us and helps us in all things. The past winter, Calander and Dahlberg were of assistance to me during the extended meetings/services. Some souls have been changed to God. The meetings/services are in general well attended . I am especially thankful to God for this District Conference for is has been a great blessing to the people in these areas..

Carver and Clear Lake, A. J. Wicklund: During this year we have built a church and bought on from a certain academy. We have had two Camp Meetings during the summer, and as the fruit thereof , 22 persons have joined themselves with us on probation. With regard to myself, I feel myself all too young to fill this place/position in which I stand, but I feel myself happy in the Lord.

Kandiyohi, O. J. Stead: The Lord has been good to us during this year. The most of those who belong to our congregation, have a personal knowledge of religion’s power. During the winter, I have preached several times during the week, on Sundays in the Church and on [weekdays] in the homes. The meetings/services in general are well attended. With regard to myself, I have been met

in a loving manner. I wish to preach Christ's evangelism so long as the Church considers me useful. Pray for me.

Plumb Creek, E. A. Davidson: At the past District Conference, I was appointed to help old man Olauson with the congregation's care. At the Christmas season, our old, faithful and beloved Brother got to move to his proper Home above. Since that time, I have had the care of the congregation alone. The past winter we had an extended meeting. The Lord was with us, and a number came to true togetherness with the Triune God. The most of the members live in union with God, but there are some who do not live as God's Word's teaches, and if they do not improve themselves, I fear that we must go the Disciplinary way with them.

Grantsburg and Trade Lake, L. Dahlgren: We have it well in our area, for God is with us, and we have a steady progress. In each quarter, we have taken in some on probation and some in full union. The meetings/services are well attended. The church is full however it needs to be added to. The people are a God-fearing people, peace's and love's God has his residence in their hearts. I feel well and feel myself always happy and fortunate.

Minneapolis, Andrew G. Johnson: The Lord has been good to us during this year. Love, unity and peace are the counseling principals within our congregation. In Minneapolis [we have] a loving, working and praying congregation. With regard to myself, is Christ mine and death shall be my salvation. I wish to be useful to God's sake. Pray for me.

3) Reports from Local Preachers

Chisago Lake and Marine, John Smith: I have preached here every other Sunday when Borgeson has been in Marine. I have also visited a location in Wis[consin] three times during this year. There are a number [there] who wish that I shall regularly visit them as often as I can, but we have not yet embraced a decision [thereon].

Carver Circle, Andrew Farrell: I have visited Clear Lake once a month, and during my free time, Christmas, I was there two times and preached for the most two times a day. With regard to, myself, I have known God's blessing and help even to this moment. My faith has been strengthened this year. I wish to be useful for God's sake. Pray for me.

A. Dahlberg: I have preached on the Circle two times a month to observant listeners. The outlook for progress is good., although the people are full of censures. Brother Wicklund and the people have met me with love and sympathy. May God bless them.

Plumb Creek Circle, L. S. Calander: I have visited Stillwater approximately every other Sunday. God has been with us. Some people have been turned to God. The outlook for progress at this location is good. May God bless the people there.

The Conference adjourned with the sing of a song of praise and the Blessing spoken in order to meet in the evening at 7:30 P. M..

The 6th Session opened with song and a prayer by Andrew G. Johnson. The previous session's minutes were read and accepted.

4th Question: With regard to Local Preachers:

- 1 Are there any complaints or conflicts? No.
- 2 Who should have his Local Preaching authority renewed?

A. Farrell, A. Dahlberg, E. A. Davidson and L. S. Calander had passed a very good examination, and upon a seconded motion, it was decided to renew their preaching authority.
Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to renew E. P. Wicklund's, C. Peterson's and A. E Olauson's authority to preach.
Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to renew O. F. Lindstrom's [and] C. Svanboom's preaching authorities and recommend them [for the Theological] School.
Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to approve the authority to preach to N. M. Ostrum in Scandia Grove⁵⁵
Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to authorize J. Walund's authority to preach and recommend him to the [Theological] School.
Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to recommend B. G. Bergson from Plumb Creek to the [Theological] School.

The 6th Question. Where shall the next District Conference be held?

Upon a seconded motion, it was decide [for] Maiden Rock, Wisc

The 7th Question. Is there any other business?

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided that our preachers in Minneapolis and St Paul in association with the presiding Elder shall be a standing committee for the holding of Camp Meetings.
Upon seconded motion, it was decided that the preacher who used the District's property last shall take care there upon and be responsible for the same.

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided that the old board of the District's fire insurance company be reelected.

By reason of Brother A. Olauson's death, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas a venerated and beloved member of our Conference, namely Local Preacher A. Olauson has gotten during this year to exchange war's weapons for victory's palms, the Cross against the Crown, work and labor against the eternal rest, so we recognize:

- 1 That through Brother Olauson's departure, we have lost from among us a faithful fighter for Evangelism's truth, a diligent worker in the Lord's vineyard and a beloved brother in Christ.
- 2 That in sorrow, it was our trust that his last breaths were peaceful and sweet, that he died in a firm victorious belief. Therefore we with under sorrow's supplication bow ourselves to the Almighty's will, knowing that our loss is the deceased's salvation.
- 3 That we herewith express our heart-most participation for the sorrowing family in their great sorrow.
- 4 That this Resolution be published in "Sändebudet" and that a copy be sent to the family by the Meeting's Secretary.

⁵⁵ A settlement in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

The Committee for Travel Expenses that the total travel expense came to sixteen dollars and twenty-five cents (\$16.25), [and] this divided between all of the members of our District Conference is on each and everyone \$1.35.

The Conference was adjourned with the singing of songs of praise and the Blessing spoken in order to meet again upon the Presiding Elder's call at next year in Maiden Rock, Wisc.

C. G. Nelson, Chairman
Andrew G. Johnson, Secretary

The Fifteenth [Minnesota District Conference] met in Maiden Rock, Thursday the 7th of July 1881 and opened with a suitable devotional offering suitable for the occasion by the P. E., C. G. Nelson.

The following Brothers were present, respectively: C. G. Nelson, J. O. Nelson, Andrew G. Johnson, O. J. Stead, L. Dahlgren, B. Borgeson [and] J. A. Johnson.

Local Preachers: E. P. Westlund, C. N. Wennersten, John Sundell, O. F. Lindstrum, O. E. Oulauson, Axel Gabrielson [and] Isack Anderson.

Andrew G. Johnson was elected as Secretary.

The times for the holding of sessions was established from 8:30 A. M. to 10:30 A. M. and from 2:30 P. M. to 5.

What committees should be appointed?

- 1 Examinations Comm. a) For permission to preach: J. O. Nelson and I. J. Stead. b) For the Local Preacher's four year course. Dahlgren and B. Borgeson.
- 2 Committee to Indicate Local Preachers' and Foremen's Fields of Labor: The P. E. and the Caring Preachers under whose congregational care they are.
- 3 Topics Committee: O. J. Stead and L. Dahlgren
- 4 Camp Meeting Committee: The P. E. and the Caring Preachers in St Paul and Minneapolis.
- 5 Travel Expenses Committee: O. F. Lindstrum

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided that each Caring Preacher shall send two topics to the Topics Committee before the 1st of Feb. 1882.

C. N. Wennersten now read his dissertation upon the subject "The Christian Church".

After the dissertation's reading, The Conference adjourned in order to again meet at 2:30 P. M.

Thursday 2:30 P. M. , 2nd Session opened with prayer by J. O. Nelson and a reading of Psalm 83 by C. G. Nelson.

The minutes were read and accepted.

O. N. Eklund and John Walund had now arrived.

Jonson, preacher for the there-present mission congregation, was taken up/accepted as a counseling member of the Conference.

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to take up for discussion Wennersten's dissertation.

J. O. Nelson: "The dissertation was good in and for itself, but there were some things that were not properly clear, for example the picture with regard to the different fears. I think [it would be] capital if the presentation of the Church's location on the other side of the narrow entrance, but that the congregation, which should have a member who could not pass through the narrow gate should not be a Christian congregation, is a little too hard.

O. J. Stead: Has the expression "Branch", if certain parts of Christ's congregation [have] any support in the Bible?

J. O. Nelson: "Yes, in Romans 11:15 and the following verses.

L. Dahlgren: "There were many good things in the dissertation, but there were some personal expressions, which ought to be changed if it should be published in "Sändebudet"."

Jonson: "The expression "church" is very misleading. When I was in Sweden, so were there many who made complaints to me, therefore that some people had given up the Church, although those who had done so, had only turned to God and attended other churches, which possibly were better than those they left."

Andrew G. Johnson: "It is taught that the word "church" is very much misunderstood; but likewise the Biblical, and thus it is not wrong to use it. The word ἡ ἐκκλησία, which means "the Lord's house", we find in several places in the N[ew] T[estament] and with "the Church" we mean "the Lord's House". The word ἐκκλησία, which means "one from the general masses summoned band", a congregation that works for one and the same goal. They on Christ's true Belief, thus it can not the Christian congregation be in union with the world's people? The recognition sign of the Christian congregation is first that it faithful teachers, who are lit up by God and the Church, thereby that the members are movers from darkness to light. She is called the living God's congregation, thus must there be spirit and life."

O. J. Stead: "I have never misunderstood the word "church". Those who have opposition to this the word are such who wish to dissolve all organization and order. But we see by God's Word that God has organized a Church on the Earth, and therefore I believe that we should keep/protect what God has given us. God is an order-giving God, and therefore we need to have order within the Spiritual surrounding. A man where I live said to me one time that the Church means damnation. Where he had gotten a hold of this [idea], I do not know, but possibly a so-called "priest", who would drive down all churches, had given him this explanation. If we should get rid of the word "church", so soon would another arise in its place, which after a time should be likewise offensive.

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided that, after the author's own improvements, [it] be published in "Sändebudet".

O. J. Stead read his dissertation upon the topic "The Caring Preacher's responsibility for the proper management/administration of the Disciplines". After its reading, it was taken up for discussion.

Andrew G. Johnson: "This is a rather important topic and

a great responsibility rests on each preacher [as to] how wide or not he administers/manages the Disciplines properly. It is a natural propensity with us to all too timorous with regard to exclusion/excommunication from the Church. We had better need of exhortation to the opposite of the dissertation proposes.”

L. Dahlgren: “This subject does not include the general member’s exclusion, rather also how to steer/manage and place all within the congregation. With regard to excommunication, I must recognize that I am all too timid, but I have never had [a bad conscience] over it.”

Jonson: “Each and every one of us gets to feel/know that we are failing in this regard. A number of members think that they do not need to accept our exhortations and showing of the proper path, rather if they could be forced to this, so they left the Church. This we know and [we] fear to correct them There are rich and respected members who needed to be show the proper way, yes excommunicated, but many of us are all too timid/afraid to do this.”

B. Borgeson: “I thought Brother Stead’s dissertation excellent. At the beginning of my office, so was I stricter than what I now am, but I have the verdict also now that I am all too strict, [but] I have never had a [bad] conscience over it. During the last three years, I have excommunicated some, among those have even been the rich and the esteemed. It is hard to excommunicate the rich. It must recognized a number of us fear their influence on our pockets.”

O. J. Stead: “I am stricter now than that I at any time have been [in the past, but when I arrive at my new location, so some come and chatter about another. Now it is not my purpose/goal to excommunicate the person who has been accused⁵⁶ before I find him guilty after I have investigated all sides of the matter. I have had nothing to do with a matter until an accusation, then it is my matter to lead a judicial process.”

C. G. Nelson: “This topic is of such great meaning that it exceeds all of our understandings and comprehensions. As has already been shown in the dissertation, so is the Bible the basis for the Disciplines, and then it is clear that is our duty that we follow them. There is a certain disposition with [regard to] mankind’s children, that it not so necessary with those who we like if we have for the moment the responsibility of one such if he breaks God’s Word and the Church’s rules. God has no consideration to people. It is a good thing that the preacher not to need to excommunicate someone, rather a committee consisting of members belonging to the same church as the criminal; but is a preacher’s purpose to set it in motion and lead the court. We are however in general all too timid/afraid. May God help us.”

The Conference adjourned in order to again meet the following morning.

Friday, July 8th, 8:30 o’clock, 3rd Session opened with a prayer by C. T. Rise. Brother C. G. Forsberg arrived yesterday evening.

Who should have preaching authority?

Andrew G. Johnson recommended C. T. Rise from the Minneapolis congregation. As a Local Preacher and admission to our Theological School, which also was endorsed. The Ex[amination] Comm. reported that C. T. Rise passed a good examination. He had certainly no complete insight in all of the parts of Methodist doctrine, but [they] felt he would soon [learn them].

⁵⁶ The scribe writes “betuddlad”. There is no such Swedish word. He possibly means “tadla” = “accuse”, or that is my assumption.

- C. N. Wennersten recommended Louis Johnson from the Atwater congregation as a Local Preacher, which also was approved. The Ex[amination] Comm. reported that L. J. had passed a good examination.
- O. J. Stead recommended P. O. Olson from the Kandiyohi congregation as a Local Preacher, which was also approved. The Ex[amination] Comm. reported that P. O. Olson passed a good exam.
- Axel Gabrielson recommended William Swenson from the Carver congregation as a Local Preacher [and for] acceptance into our Theological School, which was also approved. The Ex[amination] Comm. reported that he, W. S., had passed a somewhat good exam.
- O. F. Lindstrum recommended C. A. Anderson from the Stillwater congregation as a Local Preacher and to admission to our Theological School, which was approved. The Ex[amination] Comm. that C. A. A. passed a somewhat good exam.
- B. Borgeson recommended John Granstrand from the Marine congregation as a Local Preacher and for admission to our Theological School, which also was approved. The Ex[amination] Comm. reported that J. G. passed a good exam.
- C. G. Forsberg recommended C. F. Lindqvist from the Red Wing congregation, which also was approved. Inasmuch as he had previously been a traveling preacher among us, so was it considered that he did not need to be examined.
- L. Dahlgren read his dissertation upon the subject of "Requirements for success in the preaching office". Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to now discuss this topic.
- B. Borgeson: "It is difficult when one has a lack of time, and by way this is the reason for the weaknesses in the dissertation, and therefore I do not have much to say, but otherwise it would have been desirable if it had been better read."
- Andrew G. Johnson: "Brother Dahlgren mixed together God's works of grace in the soul and the natural gifts. The converted's deep-going religion and the call by God is the Spirit's work in the soul, but sound reason, good capacity of judgment, practical and theological education, and the ability to express oneself are acquired natural gifts. The dissertation mentions only some requirements for the preacher as necessary for success in the office of preaching, but none for the congregation. It depends very much on how wide/far the congregation is a proper relationship to God if there is success in the preacher's office. The first requirement on the congregation's side is that there is spirit and life among the members, and we come to what we said yesterday, namely the necessity to refuse sinners. It is also necessary that the congregation has great belief in God and partake in prayer, song and talk. The leading Brothers ought to also have a good ability to judge, so that they are able to say if the preacher's plan is reasonable or not. Many other things are necessary for success, which I do not have the opportunity to name?"
- C. G. Forsberg: "I propose that Dahlgren did not have the time to complete his dissertation and therefore no time to point out what Johnson presented. It is a truth, my Brothers that that it depends very much on the congregation's situation [as to] how far we get success or not. How many times has not a young preacher been in need, yes, almost killed therefore, that the

congregation, which he served, is the reason for that there no success.. I say in truth that there rests a great responsibility upon the congregation.”

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to accept Dahlgren’s dissertation.

Upon a seconded motion, it was decided to accept O. J. Stead’s dissertation.

The Conference adjourned until 2 P. M>.

Friday July 8, 2 P. M.. 4th Session opened with a prayer by Andrew G. Johnson. The minutes were read and accepted.

Subject “Where should our Theological School be located, and can and should be done for its best furtherance” was conducted now by C. G. Nelson. Upon a seconded motion, it was decided that C. G. Nelson publish his speech in “Sändebudet” and that we, as a District Conference, unanimously join ourselves to work for the School being located in Evanston, Ill..

Which authorities to preach should be renewed?

Chas. Peterson from Trade Lake got his renewed. Good examination.

S. L. Calander’s authority was renewed. Good examination.

E. P. Wicklund’s authority renewed. Good exam.

O. F. Lindstrum’s authority renewed. Good exam.

Axel Gabrielson’s authority renewed. Good exam.

N. Eklund’s authority renewed. Good exam.

J. Walund’s authority renewed. Good exam.

C. N. Wennersten’s authority renewed. Good exam.

N. Ostrum’s authority renewed. Good exam.

C. Swanborn’s authority renewed. Good exam.

O. E. Olauson’s authority renewed, but [in spite of the fact] that he did not have a recommendation from the St Paul congregation.

Who should be inducted into the traveling society?

J. O. Nelson proposed that O. F. Lindstrum should be recommended for admission on probation at the Annual Conference and for ordination upon the Mission’s rolls, which [was seconded] and adopted.

J. O. Nelson proposed that C. N. Wennersten be recommended for admission into the traveling system and that his (credentials)⁵⁷ be restored, which also was approved.

C. G. Forsberg recommended that . F. Lindqvist gets his credentials restored, which also was recommended.

Andrew G. Jonson, J. O. Nelson [and] O. F. Lindstrum were excused from the Conference’s business from and beginning today in order to get home by Sunday.

This afternoon ,s minutes were read and accepted.

⁵⁷ An educated guess.

The Conference adjourned until Monday morning.

Monday, July 11, 8:30 o'clock. 5th Session opened with a prayer by C. G. Nelson.

Are there any complaints? NO. Are there any disputes? No.

Was decided that the 3rd Question not be taken up because of shortness of time.

Was decided that the next District Conference shall be held in Stillwater, Minn.

To the Insurance Board were elected Carl Johnson, Charles Hammarström, John Larson, Lars Peterson from the Minneapolis congregation and Rev. C. G. Nelson, J. O. Nelson and O. J. Stead.

C. G. Nelson read two letters, one from the Batavia congregation and one from the Moline congregation containing the requests that they get admission to our Insurance Company. The District Conference recommended to the Insurance Board the admission of these congregations.

The Conference expressed its heartiest thanks to the congregation in Maiden Rock for the loving and hospitable manner upon which that have received the Conference, which was shown in the decoration of the pulpit in the green leafy woods as well as during the whole time to untiring labors for our best. And to our beloved Presiding Elder for his loving being, sympathetic participation and certain guidance, not only during this Conference, [but] rather during his whole time of service as the Presiding Elder.

The minutes were read and accepted.

The Conference adjourned.

C. G. Nelson, P. E.

Andrew G. Johnson, Sec.

The Sixteenth of the Minnesota Dist[ri]ct Conf[er]ence met in Stillwater Swedish M. E. Church Wednesday in the afternoon at 3 P. M. of the 7th of June 1882.

The meeting opened with song, prayer and a reading from the Bible, thereafter Brother L. Dahlgren, P. E. gave a, for the occasion, suitable introductory speech.

O. J. Stead was elected as Secretary.

The following Brothers were present:

Traveling Preachers: L. Dahlgren, P. E., C. G. Forsberg, C. Nord, J. O. Nelson, O. F. Lindstrom, John Palmqvist, J. A. Anderson, C. N. Wennersten [and] O. J. Stead

Local Preachers: J. G. Nelson

What committees should be appointed?

Examination Comm. (a) For permission to preach were elected C. N. Wennersten and J. Palmqvist. (b)

Local Preacher's 4 Year Course: O. J. Stead & J. Palmqvist. (c) To examine Local Preachers: O. F. Lindstrom [and] J. O. Nelson.

Mission Matters: The Presiding Elder.

Comm. to Indicate to Local Preachers their Fields of Work: Was decided that each Caring Preacher [be responsible].

Topics Comm.: O. J. Stead & L. Dahlgren were appointed.

Devotional offering for the present District meeting: O. F. Lindstrom & L. Dahlgren.

Conf[erence] Travel Expenses: C. N. Wennersten.

Times for holding the sessions was decided [namely] that the sessions begin at 8:30 and continue to 11:30 A. M. and that the first half hour be use for religious up-building.

The first session was closed with song and the Blessing spoken by Brother O. J. Stead.

The Second Session opened with a prayer by Brother Stead, after which a half hour's prayer meeting was held.

The previous day's minutes were read and accepted.

Brothers P. O. Lundberg, Ch. Cederberg, William Swenson and John Granstrand had arrived at the Conference.

Received reports::

A letter from Br. Borjeson was read and it was decided that the Sec., through a letter, answer Brother Borjeson and express the Conference's brotherly sympathy and thanks to him.

Report from the Presiding Elder L. Dahlgren:

On the whole, the District during the past 3rd quarter reports a general progress [and] among the preachers counsel peace and contentedness with their location. Lake Superior (sic) is a large and important field of labor – considered to be of great weight to us to assure this Mission. People remain only a short time and then move to different locations in the country and thus to come to become as a healthy sowing for our Church's [being]. Brother Dahlgren then further gave a very interesting account/story of a Missionary's travels in the Red River valley. The outlooks are both of brighter and darker days for future efforts in the West. The speaker expressed his thanks to the Brothers for a good reception.

Reports from the Caring Preachers:

St Paul. C. G. Forsberg – Because of a call to Afton to perform at a funeral, the Brother was not present.

Minneapolis. J. O. Nelson – Was thankful that God was with them. Many have been converted to God and a good spirit was counseling. Around 40 [persons] have entered on probation. On Pentecost, 9

entered on probation and 11 in full union and 5 with certificates. One of the reasons for success in Minneapolis is the great Swedish population. Our old church can not accommodate all who come out in order to hear the Word. Institutions have participated in to the changing. [From] the American Methodist Church we have bought [a new church for] \$5,500 and [we] have sold the old property for \$5,225. The new property is beautifully located on 7th Street.

Carver. Brother L. Dahlgren reported that he has visited Carver a number of times. [On] the first Sunday in June, there were few people out. A loan of \$250 has under condition of C[urch] Ex[pansion] been approved for the church in the town of Sacramento⁵⁸ The church in Göta was thought best to sell. However that which matters with the Circle as a whole accommodates hope for progress.

Scandia Grove & Clear Lake. Brother L. Dahlgren reported. The people are a sacrificing and kind people, a good ground for progress has been laid. Brother E. P. Wicklund was appointed to these locations at the Annual Conference, but circumstances required take [instead] Murdock⁵⁹ and Buffalo Lake⁶⁰ Br. Fremstadt was sent to Scandia Grove, [but] which he of impediment must cease in the first half year, has hereafter been visited by students from Minneapolis. A debt of \$150 has recently been wiped out. A good hope for progress is visible.

Kandiyohi. Brother O. J. Stead: The congregation's general spiritual condition is good. God is with us. Sinners have been converted and some have joined themselves with us. But a greater progress would be wished. The church has no debt.

Murdock. E. P. Wicklund was not present at the meeting. Dahlgren presented the following report: The congregation is divided on both sides by the railroad. South of Murdock 10 miles, Buffalo Lake is located and Kerkhoven north about 5 miles. Was thought to be necessary to have a person who can preach in English. More good can thereby be accomplished. Ortonville⁶¹ at the western border of Minnesota is a living location and we have many good friends there.

Center City Circle. P. A. Lundberg: Have has some progress. All of the services are well attended. 5 on probation have joined the congregation. Marine does not appear to be so full of progress because of the church's unsuitable place. This obstacle ought to be remedied.

Grantsburg & Trade Lake. J. Palmquist: Had it very good as regards religion. The people wish to live for God and knew on none who live in apparent sin. During the extended services, the church was almost always full of people. Visited 5 places to preach. The financial circumstances are good. No debt. 25 "Sändebudet", 30 S. S. Newspapers. Collection taken up.

Red Wing. C. Nord: The congregation's condition is presently good. Some apparent spiritual awakening, we have not had. The membership numbers between 50 – 60. 10 have entered the congregation this year. Class and Prayer meetings are well attended. "Sändebudet" has 13 [subscribers]. The Sunday School Child" 25 copies.

Vasa & Goodhue. J. O. Anderson: The condition is good and looks promising out. Said [he] feel at home with the people. The financial conditions are good. 13 "Sändebudet". 12 "S. S. Child".

Was decided to adjourn until the next day at 8:30

⁵⁸ A now deserted village in Dodge County, Minnesota. Per "Minnesota Place Names", it was abandoned well be for the writing of these minutes.

⁵⁹ A city in Swift County, Minnesota.

⁶⁰ A city in Renville County, Minnesota.

⁶¹ A city in Big Stone County, Minnesota.

3rd Session opened with prayer and a reading from the Bible by Brother J. G. Nelson. Then the later half hour was taken up in prayers by the other Brothers.

The minutes were read by the Secretary and accepted by the meeting after some corrections.

Stillwater. O. F. Linstrom: The situation is good. The progress experienced however is wished to be greater. The meeting/services in general are well attended, (illegible) save souls, especially young people. However have difficulties [which] must be met. Much is found , which places obstacles in the way. The congregation lives for God and draws itself aside not to dupe to the matter's success. It is still not a year since we have had our own meeting house at this location. Now we have one. Much of the work we have done ourselves to a value of 500 dollars. The church comes to a value of \$4000 and of this amount [there] remains a debt of 1300 dollars. The people in spite of being poor are very generous. But in their financial situations are further along from than many others who do not give to God's business. The speaker felt himself well and fortunate and wished to remain in order to be able to be for the moment to complete the remaining of the field of labor. The church in Afton is some miles from the town. Some nice friends are found there, but the situation is not good. The youth use mostly the English language and there are not so many who interest themselves in the churchly. The Brother reported 25 [subscribers] to "Sändebudet", 30 to "S[unday] School Child". The collection is taken up fully.

Maiden Rock, J. G. Nelson: The congregation owns a very pretty church and [are] a kind people. The people very spread out – have 6 different places to preach. Many have been converted , but not so many have joined themselves to us. "Sändebudet" 15 [subscribers], "S[unday] S[chool] C[hild]" 6.

Atwater & Litchfield, C. N. Wennersten: Litchfield is a difficult field of labor. The people visit the church enough but do not wish to belong to it. The Brother thought himself to not be the right person there, rather L. ought to have another person. Atwater is one of our best congregations – peaceful relationships are present there. Storms have raged but [now all] is calm. The difficulties, which inflicts itself it that the people live far from the church - from 10 to 12 miles. [I] have 5 different locations to preach to supervise. He hoses of meeting are generally well filled. Some [people] have joined with us . 36 "Sändebudet". 31 S[unday] S[chool] newspapers.

4th Question – Concerning the Local Preachers' characters.

Are there any complaints? No.

Who should have his preaching authority renewed?

From Minneapolis:: Aug. Walin, Axel Lindblom, O. E. Olander and William Swenson from Carver upon seconded motion got their preaching authority renewed.

From Red Wing: C. Nord. Chisago Lake & Marine: Brothers P. A. Lundberg and J. Granstrand. upon seconded motion got their preaching authority renewed.

Atwater & Litchfield: Louis Johnson and A. J. Johnson upon seconded motion got the preaching authority renewed.

Trade Lake: Brother Ch. Peterson – Maiden Rock: John Walun, J. G. Nelson [and] A. Farrell upon seconded motion got their preaching authority renewed.

Scandia Grove: N. Ostrum, Murdock: E. P. Wicklund. Norway, Mich: N. Eklund. Stillwater: C. A. Cederberg upon seconded motion got their preaching authority renewed.

St Paul..... Local Preacher upon seconded motion got their preaching authority renewed.

Foremen's authority renewed:

Atwater: Aug. Broman ion got his preaching authority renewed.

Where shall the next District Conference be held?

Red Wing & Vasa requested the District Conference. Upon the decision, Red Wing comes to be the place for the 1883 District Conference.

Rev. Wennersten reported travel expenses were \$2.10 per member.

Was decided to adjourn until the afternoon after the Worship Service's finish . The meeting [was called] to session and a private meeting of the Caring Preachers was held after the afternoon session was adjourned.

4th Session began Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock immediately after the worship service.

The minutes were read and accepted.

Brothers J. Smith, A. Walin [and] A. Olson had arrived at the Conference.

The Topics dissertations and discussions were taken up.

J. O. Nelson commenced [with] the topic "Is mankind's immortality conditional?" [He] tried to show that the soul is not a natural thing, the spirit is not material. The material can be weighed, measured, ?distributed?, pressed together, and so forth. Material can work/affect material, but material [can not affect] the spirit. Mankind has some so-called immortality, which is not material. The soul is a spiritual substance, immortal in its nature. No material thing can kill the soul, so can neither a material fire destroy it, but of course [it] can the body. God could not Himself destroy the soul with material things, but of course if He so desired, take back the soul's living immortality. Mankind in general ?expects? another life after this one - ?Whomever? was a Sadducee⁶², believed not upon the resurrection and a life after death. After he had killed John the Baptist, he was fearful for a period after, but when he got to hear/know from Jesus that John was resurrected from the dead, this was a proof that he believed upon a basic element, which he had denied. The evil do not annihilate, neither with nor after resurrection. It is needed only to show that God does not annihilate them. Annihilation can not be a punishment, rather the opposite a blessing – destruction ? sacrifices? the degree of the suffering – presents the law's punishment, disorderly and indistinct, etc..

Brother Palmqvist – wonder that a number find [themselves] so unwise [as] to say that the soul dies with the body and that the eternal punishment, annihilation.. [He] himself said [that he himself] has in the Scriptures words well searched if immortality there is found. Brother Palmqvist [then] read many passages, which ?showed? mankind's immortality.

Was decided that Brother Nelson gather together the lecture and publish it in "Sändebudet".

O. F. Lindstrom asked what steps ought to be taken to prevent this dangerous teaching? L. Dahlgren thought the spreading of tracts and to give sermons, which inform the people about the craziness.

⁶² A Jewish sect, flourishing from 2 BC to 1 AD, which denied the Resurrection.

Was decided to adjourn.

5th Session was opened on Saturday morning with a prayer by A. Olson from Afton, afterwards the Brothers in prayer and song in the previously determined half hour of the meeting.

The minutes were read and accepted without change.

The topic – “Religion’s dissolute treatment by many so-called Christians and its results” was taken up and Brother Nord read a written dissertation upon the above noted topic. Was decided that the dissertation be approved and published in “Sändebudet”.

J. O. Nelson said the Religion is dissolutely treated by all who do not have Christ in their hearts – it appears even of Methodists, the result of tepidness and lack of feeling for spiritual things. With a number, it has come to that effect that the dissolution is considered for union, such as the dissolution of all churchly organization.

Br. Palmqvist: The Lord’s Word points out many important things concerning this matter. The necessity for each believer to remain direct with the Lord’s Word and not to listen to any other. Mankind’s example might be misleading but never God and His Word.

C. Nord: The topic is of great importance . The necessity that first oneself lives properly since it is our duty to see to it that others live properly. Progress can only be expected where the Christian lives in agreement with the Lord’s Word.

J. A. Anderson pointed out a number of dangers, which of necessity would follow upon a dissolute life.

J. G. Nelson spoke about some teaching points of a number of so-called Christians, which necessarily must lead to a dissolute life.

J. Smith pointed out that Christ’s love’s fire must fire up and clean out every Christian’s heart in order to live properly.

O. J. Stead read a written dissertation upon the topic “The danger to which Methodism is confronted in the present time.” It was decided that the dissertation be approved and published in “Sändebudet”.

J. O. Nelson spoke about the dangers of flabbiness to manage Mission’s matters and the worldliness among many Christians

A. Olson considered it to be necessary to present the faith/teachings of the holiness and more encourage the Mission’s Spirit within the Church.

J. Palmquist pointed out the dangers, which always stand in association/union with the objectionable to take in unconverted people in churchly communion.

Upon motion by Brother Lindstrom some minutes were used in prayer to call upon us and the church’s Lord Protection and the Father’s Blessing.

It was decided to adjourn until the afternoon at 3 o’clock.

5th Session opened at 3 o’clock with song, a reading from the Bible and a prayer by Brother Nord.

Brother Stead asked permission to go to St Paul in order to preach in Brother Forsbeg's place. A motion was made but not seconded.

O. F. Lindstrom read written dissertation on the topic "The best way to win youth for God and the Church".

Was decided that the dissertation be approved and published in "Sändebudet".

C. Nord described the manner that he worked for youth. Special meetings were held, song and Christian conversations engaged in.

A. Olson: This topic is of importance for every house father. He should have regular lessons with his children and to stand with? and for them. The preacher ought to strive after to in a special manner make them aware of and speak with them about their spiritual well-being.

J. Palmqvist had observed that youth are easier to win for God than the older people. As the young Brother knew how God affected him, but lacked the proper personal leadership.

O. J. Stead considers the instruction of youth an obvious obligation for the Church to oversee. The preacher can do much both in the Sabbath school, personal/private meetings and personal conversation with the children. But it shall eventually fall upon the parents to do all in their obligations towards their children.

J. O. Nelson and J. G. Nelson expressed themselves as also being of the same opinion.

J. A. Palmqvist read a written dissertation upon the subject "Requirements for progress in the preaching office". It was decided that the dissertation be accepted and published in "Sändebudet".

O. F. Lindstrom thought that our efforts ought to consider/be concerned with the Sinner's salvation and then to encourage them and teach them to live for Godliness to lead to loving redemption. – lively prayer meetings after sermons and private conversations with the people.

J. O. Nelson pointed out the necessity of holding Missions' meetings, thought it to be of improvement and education – urged to better observe holding such meetings during the next year.

Was decided that we express our thanks to the dear friends in Stillwater and the congregation's Preacher for the hospitable reception we have experienced during these sessions.

Was decided that we thankfully thank the Chairman's and the Secretary's labors during the sessions.

Was decided to adjourn. The minutes were read and accepted. The meeting was closed with song and a prayer by L. Dahlgren.

L. Dahlgren, Chair.

O. J. Stead, Sec.

The Seventeenth Meeting of the St Paul District Conference opened in Red Wing's Swedish M. E. Church, Wednesday the 18th of April 1883 [at] 9 A. M.

Commencement The meeting opened with song, prayer & a reading from the Bible. Thereafter, L. Dahlgren, P. E., gave an introductory speech suitable for the occasion.

H. Lindblom was elected Secretary.

The time for the holding of sessions was established to begin at 8:30 A. M. and continue to 11:30 and that the first half hour is used for religious improvement/edification. The afternoon sessions should begin at 2:30 o'clock with religious edification/improvement through a sermon or the reading of some topic, (with the exception of today as the time was already established as 3:00 o'clock) and to close at 5 P. M.

The limits/barrier for the Conference was established as the 2nd window counted from the Altar Railing.

1st The following Brothers were present:

Traveling Preachers: L. Dahlgren, P. E., J. O. Nelson, C. Nord, O. F. Lindstrum, John N. Palmquist, J. A. Anderson, C. N. Wennersten, O. J. Stead, A. J. Dahlberg [and] G. R. Andrews.
Local Preachers: C. F. Granér, C. F. Lindqvist, John Sundell [and] H. Lindblom.

2nd What committees should be appointed?

- 1 Examination Committee for Brothers who , by the 2nd Quarterly Conference, were recommended for permission to preach: O. J. Stead and J. O. Nelson.
- 2 Examination Committee for 4 year Course 9of Study): G. R. Andrews & J. A. Palmqvist.
- 3 Examination Committee for candidates who shall be admitted as Traveling Preachers and therewith for them who should be recommended for ordination: J. O. Nelson & O. J. Stead.
- 4 Missions Committee: L. Dahlgren, P. E., G. R. Andrews& C. N. Wennersten.
- 5 Committee for Travel Expenses: A. Dahlberg & C. Nord.
- 6 Topics Committee: The Preachers in Minneapolis and St. Paul and the P. E. shall make up this committee.
- 7 Camp/Tent Meeting Committee: L. Dahlgren, P. E., together with the Brothers C. N. Wennersten and G. R. Andrews.
- 8 Was decided that the prepared written dissertation should be taken up for discussion in the order that appear on the topics list, but as the first topic could not get the opportunity to be read as a result of that Br. J. O. Nelson did not have it with him during this session, so was taken up

The 2nd Question “Is it advantageous for converted persons to belong to the congregation or for the congregation to allow such to remain?” – And introduced by Br. J. A. Palmqvist with a written dissertation, and the meeting recognized it and recommended it for publishing in “Sändebudet”. The topic was discussed thereafter by several Brothers , wherein the time [for it was] exceeded and on the P. E. question the session was further extended by 10 minutes.

The 1st session was closed with song and the Blessing spoken by Br. G. R. Andrews.

The 2nd Session

Opened at 3 P. M. the 18th of April with song, prayer and a reading from the Bible and a short sermon by A. Dahlberg upon Phillip 3:14.

The first session's minutes were read and after 2 corrections was accepted.

Br. J. G. Nelson from Maiden Rock had arrived and was present and with at this session.

Thereafter the discussion upon the previous session's last question continued, and the Brothers were thought to be in agreement that all who have and inner desire to seek their soul's salvation should not be excluded from a congregation.

The 4th Question "Outlooks for our Church's activities/efforts in Michigan and what ought to be done for its promotion?" was taken up thereafter. And Brother G. R. Andrews read a dissertation upon the topic.

Br. Andrews tried to show that the population in Michigan had it well in the financial regard, and that the outlook for our Church's promotion there was to get such men sent there who could gain trust with the people, and [he] recommended this be placed in thought for the Brothers' participation. He further demonstrated that this later year was a proof that this part of the West is a good field of labor as a result of the increase and great progress, which has occurred there: in the hundreds of increased congregations, which are found there and that the doors are open at many locations and that the people are very willing to sacrifice.

The dissertation was accepted after the 2nd expression had been changed, and it was recommended for Publication in "Sändebudet".

Upon Br. J. O. Nelson's motion, the meeting adjourned until 8:30 Thursday morning and was closed with song and the Blessing spoken by J. O. Nelson.

The 3rd Session opened Thursday morning with song and a ½ hour's prayer meeting led by C. N. Wennersten.

The second session's minutes were read and accepted.

The 5th Question "How can we make our quarterly meetings more interesting and enlightening?" was taken up thereafter for discussion and Br. O. J. Stead read a dissertation on the topic, which with some additions in the same direction and spirit, was recommended thereafter for publication in "Sändebudet".

The question experienced a lively interest and thereby arose an educationally rich discussion, whereby the following resolution was made:

- 1 That the P[residing] E[lder] should at the 4th Quarter Conference present before each congregation this question: "How much could Congregation do and really give for the support for Your Preacher for the next coming year?" and be exhorted to supervise that the congregations hold to what they have promised.

- 2 That inasmuch as several Brothers at this District Conference could not be present, and as likewise many of these tasks will solemnly be done at the Quarterly Conferences, So is it unanimously Resolved: "To postpone the District Conference prescribed by the Disciplines, but in its place to hold an annual District Meeting in conformance with the rules the desired meeting be adopted." And
- 3 "That a committee consisting of the P. E. together with the preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater and Red Wing be appointed in order to make preparations for the District Meeting's rules and regulations."

As the time had passed so that the established [for the session] had ended, it was decided upon the request of O. F. Lindstrum to extend the time by 10 minutes in regard to the lively question's further discussion..

The meeting was adjourned thereafter with song and the Blessing spoken by O. F. Lindstrum.

The 4th Session opened with song and prayer [at] 2:30 P. M. the 19th of April by N. Lindblom, where after J. O. Nelson dissertation, „the 1st Question, “The Congregation’s nature and its meaning”

The 3rd session's minutes were read and accepted.

The dissertation “The Congregation’s nature and its meaning” was taken up for discussion, wherein several Brothers took part.

After a period of consideration, the meeting was adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Friday and was closed with song and with the Blessing spoken by O. J. Stead.

The 5th Session opened at 8:30 o'clock Friday morning with song and a ½ hour's prayer meeting led by H. Lindblom.

The 4th session's minutes were read and accepted. Hereafter, the list of topics for coming discussions topics was taken up for discussion, and the:

1st “What is required in order to make our Camp Meetings successful?” introduced by C. N. Wennersten. A number of Brothers spoke on the subject and all appeared convinced that the holding of Camp Meetings are of great use and blessing and it was decreed that the preachers take part in them, and that they encourage the people as far as is possible be present at these meetings.

2nd The 2nd topic was taken up by C. N. Lindstrum of the question “The best way to advance the Sunday School matter among us?”. Br. Lindstrum introduced the topic with a written dissertation, and the meeting recommended it for publication in “Sändebudet”.

The following resolution was made: “Because that the time for the Conference's holding rushes to an end, so the topic is left, without discussion, and the next topic was taken up.”

3rd Topic was introduced by .Nord upon the question “What use provides aring Preachers' house visits?”. Br. Nord presented many proofs of whereby house visits are of great value/use for

preachers. Several brothers expressed themselves [on the topic] and all were in favor of house visits and the family.

The 4th topic “Can the first Love be retained and through what power?” was introduced by J. G. Nelson who showed [through] the Bible that it can be retained , and it through the power of Christ.

The 5th Question was taken up by C. F. Granér “Exegesis according to 2 Cor[intians] 10:5” and it was decided that this dissertation should be published in “Sändebudet”.

The meeting adjourned with song and the Blessing spoken by C. F. Lindqvist.

The 6th Session opened at 2:30 o'clock with song and a prayer by C. F. Granér where after L. Dahlberg read his [dissertation] on his topic “Does a new birth occur through Baptism?”.

The 5th session's minutes were read and accepted.

Br. Dahlberg's dissertation was recommended, after an expression had been changed, for publication in “Sändebudet”.

The 6th discussion topic, a written sermon upon the topic of “Christ's laws purpose for justice, Romans 10:4” was taken up for discussion and the sermon was approved.

Thereafter Committee Reports

- 1 Examinations Committee for the examination of Brothers who wish to be ordained – reported that Brothers C. F. Granér and J. G. Nelson had undergone Examination and are recommended for ordination, which was recognized by the meeting.
- 2 The Examination Committee for the examination of Brothers who shall receive authority for permission to preach – reported that Brothers Alexander Forsberg, Haldor Hanson, P. A. Janson, P. Trast and J. Magnusson stand on the list to be recommended to receive preaching authority – and since Brs. G. R. Andrews, J. O. Nelson, A. Dahlberg and O. F. Lindstrum have spoke [with] and have recommended the first and the 2 last, and the P. E. has recommended Brothers Hanson and Janson, it was decided that these Brothers, after having before the P. E. undergone a necessary examination, receive the desired authority to preach.
- 3 Missions Committee reported and proposed that our efforts might stretch themselves to the long far West, for a great field for our Church's activities stands open. Dakota with thousands of our countrymen lack our Church's efforts. The Mission meeting recommended to all congregations their conditions to permit their holding. The report was accepted and approved.

After that, the P. E., on O. J. Stead's proposal, has given a little description upon the Missions activities and expressed many good tips, this topic was lively discussed.

The meeting adjourned until Saturday morning with song and the Blessing spoken by A. Dahlberg.

The 7th Session opened at 8:30A. M> on Saturday morning with song and a ½ hour's prayer meeting led by J. A. Anderson.

The minutes for the 6th session were read and approved.

The Missions efforts were taken up again for discussion. The Brothers interest was great for the Western population , and it was moved and adopted “that during the year to ascertain if it was practical to sen a person to Dakota as a Missionary.”

The Committee for ravel Expenses ported that the expenses for travel to the meeting, divided equally among 12 preachers, came to \$3.15 for each and everyone and the report was adopted.

Camp Meeting Committee reported and the report was accepted., and that the times for the holding of these meetings should be published in “Sändebudet”.

Thereafter came:

The Pastors“ Reports

- 1 Atwater & Litchfield We have experienced God’s blessings in the spiritual area. 14 persons have joined with us on probation. The extended meetings have been held but were ineffective to a degree [because] of the ?extreme? winter. Within the congregation counsels peace and harmony. 3 Local Preachers work for the Blessing. Br. Andrews felt good at these locations.
- 2 Carver The P. E. reported that no preacher had been sent there during the year as a result of no one being found to be sent there. The place has been visited several times but no visible progress to be reported.
- 3 Center City and Marine God is with us. We can report no conversion. The reason therefore might be that we have been unable to hold any extra meetings as a result of the winter’s strength. Br. Anderson feels at home among these people.
- 4 Grantsburg & Trade Lake Br. Dahlberg reported that Trade Lake had a good congregation . He felt at home there. 5 preaching location belong to the Circle and at most of the locations damnation prevails, but Br. D. thought that they should well win a victory. 3 have entered on probation.
- 5 Kandiyohi The people are very good and advance God’s purpose. We expect a successful time. 4 on probation.
- 6 Maiden Rock We have a fine church, but because the church is not located in a suitable place, the people do not have it so easy to meet. This appears to be the reason why there has just not been any progress. At the other location, better success is expected. The people are willing to sacrifice, and this means much. Some have been converted, and 4 have joined on probation and 4 in full union.
- 7 Minneapolis J. O. Nelson thought he could not get a better place. During the winter, extended meetings/services have been held and been to a blessing. 16 persons have joined on probation. The congregation is well and peace and harmony are counseling.
- 8 Red Wing Br. Palmqvist said that the Class Meetings have been a great blessing. Several have been changed/converted at these meetings. Extended services have been held on 5 weeks and around 24 or 25 felt themselves to have found peace with God. 19 have joined the congregation on probation and 8 in full union. The members appear to completely worship for God.

- 9 Scandia Grove & Clear Lake Any especial success, has up to now not been. We believe yet that success shall be , and we the future for the best.
- 10 Stillwater & Afton We have a nice people and a good congregation in Stillwater. We certainly have met some difficulties, but we have had a good winter. Religious awakening has been asked about almost always, many have been converted. About 50 have come in on probation and in full union. However the congregation has not increased as great as these numbers seem as a result of many people moving to other places. In After, it appears as if no success be, but God can well, in time, do some good.
- 11 St Paul Br. Stead reported that when he came to St Paul, a debt rested on the congregation of around \$312.00as the city had assessed the congregation for street repairs, but this debt was now [paid] . The congregation has increased quite a bit during this winter. Class and prayer meetings have been good. Some have been converted to God. Extended meetings/services have been held to the blessing. 9 have entered on probation and 6 in full union.
- 12 Vasa & Goodhue Br. Ganér reported that the congregation is well, and the people wish to live completely for God. The old church is very unsatisfactory and measure have been taken in order to get a new one. Any visible progress./success, we have not report.
- 13 Michigan The P. E. spoke about this field. Great success can be reported. Around 150 have joined on probation.

The Conference testified is thanks to the Caring Preacher and the congregation in Red Wing for their hospitality and sacrifice.

The Conference testified as well is thanks to the Chair. and the Secretary for their work at the meetings.

The Conference closed with song and prayer and the Blessing spoken by the P. E..

L. Dahlgren, Chairman
H. Lindblom, Secretary

The First Meeting of the St Paul District Swedish Methodist Preachers Association met in the Swedish Methodist Church in Minneapolis Thursday the 22nd of May 1884

The meeting was opened with song, prayer and a Bible passage at 9 A. M. by the P. E., L. Dahlgren. Br. Dahlgren gave thereafter an introductory speech suitable for the occasion, wherein he expressed his thank to God, who permitted the Brothers another time in the time to meet at such a meeting, which was [for the purpose] to exhort and arouse each other in the office, and he greeted all welcome and that God's Kingdom's Blessing might be granted to all during the meeting.

The preachers' names were call and the following were present

Anderson, A. J.	Stead, O. J.
Andrews, G. R.	Palmqvist, J. A.
Dahlgren, Louis	Johnson, J. A.
Dahlberg, A. A.	Nelson, J. G.

Gustafson, A. R.
Nelson, J. O.
Hanner, J. S.

Wennersten, C. R.
Olander, O. E.

- 1 The program for the meeting, as it had been proposed by the Executive Committee, was read and adopted.
- 2 Motion for the Constitution for the existing Preachers Association within the St Paul District was presented and taken up, each Article by itself for discussion and were adopted.
 - a) The 1st Article's both paragraphs after the change had been made in § 2 with these words, "and therewith the furtherance of unity among the District's preachers".
 - b) The second Article's 5 paragraphs were adopted after the addition had been made to the 4th paragraph: "The meeting can however acquit/release a Brother who is absent from expenses, if it so for good finds, through a vote of at least a ¾ plurality."
 - c) The 3rd Article after a new paragraph had been proposed and accepted, which has the following wording and which was added to the Article, "The Treasurer shall keep some accounts upon income and expenses and present a complete report at each meeting."
 - d) The 4th Article was accepted without change.
 - e) Thereafter upon motion by Br. J. O. Nelson, the Constitution as a whole was adopted, reading:

Rules
for
the Swedish Meth[odist] Preacher Association
of the St Paul District of the Northwestern
Swedish Conference

I Art.

Name and Purpose

- § 1 The Association's name shall be "The Swedish Methodist Preacher Association of the St Paul District of the Northwestern Swedish Conference.

The purpose of this Association

- § 2 a) That through conversation and written dissertations lead these members to a deeper insight in the Godly Word and there with advance a unity among the District's preachers.
- b) That after personal good finding, to take up and discuss questions of direct and indirect meaning for Churchly life and activity.
- c) To work for the District's general/common interests such as Sunday Schools, Bible and tract distribution, the instruction of youth, the distribution of religious literature, the Mission's expansion and whatever other, which can be consider to have meaning for God's Kingdom.

II Art.

The Membership and their obligations

- § 1 All preachers within the St Paul District of the Northwestern Swedish Methodist and all local preachers who have the responsibility for a congregation are members of this association.

- § 2 The Association can after its own determination accept/admit Local Preachers, Foremen and Class Leaders as advisory member, provided however, that the admission occur through a vote and that such members under no circumstances are entitled to vote.
- § 3 It is the obligation of each member to be present at the Association's meetings, to consciously and in accordance with one's ability, perform what the Association, be it through vote or committees, find it in the interest to charge/order, and in the event of reasonable impediment, to inform the Association thereon.
- § 4 All expenses, be they members' travel expenses of other for the Association's account necessary expenses, should be equally divided between all of the association's members. The meeting however can release a Brother who is absent from the expenses, if they in the interest, do find through a vote of at least a ¾ plurality.
- § 5 Each member ought to punctually find himself at the beginning of the Association's ordinary/regular meeting and be prepared to, as far as no unforeseen obstacle appears in his way, to remain until the meeting's close. Only personal or illness within the family can under normal circumstances be considered valid [reason for absence].

III Art.

Officers and their obligations

- § 1 The Association's Officers shall be a Chairman, a Secretary, a reasurer and an Executive Committee of three members.
- § 2 The Association's Officers are elected annually through vote, and should retain their office until a new election occurs.
- § 3 The Chairman shall preside at the sessions[of the meeting[, maintain parliamentary order and protect the Brothers' love [for each other] during the discussions.
- § 4 The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of the discussions , issue the call for the Association's meetings and provide for the publication of the topics/themes.
- § 5 The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts upon the Association's incomes and expenses and present a complete report [on the same] at each meeting.
- § 6 It is the obligation of the Executive Committee to decided upon the manner/form for the Association topics/subjects for written dissertations and at the first session's beginning/commencement to present a carefully worked-out motion for the program for the holding of the meeting.

III Art.

The Association's Meetings

- § 1 The Association meets on a Wednesday in the month of April or May.
- § 2 The Association meetings ought to always continue over to Sunday. However it can be otherwise decided by a ¾ vote plurality.

After the Constitution had been adopted, the meeting organized and elected as Chairman the P. E. . Dahlgren, as Secretary H. Lindblom, as Treasurer G. R. Andrews and to the Executive Committee A. R. Gustafson, J. A. Palmqvist and O. J. Stead.

On Br. O. J. Stead's motion, it was decided that the second paragraph could be added to the Constitution, according to the need thereto called upon.

It was decided that each preacher procure for himself a copy of this Constitution.

Moved and adopted to take up a collection for the creation of a fund for the Association's necessary expenses.

As Br. A. R. Gustafson for the first time was present among us at a District meeting, he was heartily greeted welcome.

As Counseling Members were admitted upon motion and by vote: J. Smith, J. A. Johnson, H. Lindblom and Andrew Nelson.

The following committees were appointed

Camp Meeting Committee: J. O. Nelson and . J. Stead together with the P. E. L. Dahlgren.

Worship Service Committee: the C[aring] P[reacher] in St Paul.

The Committee for Travel Expenses: the Treasurer together with A. Dahlberg.

Thereafter the addressing of the topics was taken up, beginning with the 1st topic, which was introduced by J. A. Palmqvist, whose introduction was approved by the meeting and recommended for publication in "Sändebudet.

Thereafter L. Hanner read his dissertation on the same topic, which the meeting also approved.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned until 2 P. M. and after a song/hymn was sung and the Blessing spoken by A. A. Dahlberg.

The Second Session opened 2 P. M.

s[ine] d[ie] with song, prayer and a short sermon by J. A. Johnson.

The minutes of the previous session were read and, after some changes were made, were accepted.

Upon motion and voting, G. W. Lenning was accepted as a Counseling Member.

Thereafter the previous session's dissertation topic was taken up for discussion. Several Brother took part and a vigorous 2 hours discussion was had, where of the Brothers' final thought appears to be that the Church's unity more and more ought to be practiced in unity with God's Word and it on the Bible's established organization.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned until 4:30 with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by O. J. Stead.

The Third Session opened Friday

Morning , the 23rd, at 9 o'clock with a half hour's prayer meeting led by Br. L. Hanner.

The minutes for the previous session were read and accepted. Upon motion, . A. Nordstrom was accepted as a Counseling Member.

Thereafter, the 2nd "topic", "A Christian's spiritual freedom" for addressing. J. O. Nelson introduced the "topic" with a 15 minute talk, where after Br. A. J. Anderson read his dissertation on the topic and the meeting approved Anderson's writing and recommended it for publication in "Sändebudet".

Br. A. R. Gustafson was granted ½ hour of freedom from the meeting.

A lively and warm discussion continued the topic's further discussion.

Upon motion, the meeting was extended by 10 minutes, and that the Chair should get to express himself on the same.

The meeting adjourned thereafter with songs of praise and the Blessing spoken by A. J. Gustafson.

The Fourth Session opened as 2 P.

With a short sermon by A. P. Lind.

The minutes were read, and after a correction, were accepted.

Upon motion and voting, C. F. Lindqvist from Red Wing was admitted as a Counseling Member.

Upon motion and voting, it was decided that the Brothers who are not present at the meeting be released from taking part in the preachers' travel expenses.

Thereafter the 3rd topic was taken up for discussion. Br. Andrews had not himself written out any dissertation upon the topic, because of much work and in part of that he had an assistant who he had in his place called upon thereon., and so thus Br. Andrews excuse was considered valid, and N. P. Lind read his dissertation, which was approved and recommended that Br. Lind send it in for publication in "Sändebudet".

The meeting continued on for a good while to discuss the topic.

Upon motion, the meeting [now turned] to discussing the 4th topic.

Br. A. R. Gustafson had been sick and thereby prevented from writing his dissertation on the topic, therefore the meeting considered his excuse valid [and] where after O. J. Stead read his dissertation on the same topic, which was recommended for publication in "Sändebudet".

A pair of Brothers spoke further on the question [and] where after the meeting was adjourned with prayer, songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by J. A. Palmqvist.

The 5th Session opened Saturday morning

With a 182 hour prayer meeting led by J. A. Palmqvist.

The minutes of the previous session were read, and after a pair of changes were made, were accepted.

Upon motion and voting, J. Sundell of Red Wing was inducted as a Counseling Member.

The Secretary presented a request that a voting might be undertaken in regard of that the anticipation of previous topic "The Holiness" teachings" on it, one should get to see [upon] which standpoint the District's preachers stood. Br. J. O. Nelson stated that the observation was not without, for a pair of Brothers had stated them [to be] both unbiblical and un-Methodist and therefore they should be seriously chastised., but the request was left thereafter without further revision/over look.

Upon motion, the question of the preachers' travel expenses was taken up, whereby the following decision was made, "that the Brothers who are from Michigan should not take part in the travel expenses, and thus Br. Olander, who was present, was released from taking part in the same.

Upon motion, the 5th topic was taken up by Br. A. A. Dahlberg, who read his dissertation, and after some changes had been made, it was approved and recommended for publication in "Sändebudet". C. N. Wennersten thereafter read some excerpts upon the same topic.

Was decided to close the session at the usual time and to meet at 1 P.M. Reports were taken up thereafter.

Stillwater & Afton – Br. Gustafson was happy that his lot was thrown among God's people. We have had a blessed time in Stillwater. 45 or 46 have been inclined to the congregation's Built Residence. Trade Lake & Grantsburg – Br. Dahlberg had nothing new to speak about. The labors still go forward. A good repair [was done] on the residence/parsonage.

Clear Lake & Scandia Grove – A. J. Anderson said that he had been well comely received. But no great conversions, but peace and harmony were counseling. It is a large field. Thanks [that] God is with us.

Vasa & Goodhue & Red Wing – It is too great a field of labor. In Red Wing we have had a good time, 14 or 15, one pair on certificates and 5 or 6 in full union [who] have joined the congregation. Have 2 good Local Preachers. In the 2 other place, much is lost because they are not often visited. 2 have joined there.

Maiden Rock – I received blessing from God and go. But I have not seen any great encouragements. We ?sow? on hope and wait for growth of God.

The meeting adjourned with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by C. F. Lindqvist.

The 6th Session opened

with song and prayer, where after the minutes were read, and it was decided, that in the previous minutes appearing request by the Secretary and J. O. Nelson's talk, that [they] should be included in the minutes was approved.

1 Thereafter, reports were taken up

Carver – The people come out for the meetings/services and it appears it becomes well in the future.

Murdock – [The] P. E. stated that Br. Johnson is very well thought of and the work/effort appears to be promising.

Atwater – This is a blessed place. The people we fear God. But not great revival has occurred/been, but we have had a blessed year. Some have become associated with the congregation. We hope for good times during the coming Camp Meeting.

Litchfield – We have had regular services there. The people have [attended them] well. Myself, I feel very good.

Kandiyohi – They are kind people here. In the Dakota border, there seems to be doors opening.

Ortonville – Some [new members] have joined with us.

Minneapolis – This is the best year of my work here. I am not certain of how many have joined the congregation. The people are good.

St Paul – With regard to our efforts, so have we also seen progress here. Some have joined the congregation. We continue with the building of a parsonage,

Center City & Marine – This is my first year at these locations. Was well received. Have nice people there. A large [area], many people and much work. Some have been turned [to Christy]. 10 people have joined with us.

Marine – It has not been especially encouraging. But we believe it will be better. I myself feel good.

Escanaba⁶³ - Br. Olander said that God has been with them. Some have been converted to God. A good spirit is prevailing in Escanaba. A large area, 5 or 6 locations and only 2 preachers. Many workers are needed in Michigan. I myself feel good.

The P. E. spoke about the District whereby it appeared that progress appears in all the locations. In Michigan, several workers are needed.

The Camp Meeting Committee reported and the report was accepted.

Travel Expense Committee – ditto – Accepted.

The report from the Treasurer was accepted.

Br[others] Gustafson, Olander and J. A. Anderson received permission to leave the meeting before its close

St Paul and Atwater were proposed as the next meeting place, where after that a good discussion was had about the location, [and] Atwater was decided upon.

The Conference expressed its thanks to the Caring Pastor and the congregation in Minneapolis for their hospitality and efforts [on behalf of the Conference}.

Likewise, the Conference expressed its thanks to the Chair and the Secretary for their work at the meeting.

The Conference closed with song and prayer and the Blessing spoken by Br. L. Dahlgren

H. Lindblom, Secretary

The Second (2nd) Meeting of the St Paul District Swedish Methodist Preachers Association met in Atwater, Minnesota the 5th of May 1885

The meeting was opened by the Association's Chairman, L. Dahlgren, P. E., with a sermon over 1 Corinthians 15:58 at 2 P. M. the same day.

First Session

Took its beginning on Wednesday, the 6th of May in the P. M. and was opened with a prayer by P. E. Dahlberg. Afterwards it turned to the election of officers. As Chairman for the meeting, L. Dahlberg was elected, as Secretary, O. J. Stead and as Treasurer J. R. Andrews.

⁶³ A city in Delta County in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The following Brothers were present: L. Dahlgren, O. J. Stead, J. R. Andrews, A. R. Gustafson, N. G. Nelson, A. A. Dahlberg, J. A. Anderson, J. A. Palmqvist, J. A. Johnson, J. S. Hanner, O. E. Olander, J. G. Nelson.

Local Preacher Lois Johnson and Supernumerary B. Borjeson were elected Advisory Member by the decision of the meeting.

Committee Appointments:

The following Brothers were appointed to serve on the noted committees:

Camp Meeting Committee – L. Dahlgren, A. A. Dahlberg [and] A. R. Gustafson.

Fire Support Committee – L. Dahlgren, J. A. Palmqvist, N. G. Nelson, J. A. Andrews and O. J. Stead.

Worship Service Committee – L. Dahlgren, A. J. Andrews [and] A. A. Dahlberg.

Management Committee – The preachers in Minneapolis, St Paul and Stillwater.

Revisions Committee – for the revising of the Constitution's Regulations – N. G. Nelson and A. A. Dahlberg.

Brother H. H. Holland was taken up as an Advisory Member.

Written dissertations:

Was decided that the topics be taken up in the order establish by the Management Committee.

The dissertation of A. R. Gustafson: "The different Temperaments" Manifestations in the Christian Life" was read and accepted by the meeting.

A lively discussion arose over the topic and after many had expressed themselves, the meeting united thereon that notwithstanding the different temperaments" difficult band and the different characters" [many aspects] ?before?, may yet God"s Spirit subjugate them to the Soul"s salvation and His name to Honor.

It was decided that the dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

The dissertation by A. A. Dahlberg, "Present day society"s questions examined in Christianity"s light" was read and accepted by the meeting.

Was decided to adjourn and the first Session was closed with a prayer by Brother A. J. Hanner, songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by Brother A. R. Gustafson.

Second Session

Opened with the singing of the 504th Psalm in our new Psalm Book, a reading from the Bible and prayer by Brother Olander.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and were, with some corrections, adopted.

Was decided that Brother Palmqvist under Brother Andrews be of assistance in the distribution of the travel expenses.

Was decided that Brother A. A. Dahlberg's dissertation be taken up for discussion.

A lively discussion (illegible) concerning the temperance matter and was considered by the meeting that prohibition (sic) is the most "pure/suitable" and most proper by all the party "principals", who presently make themselves involved and should be strongly supported by us.

Brother A. N. Mattson, the Norwegian Methodist preacher at the location, was introduced to the Brothers and accepted as an Advisory Member.

Was decided that Brother A. A. Dahlberg's dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

Was decided that we, as a Preachers' association, recognize/approve the Prohibition Party of America's temperance "principals".

The dissertation of Brother J. R. Andrews: "Conditions for good influences at our worship services and the listener's quiet notice/attention." Was read and accepted

It was taken up for discussion. Many things were pointed out, which work as human reasons for good influence and again others, which unconditionally disturb end to end for a uplifting worship service.

Was decided that the dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

The dissertation of John A. Palmqvist, "The Christian life and its relationship to society" was read and accepted by the meeting.

Discussion on the topic was taken up. A. A. Dahlberg reinforced the truth in the dissertation that Christendom's power is "powerful [enough]" to give the most hallowed influence both in the home and in the community.

Brother N. G. Nelson referred to his own knowledge/experience how he once was drawn into the "Skeptical" element, but how he saw the Christian overweighing powers in the life against the strongest "Free Thinkers". A Christian has power with God and Mankind.

Brother Stead spoke about his God-fearing mother and was convinced that she presented her admonishments and her beseeching prayers had exerted and still exerts a strong influence on his life.

Brother A. A. Dahlberg requested permission to get to travel home to Kandiyohi the next day. He received permission thereto.

Was decided to adjourn. Brother O. J. Stead spoke the Blessing.

The 3rd Session

Opened immediately after the morning sermon at around 11 o'clock.

The dissertation of J. A. Johnson was taken up and read: "What personal benefits do we possess here in life from a true fear of God?"

The dissertation was accepted. The topic was discussed with interest and liveliness. And many good benefits were touched upon, which possess their basis in the true religion.

Was decided to adjourn until 2 P. M. in accordance with the establish schedule.

The 4th Session

Opened Friday afternoon with the singing of Psalm 355, Bible reading and a prayer by Brother O. J. Johnson.

Where after, Brother O. J. Stead, on behalf of his fellow officers, presented to the District Presiding Elder an (elegantly) embellished cabinet clock as a brotherly and friendly greeting on their brotherly devotedness as well as a gift of thanks for his toils and troubles he has had for them in his position as P. E..

The dissertation of N. G. Nelson was read: "The evangelical Christendom's dangers, obligations and hopes".

The dissertation was accepted where after Brother O. J. Stead moved to greet Brother N. G. Nelson welcome among us. Brother Nelson answered the greeting with some suitable words wherein he expressed his thanks and pleasure to be with the Brothers of the St Paul District.

Was decided that Brother N. G. Nelson's dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

Brother A. P. Lind was accepted as an Advisory Member in the Association.

Brother O. E. Olander read a short excerpt of the topic "Christian fortitude and firmness in the daily live".

Was decided that the topic be taken up for discussion.

Brother Gustafson emphasized the necessity to learn from Jesus the courage we need.

Brother N. G. Nelson emphasized that fortitude/courage should always be suitable with the capacity for good judgment and illustrated his talk with an appropriate story.

Brother H. Haller gave attention to the necessity to practice the little frankness we ought to already possess, and then it shall grow more and more until we are able to be victorious over everything.

Brother J. G. Nelson read a dissertation upon the subject: "What influences exercises membership in a worldly society upon a Christian?", which was accepted by the meeting. And opened for discussion.

A. R. Gustafson spoke warning [that] the Christian should no go in and belongs to worldly societies/association.

The other Brothers were of the same thought, that a Christian's membership in a worldly society works detrimentally upon [the person himself] and the church to which they belong.

Upon N. G. Nelson's motion, Brother J. G. Nelson was authorized to travel to Minneapolis to preach on Sunday.

Was decides that a session be held in the evening to begin at 7 o'clock.

The meeting was adjourned with the Blessing spoken by Brother B. Borjeson.

5th Session

Opened with the singing of Psalm 43 and a prayer by B. Borjeson.

The minutes were read and accepted.

Topic # 6 on the program was taken up: "The Presiding Eldership" Brother L. Dahlgren separated in his talk some of the peculiarities, which especially belong to this office: (1) He ought to be an insightful person. (a) With good judgment. (b) Impartial. (c) A "firm" person but at the same time openhearted. (d) A person with good health, etc.,etc..

A question was taken up of what we could do for the support of a Missionary to the North West. A lively discussion arose over this holy matter.

Was decided to appoint a committee whose obligation/task shall be to work out the assistance/help for the matter in question with the Tract Society or the Bible Society.

To this committed were announced Brothers L. Dahlgren, A. R. Gustafson [and] O. J. Stead.

Brother J. R. Andrews reported on the travel expenses, whose amount, after equal division upon the Association's members, came to \$2.77 per member.

The report from the Camp Meeting Committee was presented and it was moved that only 3 Camp Meetings be held this summer, namely:

Kandiyohi beginning the 16-22 June
Clear Lake " " 16-22 June
Red Rock⁶⁴ " " 23-29 June.

⁶⁴ A village in Washington County, current the city of Newport.

Was decided to adjourn. The Blessing was spoken by O. J. Stead.

The 6th Session

Open on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Was decided to take up dissertation #14. Brother O. J. Stead read his dissertation on the topic: "The religious indifference among the different classes of society and the best means against the same."

After this dissertation was read, it was decided to adjourn.

The Blessing was spoken by Brother N. G. Nelson.

The 7th Session

Opened Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with a ½ hour prayer meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Was decided that Brother O. J. Stead's dissertation be published in "Sändebudet".

The Fire Support Committee reported. The Committee's Secretary, N. G. Nelson, read a proposal/motion to the Rules, which was adopted by the meeting.

Was decided to elect directors and to this [committee] were elected the preachers in Minneapolis, St Paul and Stillwater and the Presiding Elder, which makes up that part of the administration as the Constitution determines regarding the [number of] preachers. And Brothers N. Sorenson from St Paul, John N. Abrahamson from Minneapolis and C. H. Carlson from Stillwater, which makes up that part of the administration as the Constitution determines for laymen. See Art. III § 1 of the Constitution.

Was decided that the Statutes be incorporated in the Office of the Secretary of State.

The Revision Committee reported and read the changes they considered necessary to be made to the Preachers Association's Constitution.

Motion by Brother Stead that the Statutes of this Constitution, such as they now are revised by the Committee, be adopted with the exception of the change the Committee proposed concerning Membership, which shall remain unchanged. It was so decided.

Brother J. A. Andrews, Treasurer for the P[reachers] Association reported on the Association's financial position.

The question on where the next P[reachers] A[ssociation] meeting shall be held: Stillwater, Center City and Red Wing were proposed. Was decided that the next meeting be held in Stillwater.

The Committee for the "Century" Party for the benefit for our Theological School reported. The different/various congregations" subscription and collected cash [contributions]:

Minneapolis Subscription	\$386.51
" Cash paid	50.00
Remaining on Subscription	336.57
St Paul Subscription	187.00
" Cash paid	22.00
Remaining on Subscription	165.00
Kandiyohi Subscription	51.50
" Cash paid	16.50
Remaining on Subscription	35.00
Atwater Subscription	54.75
" Cash paid	20.00
Remaining on Subscription	34.75
Red Wing Subscription	27.00
" Cash paid	15.00
Remaining on Subscription	12.00
Trade Lake & Grantsburg Subscription	40.00
" Cash paid	7.00
Remaining on Subscription	33.00
Vasa & Goodhue Subscription	29.00
" Cash paid	15.00
Remaining on Subscription	14.00
Murdock Subscription remaining	10.00
Stillwater Cash paid	7.82
Clear Lake Cash paid	5.00
Norway ⁶⁵ & Minnekone Cash paid	6.00

Whereof follows the above noted number the following:

The Total Subscription Amount	\$804.64
Paid in cash	164.32
The remaining Subscriptions	640.32

Upon N. G. Nelson"s motion, it was decided

- 1 That we, as a meeting, express our hearty thanks to the Chairman for the excellent manner whereupon he has led the meeting"s discussions.

⁶⁵ A city in Dickinsen County, Upper Peninsula Michigan.

The motion was established through a standing vote.

- 2 Was decided that we as a meeting express our hearty thanks to the meeting's Secretary for his faithfully performed labors.
- 3 That we as a meeting express our innermost thanks to the Caring Preacher and congregation in Atwater for the hospitality and the good reception we have experienced during our meeting.

Brother E. P. Wicklund was admitted as and Advisory Member.

He Preachers' Congregational Reports

O. R. Gustafson from Stillwater spoke with great exaltation and thanks to God for what He has done in Stillwater and Afton, and another small location, 70 persons, has joined with the Congregation.

N. G. Nelson from Minneapolis. God has been and is continuously with them. Peace and harmony counseling. And for his own part, uplifted, happy and full of hope.

A. A. Dahlberg from Kandiyohi. Said that in a certain manner, Kandiyohi was his mother's congregation, for there had he received the Lord's call to the participation in Grace. Was happy he went there to take care of this congregation as its Caring Preacher. A good influence is reported and possesses hope for progress.

J. R. Andrews expressed his joy to see the preachers in Atwater among them. The Preacher and the Congregation's Spirit have fused together. He "furnished" a good time at the forthcoming Camp Meetings, and if the winters are dark to hold some extended meetings/services.

J. A. Anderson from Scandia Grove & Clear Lake. He asks of God that God should make him to accomplish some good. Thus can souls have been saved.

J. A. Palmqvist from Red Wing. Said that he has reason to thank God for a might pouring forth of the Spirit. Held extended meetings/services for 6 weeks' time. 287 joined with the congregation on probation. There are (illegible) 6 Scandinavian congregations in this little city.

J. S. Hanner Center City & Marine. Happy to be with the Brothers. Have good meetings. 9 have entered the congregation.

O. E. Olander from Trade Lake said that this year has been for him a year of both sorrow and joy. The field is large and ungodliness great, yet the Lord has saved souls. This has been the best year in his experience as a preacher. J. G. Nelson has been very helpful to him during the extended meetings/services. The Lord has saved souls.

J. A. Johnson from Murdock. Could put aside the evidence that he lived in God. Felt himself younger than for four years ago. Was stronger in his health. Served 3 congregations. The young congregation in Owatonna⁶⁶ was a small, good and warm congregation.

⁶⁶ A city and county seat of Steele County, Minnesota.

O. J. Stead from St Paul. Said the Lord was with them in the congregation's service and that he neither is not without progress. The past winter, the Lord showed His power for the saving of many souls; but not all have attached themselves to the congregation. He thought however that God has many souls in the city that shall be saved. There is hope for great progress in the future.

L. Dahlgren, P. E. thought that the coming year ought to in his care [show] greater progress for our Church than what the past could display. We are a considered and respected people. God has done much during these 13 years that he has worked for the District.

It was decided to adjourn,

The minutes were read and accepted.

The Brothers stood up and sang songs of praise and the Chairman spoke the Blessing.

L. Dahlgren, Chair

O. J. Stead, Sec.

The Swedish Methodist Mutual ~~Fire-Support~~ Insurance Association

The Statues are adopted by the by the St Paul District Preachers Conference at it Annual Meeting in Atwater, Minnesota the 5th of May 1885.

Art. I The Associations Name

§ 1 This Association's name shall be The Swedish Methodist's Mutual ~~Fire-Support~~ Insurance Association.

Art. II The Association's Purposes

§ 1 This Association's purpose shall be: that the ~~Swedish Methodist~~ congregations in America, which belong to the Association commit themselves that, in the event of ~~fire~~ storm, lightning or fire damage to such congregation as suffers the ~~fire~~ damage, to pay an amount corresponding to the amount for which the congregation's property was insured in this Association or proportionally according to the damage, which has occurred.

Art. III The Association's officers

§ 1 The Association's business shall be manage by a Board consisting of 4 preachers and 3 laymen of whom one shall be a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

§ 2 The Board shall annually be elected by the Preachers Association within the St Paul District, N. W. Swedish Conference at the Association's ordinary annual meeting. Each congregation within the Association shall be entitled, that to the above-named annual meeting send a delegate, which delegate together with the preacher of the congregation shall elect the Officers/Management.

§ 3 The Board shall have its seat in St Paul, Minnesota.

Art IV Regulations

§ 1 Within this Association, both church buildings as well as pastors' residences be insured, provided that no building may be insured within the Association to a higher amount than one Thousand dollars.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: Paragraphs #2, 3 and 4 have been struck out as well as paragraphs 9 and 10. Paragraphs #5, 6, 7 and 8 have been re-numbered respectively 2, 3, 4 and 5.

§ 2 In the event of ~~fire damage~~ damage occurring it shall lie upon the congregation to turn in to ~~the Board's Secretary~~ the Presiding Elder a careful and prompt report of the damage suffered signed by the congregation's pastor and trustees.

§ 3 It shall be the responsibility of ~~the Chairman~~ The Presiding Elder with the report of ~~fire damage~~ occurred damage without delay call the Board ~~to meet~~, which ~~meeting~~ shall take into consideration the presented information of the loss, and if found proper/correct, approve the asked (sic) amount and ~~place on the Board's Secretary~~ that on each congregation in the Association equally dividing the amount in accordance with the * number of members.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: At the point of the * has also been inserted the following: "the congregation's amount of insurance".

§ 4 It shall lie upon each congregation within the Association that at the latest within sixty (60) days after receiving the notification of fire damage by the ~~Board's Treasurer~~ The Presiding Elder the congregation's Trustees to send in the asked (sic) amount. The congregation, which neglects to pay within the established time the proper contribution [shall be expelled] unconditionally the Association.

§ 5 If later such a separated congregation wished entrance into the Association, it shall occur with the Board's agreement ~~with the condition of the payment of the assigned sum together with the entrance fees.~~

Art V

Officers Obligation

§ 1 It shall be the responsibility of the Board to, at the annual meeting, present a complete report upon the Association's [financial] position and its accounts.

§ 2 The board's members shall serve one (1) year or to this, that their replacements have been appointed.

§ 3 All of the Association's officers shall serve without pay.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: Paragraph 3 has been struck out and the following paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

§ 4 A congregation, which desires entrance/admittance into the Association shall apply to the Board Secretary with its request/application, which shall after careful consideration accept the request or reject it.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: Paragraphs 6 and 7 have been struck, being replaced by the following:

§ 6 It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary Board that to every congregation that belongs to the Association to issue a certificate that the congregation's property is in the Association and to what and to how large amount, the noted certificate to be signed by the Board's Chairman and Secretary.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: The original paragraphs 9 and 10 have been struck out and Paragraph 11 renumber as 7.

§ 7 Changes and additions to these statutes can be made at the ordinary annual meeting through a two thirds (2/3) plurality vote.

**The St Paul District Preachers Association met according to call the 5th of May 1886 in
Stillwater, Minnesota M. E. Church**

Chairman L. Dahlberg took his place and opened the meeting with the song/hymn "O God all Source of Reconciliation", etc. and a reading from the Bible of 2 Corinthians 6 and a prayer by the Chairman.

The following members were present: L. Dahlgren, J. R. Andrews, A. G. Johnson, N. G. Nelson, . A. Dahlberg, J. A. Johnson, H. G. Bovie, H. Lindblom, C. C. Borglin, J. S. Hanner, J. A. Anderson, O. E. Olander, J. Peterson, O. M. Olson [and] O. J. Stead.

O. J. Stead was elected Secretary.

Upon the question of the election of a Chairman, it was advised that the P. E. shall serve as the Chairman at the Preachers' meetings . Brother J. R. Andrews took over the Chairman's chair.

L. Dahlgren was elected Treasurer.

Brother J. R. Andrews, P. E., thanked the Brothers for the trust they had extended to him. He felt it was special to now take up the leadership of the meetings' discussions. Wished to ask God and the Brothers to support him. He decreed the extension of our activities/efforts. Recommended a Missions association among the District's Preachers, the holding of Missions meetings/services in our congregations, particularly those who lie on the outer edges. Decreed an Examination Committee to examine (the meeting's finances) , the Officers' accounts.

Committee appointments:

- 1 To the Camp Meeting and Missions Committee were elected Brothers J. R. Andrews, P. E., L. Dahlgren, N. G. Nelson, [and] O. J. Stead.
- 2 To the Administrative committee the Preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis & Stillwater, Red Wing and the Presiding Elder.
- 3 Travel Expenses L. Dahlgren & H. Lindblom.
- 4 Fire Support Committee N. G. Nelson, A. G. Johnson [and] J. R. Andrews.
- 5 Examination/Audit Committee Brs. A. G. Johnson, N. G. Nelson and A. A. Dahlberg.
- 6 Was decided that a committee be appointed to consider the best ways to conduct a Missions effort. Brothers O. J. Stead, A. G. Johnson and A. A. Dahlberg were elected to serve on this committee.

The times for the sessions was established:

- a) Morning sessions 8:30 to 11:30.
- b) Afternoon sessions 2:30 and to close the meetings as decided.

2nd Session

The 2nd session opened with a prayer by Brother H. Lindblom.

Subject for dissertations

The first topic on the program, "The Sabbath", was taken up and read by O. J. Stead, a written dissertation.

The Dissertation was approved and accepted by the meeting. Where after A. G. Johnson from St Paul led in an oral prayer to God that God might strengthen his people and come to their help to keep the Lord's day and protect us from desecrating the same.

N. G. Nelson showed the beautiful meaning of the New Testament's expression "The Lord's Day.

Brother L. Dahlgren emphasized the necessity to in quietness serve God upon that day.

N. Lind took part in the discussion.

Brother A. G. Nelson related some occurrences from a certain place how some persons finished up with their Sunday labors in obedience to God's demand?.

A. A. Dahlberg drew forth the usual mistake that even/also Sabbath's command exchanges form with content and to take form for content.

Brother Bovie thought the railroads in no way served the Lord with their Sunday traffic and proposed (illegible) that God punish the Sabbath breakers.

Br. H. Lindblom asked if a preacher who had a longer trip to make and must travel on the Sunday, if broke the commandment. He thought not.

Br. J. R. Andrews spoke about the unavoidable things, which happen on Sundays, which we must perform. But at the same time it is always our duty to avoid [doing] all such things, which are not necessary to do on this day.

Herewith the session was closed.

3rd Session

The 3rd session was opened in the usual way by the Chairman with song and a prayer by A. G. Johnson, thereafter the following subject was taken up for discussion.:

“Members’ Care”, which was conducted by Brother J. A. Anderson through a written dissertation.

It was decided that the dissertation be accepted. Thereafter the subject was taken up for conversation and a lively discussion found itself and many costly lessons were fetched hereof. The sums of the conversations were: The peoples upbringing in health lessons/teachings, Christly, brotherly, impartially received house visits the distribution of healthy spiritual literature.

Was decided to take up the next subject/topic.

Was decided that we as a Preachers’ Association heartily wish the “Svenska Amerikanska Posten⁶⁷ and its editor success in its efforts for temperance.

Was decided to receive reports from the committees:

The Brothers travel expenses were reported, and [it] appears that the trip to the meeting after equal division came to \$2.55 per person

The Missions Committee reported and presented to the meeting the following resolution:

- 1 That we here, among we preachers, collect a basic amount of money for a Missions Account.
- 2 That we as preachers do all that we can , both through private contribution as well as through free will offerings in our congregations where they are permitted to increase this account , only so that further therein to not damage our Conference collection.
- 3 That this money be used only to in order to extend the Mission within the St Paul District.

⁶⁷ A major Swedish language newspaper published in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- 4 That this meeting's Administrative Committee manage these monies, ?developed? through correspondence and on other ways, first [on those] places, which are most suitable for mission efforts [and most importantly] which Brother could make visits to the named location.
- 5 That the monies, which this District receives from New York be managed by the Presiding Elder only so that the Administrative Committee gives it order thereto and this Meeting's Examination Committee investigate/examine its accounts.

Was decided that the Resolution be promptly discussed.

Was decided to adjourn.

4th Session

The 4th Session began with the singing of Song 102 in "Songs to Jesus" Honor", thereafter, [we] were led in prayer by C. C. Borglin, then the singing "My choice is made", etc.

Was decided that the previous minutes be read at the next session.

The dissertation "The New Testament's understanding by the congregation" was read by Brother A. A. Dahlberg.

Was decided to recognize the dissertation and [it] be published in "Sändebudet".

The subject was taken up for discussion [and] the following Brothers expressed themselves upon the topic: N. G. Nelson, A. G. Johnson. O. J. Stead, J. W. Carlson, , Missions Was decided to adjourn.

5th Session

The 5th session opened with the usual worship's being sung.

The minutes were read and accepted unchanged.

Was decided that the Missions Committee's already presented resolution be taken up and discussed in the order of the Committee's presentation.

The Resolutions' Points No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were read point by point and adopted.

After this resolution's acceptance, a subscription was taken up among the preachers present, which came to \$60.00, which shall be [paid] quarterly.

Was decided that the Association's [balance in its Treasury] be added to the Missions Account. Upon decision, a letter from J. Palmqvist from the Ishpeming, Mich. Dist. Be read, and

It was decided that the Secretary on the Meeting's behalf answer Brother Palmqvist and greet him for the Meeting..... Also that Brother O. J. Stead and Brother A. Dahlberg carry the Meeting's brotherly regards to Brothers B. Borjeson and C. F. Lindqvist as answer to their well wishes to the Meeting.

Was decided that the Meeting excuse A. J. Anderson, so that he can travel to Minneapolis to preach on Sunday, A. G. Johnson to go home to St Paul to serve on Sunday and C. J. Peterson to be of assistance to Johnson in St Paul.

The Camp Meeting and Missions Meetings Committee reported:

- 1 That two Camp Meetings be held at the following locations – Atwater & Kandiyohi – to begin the 17th of June and continue until the 5th of July.
- 2 Red Rock to beginning the 28th of June and continue until the 5th of July.

The following preachers were appointed to visit:

a) Atwater & Kandiyohi:

H. G. Johnson, G. N> Nelson, A. J. Johnson, P. M. Olson [and] H. Lindblom.

b) Red Rock:

The Brothers in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater, Red Wing and J. A. Anderson from Clear Lake.

3 That three Missions Meetings be held at the following locations:

a) Vasa – to begin the 3rd of June and close the 7th in the same month. Preachers: J. A. Anderson, A. Dahlberg [and] H. G. Bovie.

b) Trade Lake to begin the 10th of June and finish the 14th of the same. Preachers to visit: L. Dahlgren, C. Borglin, S. Hanner, A. Dahlberg and C. J. Peterson.

c) Murdock to begin the 26th of May and close the 31st in the same month. Preacher visits: A. G. Johnson, O. J. Stead, J. A. Johnson & P. M. Alvin.

The 5th subject on the program was taken up for discussion and was introduced by H. G. Bovie “Do notes hinder/prevent a preacher from preaching with influence?”.

Was decided that the dissertation be accepted.

Was decided to adjourn.

6th Session

The 6th session began with a singing of Song 106 “Oh Jesus now will I completely be therein”.

Brother A. Dahlberg led in prayer – after the prayer No. 5 was sung, “Of Grace how glad I am to proclaim”.

The subject “The Heart’s cleanliness” was taken up and introduced by Brother N. G. Nelson with a Bible reading from 1 Peter 1. (illegible) reading of a written dissertation on the subject.

Was decided that we recognize the dissertation and recommend it be published in “Sändebudet”.

After the subject’s reading, a period was used for prayer and the singing of songs

Was decided that those present can present [their] questions on the topic to the Chairman, who himself shall finally answer them or transfer them to some of the Brothers to answer.

Some questions were presented and which by the Brothers were answered.

Was decided to adjourn.

7th Session

The 7th session was opened with a song and prayer by J. A. Hanner.

Was decided to hear reports from the committees.

The Fire Support Committee reported some changes in the previous year's adopted Constitution.

Was decided that the paragraphs be read point-by-point before they be accepted.

The name of the Association was recommended to be changed from "Fire Support" to read "Insurance Association". It was so decided.

1st Paragraph was read with additions and accepted.

Art 3., Para. 1. was read with changes and accepted.

" 4. " 1. was read with changes and adopted.

" " " 2. was read without changes " "

" " " 3. " " " " " "

" 5 " 1 " " " " " "

" " " 2, 3, 4 were stricken from the Constitution.

" " " 5. was read and adopted with the changes.

" " " 6 " " " " " " "

" " " 7 " " " " " " "

" " " 8 " " " " " " "

" 6 " 1. " " " " " " "

" " " 2 " " " " " " "

" " " 3 " " " " " " "

" " " 4. Was stricken from the Constitution.

" " " 5. was read and adopted unchanged.

" " " 6. Was stricken from the Constitution.

" " " 8. Was read and adopted with the changes.

" " " 9. & 10. Were stricken from the Constitution.

" " " 10. Was read and adopted unchanged.

Was decided to recognize/approve the Statutes changes as a whole.

Was decided to publish the Statutes in "Sändebudet" and a declaration of our Insurance Association.

The Examination Committee reported on Br. L. Dahlgren's accounts during 4 years of activity as the Presiding Elder. The report was accepted.

Was decided that \$2.45 be paid to L. Dahlgren for the balance on the District ?tent? from the L. M Account.

Report from the Revisions Committee, which read the Preachers Association's Statutes as changed.

Was decided to adopt the Constitution however with the changes that the Executive Committee made up of the Presiding Elder, the Preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater and Red Wing.

The Constitution was adopted with the necessary vote plurality.

The location for the next Preachers Association was established to be held in Trade Lake, Wisc..

Was decided that a board for the Insurance Association be elected. The following Brothers were elected:

- a) For Preachers: The Preachers in St Paul, Stillwater, Minneapolis and the Presiding Elder.
- b) For Laymen: Brothers C. C. Carlson from Stillwater, Alf Sörenson from St Paul [and] John Anderson from Minneapolis.

Was decided that all of the Brothers, who have written dissertations [and] who have not yet had time to read them, that they during this session read them.

Brother C. Borglin was excused by the meeting from reading his dissertation.

Brother Charles Peterson rose and introduced his topic orally – the subject was “The Child's Care”.

Was decided to adjourn.

8th Session

The 8th session met on Saturday afternoon a 2 o'clock and was opened with song and prayer by Editor N. Lind, where after was sung Song Book No. 77 to the honor of Jesus.

The subject “Biblical reason for expulsion from a communion” was taken up and introduced through a written dissertation by H. Lindblom.

Reports from the Pastors about their different fields of labor were heard. Every Brother, upon the Chairman's exhortations, inspired their reports, upon the progress of God's Kingdom within their congregations, strife and sorrow, as well as many pleasures had more or less been each its lot. Yet appeared among all that God had been with them and the people and blessed their work. The Brothers hope and the trust stands as a great victory for the living God also if they should win under great toils.

Was decided that we as a P[reachers] A[ssociation] express our hearty thanks to our dear Brother Chair. for his hearty acceptance/accommodation towards all the Brothers and for his competent leading of the meeting's discussions.

Was decided that we as a P[reachers] A[ssociation] express our thanks to the Congregation in Stillwater and their Pastor L. Dahlgren for their hospitality and concern show to the preachers.

Was decided that we as a P[reachers] A[ssociation] express our thanks to our Brother Secretary for his work during the sessions.

Was decided to adjourn where after Brother N. G. Nelson led in prayer, songs of praise sung and the Blessing spoken.

J. R. Andrews
Chairman

O. J. Stead
Secretary

Preachers Association membership for the year 1887-88

Andrews, J. R, P. E.
Anderson, J. A.
Anderson, John
Borglin, C. C.
Bovie, C. G.
Dahlgren, L.
Dahlberg, A. A.
Gabrielson, John A.
Hanner, John S.
Johnson, C. G.
Johnson, J. A.
Johnson, Andrew G.
Lindblom, H.
Nelson, N. G.
Petterson, C. J.
Stead, O. J.

Officers and Committees within the Preachers Association

Chairman – J. R. Andrews
Secretary – A. A. Dahlberg
Treasurer – O. J. Stead

Executive Committee: The Chairman and the preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater and Red Wing.

Missions Committee: The Executive Committee and O. J. Stead (Atwater).

To hold the Missions Preacher [position]: A. Dahlgren.

To supervise the printing of our Article of Faith and General Rules: The Executive Committee.

To investigate the possibilities of a Preachers Literary Society (District School) within the District: J. R. Andrews, John A. Gabrielson [and] O. J. Stead.

Song Book Committee: J. R. Andrews, A. A. Dahlberg, J. A. Anderson, A. G. Johnson [and] N. G. Nelson.

Board for the Insurance Association: The Preachers in St Paul, Minneapolis and Stillwater and the Laymen Alfred Sörenson [and] C. A. Erickson [of] St Paul and Andrew Nelson [of] Minneapolis.

Minutes

The Swedish Methodist Preachers Association within the St Paul District met in accordance with the call to its 4th year's meeting in Trade Lake, Wisc. Wednesday the 18th of May 1887

The Chairman, J. R. Andrews, took his place and opened the meeting with a suitable song and a heartfelt prayer and called for God's blessing over the Brothers.

The previous Secretary O. J. Stead called the Brothers names and the following Brothers were present: J. R. Andrews, J. A. Anderson, John Anderson, . G. Borglin, N. G. Bovie, L. Dahlgren, A. A. Dahlberg, J. A. Gabrielson, John S. Hanner, C. G. Johnson, J. A. Johnson, H. Lindblom, C. J. Petterson and O. J. Stead. A. A. Dahlberg was elected as Secretary.

Brothers A. G. Johnson and N. G. Nelson were prevented from being present because of other business. Prayers were sent up for blessings in the work.

Brothers John Gabrielson and C. G. Johnson were newly arrived in the District , the former from Burlington, Iowa, the later from Bridgeport, Conn[ecticut].

The report from the Executive Committee was called for by the Chair. The Report was read and accepted. See the report.

Br. O. E Olander had moved during the year to Washington(illegible).

Times were determined for the meetings and worship services as follows:

The Preachers' private meetings 9 – 11 A. M., the public worship services 11 – 12 A. M, general conversation and discussion meetings 2 – 4 P. M., public worship services at 7:30 P. M..

It was informed that the leading [lay] Brothers in the congregation at the location also are welcome at the Preachers' private conversational meetings.

The session was adjourned by the Chair. at 10:30 o'clock because the time for worship service was present.

Second Session

Opened that 9 A. M. Thursday the 19th of Aug. with the reading of 2 Timothy 1 and a prayer by O. J. Stead. J. R. Andrews in the Chairman's place.

Brothers John Gabrielson and C. G. Johnson were absent, involved with a worship services in West Sweden (sic).

The minutes over the previous session were read and accepted.

The following committees were appointed:

Worship Services – J. R. Andrews [and] J. A. Anderson.

Audit Committee – C. J. Petterson [and] O. J. Stead.

Travel Expenses – The Audit Committee.

Camp Meeting Committee – J. R. Andrews, L. Dahlgren, J. A. Gabrielson & J. A. Johnson.

Fire Support Committee – Its report appears under "The report from the Fire Support Committee".

The report from the Treasurer was called upon, but the report was not ready.

The first private conversational topic: "Our Conference Collections taken up in the congregations" was taken up introduced by J. A. Johnson, and several speakers expressed themselves upon the topic, whereby it come forth that our methods for the collection of monies ought to adapt according to conditions..

It was moved and adopted that the seventh subject: "How can we strengthen our Missions activities with this District?" be] and attachment to the previous topic. Brother c. C. Borglin read a written here upon where in he recommended serious zeal for the Missionary matter among/by us.

Br. L. Dahlgren noted that we first should hold ourselves up on our old locations before we extend ourselves too far on the boundaries

Not all agreed here with rather thought that we, in accordance with the ?discussion? should preach God's Word where the richest fruit seems to be.

John Anderson proposed the distribution of Methodist literature among the people.

The Chair inform regarding that we since/then (illegible) our request to our Tract Committee to print our articles of faith and general rules with Bible citations according to the Psalm Book, but got as an answer, that our general rules were already published by them But it was reported that this translation of our general rules was most unfortunate, therefore we ?questioned? herewith the old and desired a better.

The Executive Committee was charged to during the year look after this matter with the Tract Society.

Br. Stead moved that this meeting's understanding be in it we well care, according to our abilities, for our older, small locations more, that we thereby especially think about the extending of the Mission field. The motion was adopted.

The Chairman closed the session with an exhortation to the Brothers to also do what they could for the Conference Collections.. [It was then] adjourned.

Third Session

Met Friday at 9 A. M. and opened with devotional offerings by Br. C. G. Johnson, Br. Andrews in the Chairman's place.

Brothers J. A. Gabrielson and C. G. Johnson had returned from West Sweden.

The minutes from the previous session were read, corrected and accepted.

It was decided that the Chair's (P. E.) travel expenses also be included in the other Brothers' travel expenses although his travel to the District Meeting also defrayed his Third Quarterly Conference there.

A letter from Br. A. G. Johnson in St Paul wherein he presents the reasons for his absence from the meeting was read by the Secretary.

It was decided that also the absent Brothers A. G. Johnson and N. G. Nelson also share in the Annual Meeting's travel expenses.

The report from the Treasurer was read and accepted and transferred to the Audit Committee. See the Report.

The election of the Treasurer was taken up. It was decided that he be elected through an open vote. O. J. Stead was elected as the Association's Treasurer for the next coming year.

It was decided to pass over the second topic because its introducer, N. G. Nelson, is not present – that the Chairman at another opportunity during this meeting introduced the same.

The third topic/subject: "How ought we in our days apply the doctrine about sanctification?" was taken up and introduced by Br. Bovie. The writing upon the topic was approved but not recommended for publication in "Sändebudet". A lively discussion continued upon the topic until the time was present for the worship service. It was decided that the discussion upon the subject continues at 8:30 in the morning (Saturday).

The Committee for Worship Services reported.

The other committees established their meeting times for work and the session adjourned for a worship service in the church.

In the afternoon at 2 o'clock in the church the 4th topic was taken up: The Temperance question." With a strongly written introduction by Br. H. Lindblom. He espoused for prohibition. Every preacher present and two thirds of the assembled listeners supported prohibition.

Fourth Session

Opened the 21st (Saturday) with a devotional offering led by Br. C. Hammarstrom, Br. Andrews in the chairman's place.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and accepted.

The Chairman informed/reported [that] the educational program and sanctification had been postponed for further ventilation this session. It was decided that discussion on this topic now ceases for the time being.

The Committee for Travel Expenses reported. See report.

The Committee informed that the money for the equalization of the travel expenses was lacking because the absent Brothers shares had not been received. It was decided that the Committee borrow from the Mission Account the necessary amount until the monies managed to come in.

The Camp and Missions Meeting Committee reported. See the report.

The report from the Mission Committee was read with deep interest. The report was accepted. See the report.

A new election of the Mission Committee was taken up. The P. E. and the pastor in St Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater and Red Wing were reelected to the Executive and Missions Committees.

Litchfield was decided as the meeting place for the next District Meeting.

A. A. Dahlberg was elected to give the Missions sermon at the next District meeting.

A. Dahlberg read a written [dissertation] upon "The Local Preacher occupation with the Methodist Union". The dissertation was accepted.

It was moved that we establish a literary society or a so-called District preacher school among us. The motion was tabled until the next session.

It was decided to hold an extra session at 6 P. M.. The session was adjourned with the Blessing spoken.

Fifth Session

Opened Saturday the 21st of May at 6:30 P. M. The weather prevented meeting at the established time.
Br. Andrews that in the Chairman's place.

The question of a literary society was taken up from the table. Different/various speakers expressed themselves on the question. It was thought that it embraced too much to be able to be accomplished at this meeting. J. A. Gabrielson, O. J. Stead and J. A. Anderson were elected as a committee to during the year investigate the matter.

The Committee for Fire Support reported. The report was accepted. See the report. A Paragraph (3) in the statutes was changed. See the change.

Br. Petterson recommended that the congregation in Goodhue be joined to the Association. It was so decided.

Resolution of Thanks by the Preachers Association [to] the offices and congregation in Trade Lake and its pastor for faithful service and hospitality were established.

A new election of the Fire Support Committee (Executive Committee) occurred. The pastors in St Paul, Minneapolis and Stillwater together with the P. E. and Laymen Alfred Sorenson and C. A. Erickson in St Paul and Andrew Nelson in Minneapolis were elected to this board.

The Secretary was encouraged to give an account in "Sändebudet" for the position of the Preachers Association on the temperance question.

The Chairman reminded that he was directed to introduce the question about "minor aged children's relationship to the congregation". He gave a talk/speech hereon wherein other speakers took part. Greeting of welcome were extended to Brothers J. A. Gabrielson & C. G. Johnson who had ?come? to our District.

Was decided to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned with the Blessing spoken.

J. R. Andrews, Chair
A. A. Dahlberg, Sec.

Reports

The report from the Travel Expenses Committee on travel expenses: The Brothers travel expenses [came to] \$90.35, equally divided on each member \$5.64.

C. J. Petterson }
O. J. Stead } The committee

Report from the Treasurer

Income	110.15
Expenses	43.96
Balance on Hand	66.79

Resolutions

WAS RESOLVED that we thank the Association's secretary for faithful labors.

O. J. Stead

WAS RESOLVED that we thank the Association's Chairman for good leadership during the sessions.

O. J. Stead

WAS RESOLVED that we thank the congregation and its pastor for the hospital reception.

Report from the Audit Committee: The Committee has investigated the accounts of the District Missions' Account as well as the Treasurer and found them correct as the books show.

O. J. Petterson }
O. J. Stead } The Committee

The Committee for Camp and Missions' Meetings recommended the following:

- 1 That a Camp Meeting be held in Kandiyohi beginning the 21st of July with Brothers Andrews, Gabrielson, John Anderson, Stead & Bovick.
- 2 That a Camp Meeting be held in Clear Lake beginning the same date with brothers L. Dahlgren, A. G. Johnson, A. A. Dahlberg, John S. Hanner & the pastor in Mankato.
- 3 That a Mission Meeting be held in Maiden rock beginning the 8th of June with Brothers N. G. Nelson, Aug. Olson, A. A. Dahlberg & C. J. Petterson.
- 4 That a like meeting begin in Goodhue the 27th of July with Brothers L. Dahlgren, J. R. Andrews [and] C. G. Johnson.

L. Dahlgren
John A. Gabrielson

Report from the Missions Committee:

Dear Brothers: God's Grace and Peace.

Our Master said, “Go out in the whole world and preach the evangelism.” The following Missions⁶⁸ journeys have been made during the year:

- 1 J. R. Andres & P. M. Alvin in the month of June 1886 to Carver, Mankato, St Peter, Kasota⁶⁸ & Tracy⁶⁹.

Expenses	9.60
Income	6.25
Shortage	3.35

- 2 J. R. Andrews in January 1886 to Renville⁷⁰, Fergus Falls⁷¹, Evansville⁷², & Alexandria⁷³.

Income	7.00
Expenses	3.00
Cash on Hand	3.50

- 3 J. . Andrews [and] . J. Stead in the month of March 1886 to Willmar⁷⁴, St Cloud, Alexandria, & Evansville.

Expenses	9.95
Income	8.85
Loss	1.00

- 4 J. R. Andrews & L. Dahlgren in the month of March 1887 to Moorhead⁷⁵, Fargo⁷⁶, Adabon, Brainerd & Anoka.

Expenses	10.85
Income	6.55
Loss	4.30

- 5 J. R. Andrews in April (1887) to Winona.

Expenses	4.86
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- 6 J. R. Andrews & A. A. Dahlberg in April & May to Carver, Kasota, Mankato & Algona.

Expenses	9.15
Income	10.58
Cash on Hand	1.43

Diverse Income

Collection, Congregation in Minneapolis 1.15

⁶⁸ A city in Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

⁶⁹ A city in Lyon County, Minnesota.

⁷⁰ A city in Renville County, Minnesota.

⁷¹ City and county seat, Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

⁷² A village in Douglas County, Minnesota.

⁷³ A city in Douglas County, Minnesota.

⁷⁴ A city in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

⁷⁵ A city in clay County, Minnesota.

⁷⁶ A city in North Dakota on the Red River of the North adjacent to Moorhead, Minnesota.

Collection, Willmar	<u>1.05</u>
Total	3.10
Total Expenses	40.81
Total Income	<u>41.78</u>
Cash on Hand	.97

Respectfully: The Committee

Report from the Directors of the Swedish Methodist Insurance Association to the Annual Meeting held in Trade Lake , Wisc. The 20th of May 1887.

During the year, the following congregations' properties have been accepted into the Association:

Atwater	(church)	\$700.00
	(residence)	300.00
Afton	(church)	800.00
Algona	(")	600.00
Clear Lake	(")	600.00
	(residence)	300.00
Marinette	(church)	800.00
Murdock	(residence)	600.00
Norway, Mich	(church)	800.00
Ishpeming	(")	800.00
Litchfield	(")	700.00
Kandiyohi	(")	800.00
	(residence)	500.00
Goodhue	(church)	
Vasa	(")	900.00
	(residence)	600.00
Marine	(church)	800.00
Red Wing	(")	900.00
Carney, Mich	(")	500.00
Stillwater	(residence)	300.00
	(church)	1000.00
Center City	(")	350.00
	(residence)	300.00
Ortonville	(church)	750.00
Republic, Mich	(")	800.00
Maiden Rock	(residence)	200.00
	(church)	600.00
Scandia, Mich	(")	300.00
Marquette, Mich	(")	<u>800.00</u>
Total Amount		\$17,400.00

The Board recommends that Paragraph 3 in the Association's statutes be changed so that it gets the following wording, "And on each congregation in the Association share the desired/requested sum/amount of the suffered loss in accordance with [their] requested insurance amount.

Respectfully,

J. R. Andrews, chair
J. A. Gabrielson, Sec.

Addition:

No. 7. See Request No. 7.

Scandia, Marquette Co., Mich. Got its request [for membership] approved with a change and was taken into the Association.

No. 9 The congregation in Marquette, Marquette Co., Mich. got its request [for membership] approved with a change.

The Swedish Methodist Preachers Association within the St Paul District met for its 5th Yearly Meeting on Wednesday the 9th of May 1888 at 2 P. M. in the Swedish Methodist Church in Litchfield, Minn.

The Chairman J. A. Gabrielson opened the meeting with the giving forth of a song, reading God's Word and some oral remarks after which followed a warm period of prayer.

The Chair man called the Secretary of the previous District meeting to read the list of the Preachers Association members , and the following Brothers were present and answered to their names.

John Anderson	H. Lindblom
C. C. Borglin	Aug. Larson
H. G. Bovie	N. G. Nelson
A. A. Dahlberg	C. J. Petterson
J. A. Gabrielson	O. J. Stead
John S. Hanner	A. Farrell

Proposal for the program from the Executive Committee was read and adopted and transferred to the Chairman as the rules of order for leading the meeting.

A. A. Dahlberg was reelected as the meeting's secretary.

The following committees were appointed:

- 1 Audit Committee: A. Farrell, N. G. Nelson.
- 2 On Travel Expenses: O. J. Stead, C. J. Petterson.

- 3 Temperance Committee: K. H. Elmstrom, A. Farrell, and H. Lindblom.
- 4 Constitution Committee: A. A. Dahlberg, N. G. Nelson, and K. H. Elmstrom.

The times established for business was made as follows:

- 1 For the Preachers' private conversations 9-11:30 A. M.
- 2 Public conversations practices 2-4 P. M..
- 3 Worship Services 7:30 P. M.

Br. B. Borgeson, Local Elder from Atwater, was introduced to the Brothers and elected according to the statutes and a Counseling Member of the meeting. American Methodist Pastor Rev. Butler was introduced .

The time for the session ran out but was extended.

Because A. G. Johnson was absent , A. Farrell was appointed to address his topic during the meeting, "Personal freedom ". Likewise O. J. Stead was appointed to address the aforesaid member's topic in the temperance question.

The absent members had through letter or messenger requested their absence from the meeting.

Brothers A. Farrell and Aug. Larson were welcomed as fellow workers in the vineyards of this district.

The Preachers' private discussion exercises should be held on Family Palm's house.

A. Farrell was appointed to introduce the next-coming afternoon meeting with devotional offerings.

The session was adjourned with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken by the Chair.

Second Session

Opened Thursday the 10th of May at 9 A. M. with song, a Bible reading and prayer.

The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted.

Brothers K. H. Elmstrom & L. Dahlgren had now arrived at the meeting . Br. Elmstrom was introduced to the District Association and welcomed to the District.

John A. Anderson, pastor at Trade Lake, Wisc. Was excused from taking part in the travel expenses to the District meeting on the ground that he [had] a valid reason because of his employment at Carl Sandisson's death and burial.

No other absent members were excused from taking part in the travel expenses.

The Preachers Association's Constitution was read in the members' presence and transferred to the Committee on Statutes' "improvement".

The Chair called up the first topic on the list for private dissertation topics: “Conditions for progress/success in the churchly efforts, so well on the congregation’s as the preacher’s side.” Introduced by K. H. Elmstrom. The introduced was requested to publish his paper in “Sändebudet, whereto he finally agreed.

Was decided that the meeting consider his view on the question be expressed in the points, which appeared in the introduction.

A. Farrell, A. Lindblom, J. A. Gabrielson & O. J. Stead were excused from the meeting over Sunday.

An Announcement from A. Farrell was made at the first business on the day’s order at the next P. M. session . The announcement concerned a petition from the Chicago District to the General Conference on extending the time of preachers’ terms in the congregations.

The session adjourned with songs of praise being sung and the Blessing spoken.

Third Session

Opened Thursday the 10th of May at 2 P. M. with a devotional offering led by A. Farrell.

The first topic on the list for public discussion was taken up: “Personal freedom”. The topic was introduced by A. Farrell. Several speakers expressed themselves on the question, and finally the following resolution was adopted, which expressed the meeting’s views.

That we consider “personal freedom” to mean the right to carry out our duties in unity with the laws God has given us.”

Announcements were given and the session adjourned with a prayer by L. Dahlgren and the Blessing spoken by the Chair.

Fourth Session

Opened Friday the 11th of May at 9 A. M. with devotional offerings led by N. G. Nelson.

The minutes of the third session were read and accepted.

The question, which was made to the day’s order [of business], was called up by the Chair.

Farrell presented a letter from some preachers in the Chicago District , which letter form a petition to the now standing/present General Conference in New York with the request for a change in the three year rule for preachers within our Conference. The meaning was that Conference members within this district should sign/endorse the stated memorial. The meeting refused in the meantime to sign the petition and instead send a motion to the General Conference.

The Chairman called up the 2nd topic on the list for private dissertation topics: “Which position ought we adopt towards certain foreign/strange spiritual movements, such as the Salvation Army, and others?”

The question was introduced by A. A. Dahlberg.

It was decided that we adopt a neutral position to certain foreign/strange spiritual movements, such as the Salvation Army, and others.

Different committees announced their meetings. The time of the session had run out, but was extended.

The committees reported. The Committee on Travel Expenses to the meeting was read and accepted. It was decided that the absent members' share in the travel expenses be taken from the Mission Account until their assessments are able to be paid in.

The session adjourned through the singing of songs of praise and the Blessing spoken by John S. Hanner.

Fifth Session

Opened Friday the 11th of May at 2 P. M. with devotional offerings led by J. S. Hanner.

The Chairman reported that it was the intention to address two of the topics, which appear on the list for general discussion topics because time must be given for the preachers' class meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

After the introducer has finished, each speaker was limited to 5 minutes.

The Chairman called up the second topic on the list for public discussion: "The teachings about death and judgment." The topic was introduced very competently by . . . Nelson.

Nelson's dissertation was recognized/approved and considered as a faithful expression of the meeting's view on the question and recommended it for publication in "Sändebudet".

The third topic on the list was called up: "How could we best advance spiritual awakening?" The question was introduced by L. Dahlgren.

Was decided that we consider this: belief in God, earnest prayer and persevering work from the preacher's side and life warm congregation's cooperation are the most essential conditions for spiritual awakening.

[Time expired] and the session was adjourned with songs of praise sung and the Blessing spoken.

Sixth Session

Was opened Saturday the 12th of May at 9 A. M. with devotional offerings led by H. G. Bovie.

The minutes over the 4th & 5th sessions were read and accepted.

O. J. Stead was appointed to take care of the original of N. G. Nelson's dissertation upon "The teachings about death and judgment" as it appears in "Sändebudet" in order to send it to the Tract Society and request of the same to print the dissertation in tract form.

Letters from Brother A. G. Johnson(an absent member) and John R. Andrews (moved to California) were read. The latter's letter made a deep impression on the listeners and the Secretary was directed to answer the same and send the Brothers heartfelt greetings.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The Missions Committee report was read and accepted.

The Chairman presented some matters concerning the "Swedish Methodist Mutual Insurance Association". It was decided that each congregation in the Association be assessed by the Association \$2.00 per thousand of its approved insurance amount, which income should be used to covering the Association's running/operating expenses. These monies should be placed in the hands of the Preachers Association's Treasurer and he ought for the sake of clarity give the Insurance Association's Executive Committee a private "not" (illegible) upon receiving these monies . The members of the Insurance Association's Executive Committee, who possess the claims on the association for travel in the association's interest [are obligates] to send in these to the Preachers Association's Treasurer for receiving repayment. The question shall come up at the quarterly conferences in the respective congregations.

Clear Lake, Minn. was established as the meeting place for the next yearly meeting of the Preachers Association.

The Secretary was authorized to purchase a new minute book for the entering of the association's discussions. (The Secretary has determined that the old one can serve for another year.)

The time for the session ran out, but was extended.

A. Farrell's information about the Audit Committee's work was accepted instead of a report.

The Chairman exhorted the members of the Association to as soon as possible to take up the Conference Collection, which goes to the Church Building Fund, within the congregations.

The Secretary was directed to write to the Swedish Immigration Agent at Castle Gardens, N. Y⁷⁷, C. Samuelson, with the request that he will inform our P. E. about such Methodist members from Sweden who go through Castle Gardens and intend to [to go] out to these abodes.

The session was adjourned with songs of praise sung and the Blessing spoken by B. Borgeson.

Seventh Session

⁷⁷ Castle Gardens, a district on the harbor in New York City, was the principal point of debarkation for immigrants arriving in the US via New York harbor before the establishment of Ellis Island as the principal point of entry.

Was opened Saturday the 12th at 2 P. M. with devotional offerings led

The Chair informed [all] that this session's business was essentially to hear the preachers' annual reports {Class Meeting}..

The following congregations conditions were reported in short speeches by their respective pastors:

Mankato & Algona	Aug. Larson
Atwater & Litchfield	O. J. Stead
Center City & Marine	C. C. Borglin
Grantsburg, W. L & M. L.	H. Lindblom
Kandiyohi, N. L. . L.	C. J. Petterson
Litchfield	John Anderson
Maiden Rock	J. S. Hanner
Minneapolis	H. Elmstrom
Murdock	V. G. Bovie
Red Wing	A. A. Dahlberg
St Paul	A. Farrell
Stillwater	L. Dahlgren
	P. E.

B. Borgeson made some remarks.

L. Dahlgren took departure from the preachers with the District since he expected to leave/depart from the same.

The time for the session was extended.

The Chair, who at the previous annual meeting been appointed to arrange for the printing of our Articles of Faith and General Regulations in a tract form, informed us that nothing could be done on the matter.

The third topic on the list of private dissertation topics was available in a written dissertation by O. J. Stead [was taken up]. The dissertation's content was approved by the meeting.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Was Decided:

- 1 That we as a meeting express our hearty thanks to the Chairman for the conscientious and meritorious manner whereupon he has led the meeting's discussions.
- 2 That we express our thanks to the meeting's Secretary for his faithful work.
- 3 That we express our thanks to the congregation and its pastor for the good homes that has been to us prepared during our stay here.

The session adjourned with prayer, song and the Blessing spoken by the Chair.

“ “ “	?Baptist? Congregation in Trade Lake	1.70
24	A. G. Johnson, travel expenses	5.64
5 Oct.	Donation (sic) by J. R. Andrews	2.70
Interest: \$40.00	8%, loan to C. Eren, St Paul	3.20
1888		
May 11	Income from subscription, H. Lindblom	3.00
“ “	“ “ “ , L. Dahlgren	5.00
“ “	A collection in Evansville, J. Gabrielson	6.75
“ “	A collection in Evansville, C. C. Borglin	15.00
	Received on Sub[scription] O. J. Stead	3.75
	Received on Sub[scription] John Gabrielson	<u>2.00</u>
		\$117.64

Expenses

1887		
May		
21	P. E. loan from the account, travel expenses	\$11.28
16 Sept.	A. A. Dahlberg, travel expenses to Cannon Falls	4.00
5 Oct.	J. R. Andrews for missionary travel	8.76
1888		
May 11	Travel to Evansville, J. Gabrielson	7.45
“ “	P. E. Loan from the account, travel expenses	8.34
“ “	A missionary trip to Evansville, C. C. Borglin	<u>15.00</u>
		54.83

Income	\$117.64
Expenses	<u>54.83</u>
Cash on Hand	62.87

Respectfully,
O. J. Stead

Report from the Committee ion the Temperance Question

Inasmuch as alcoholic beverages are an evil, which generally do not advance the private community and nations rather [are] even a special hinder/obstacle to the Christian effort, and

Inasmuch as we, as a part of the Christian Church on the earth, and especially as evangelical preachers have gotten the task to do all types of good in agreement with the Godly laws, therefore

It is resolved:

1. That we as a Preachers Association most seriously protest against all types on alcoholic beverage selling.
2. That we consider ?the license system? sooner promotes than depresses [it], its spirit implies that the sale of alcoholic beverages thereby appears as a necessary and useful trade.

3. That we consider full prohibition (sic) as the only means to free the country from her most dangerous enemy (alcoholic beverages).
4. That we through all lawful means work for the evil's elimination.

K. H. Elmstrom
H. Lindblom
A. Farrell

J. A. Gabrielson, Chair.
A. A. Dahlberg, Sec.

Preachers Association members for the year 1888-1889 (Congregation Superintendent)

- 1 Anderson, John
- 2 Anderson, J. A.
- 3 Borglin, C. C.
- 4 Bovie, H. G.
- 5 Dahlberg, A. A.
- 6 Dahlgren, L.
- 7 Elmstrom, K. H.
- 8 Farrell, A.
- 9 Gabrielson, John
- 10 Hanner, John
- 11 Johnson, C. G.
- 12 Johnson, J. A.
- 13 Johnson, Andrew G.
- 14 Lindblom, H.
- 15 Larson, Aug.
- 16 Nelson, N. G.
- 17 Petterson, C. J.
- 18 Stead, O. J.

The Seventh Annual Meeting St Paul District Preachers' Meeting met in Clear Lake the 15th of May 1889

It opened with a reading from the Bible, song and prayer. The following Brothers were present when their names were called:

J. A. Gabrielson	C. C. Borglin	C. J. Petterson
C. J. Mellberg	H. G. Bovie	A. G. Johnson
A. G. Nelson	J. A. Anderson	O. J. Stead
J. S. Hanner	J. O. Alvan	Andrew Farrell
J. A. Forsberg	C. G. Johnson	

Brothers John Anderson and K. H. Elmström came later.

A. Farrell was elected as Secretary. Brothers Chas. Swanbom and A. P. Johnson were elected as Counseling/Advisory Members.

The Executive Committee's report was accepted, which follows:

The Executive Committee proposes to hold two worship services a day and make them as real revival meetings. Even/also if C. G. Nelson sends us \$50.00 of the money he manages/is in charge of, to divided it between Carver and St Paul Park with \$25.00 to each location.

The afternoon sessions were established to take place between 3 and 5 o'clock.

The following new members were presented to the meeting: J. O. Alvan, C. J. Mellberg [and] J. A. Forsberg.

The Association's Statutes were read for the new members' account/information.

It was decided to appoint the following committees:

For travel expenses: C. ?J? Johnson and J. O. Alvan.

Temperance Committee: J. O. Stead, H. G. Bovie & C. J. Mallberg.

Constitution Committee: A. G. Johnson, N. G. Nelson and K. H. Elmström.

Worship Service Committee: J. A. Gabrielson, J. A. Forsberg and N. G. Nelson.

J. O. Stead was elected as ?Railroad? Secretary.

C. J. Mellberg was excused from participating in the general travel expenses to the meeting.

Brothers A. G. Johnson and N. G. Nelson requested and received permission to go home on Saturday.

The Fire Support Board's Secretary read the Board's minutes for the year, which were accepted.

The Association's Treasurer, J. O. Stead (who also manages the Fire Support Board's monies) read his annual reports, which reports were recognized (The report on the Missions' monies)

See the Sec[retry] and the Treasurer reports

The meeting was closed with the singing of songs of praise and the Blessing spoken.

The Second Session, the 16th of May 1889 was opened with a prayer by A. G. Johnson.

The first meeting's minutes were read and accepted.

The Missions Committee presented their recommendations, which were accepted.

1st A Camp Meeting to be held in Litchfield the 19th of June and that Brothers K. H. Elmström and A. G. Johnson [be present].

2nd A Mission Meeting be held in Afton the 29th of ay with Brothers J. O. Alvan and Andrew Farrell to visit it.

3rd A Missions Meeting to be held in Trade Lake the 3rd of June and that J. A. Gabrielson and K. H. Elmström visit this meeting.

The following Board for the Fire Support Association was elected: The Pastor in the 1st. M. E. Church in St Paul and the pastors in Minneapolis and Stillwater [together] with the Presiding Elder. With the Laymen E. T. Tibbling & Chas. Erickson from St Paul and John Nelson from Minneapolis.

Was decided that the motion/proposal for changes in the statutes of the Fire Support Board be transferred to the Board to be presented at the next annual meeting.

Was decided to make an addition to Article 2 so reading: In the event the property is insured an in another company and the lost is less than the whole amount [insured], this Association shall only proportionally pay out its share thereof.

The Audit Committee reported that they found the accounts properly kept. The report was accepted.

J. O. Stead was elected as the Association's Treasurer for the year.

Was decided to free John Anderson from participating in the travel expenses.

Was decided to change the Missions Committee's statutes/rules so that the Executive and the Missions Committees are combined into one.

The meeting was closed with the singing of a song of praise.

The third Session, the 17th of Mat '89, was opened with song and a prayer by K. H. Elmström

The minutes were read and with the addition, "that Brothers J. A. Forsberg, J. O. Stead, and C. J. Petterson visit/attend the Camp Meeting in Litchfield", [and were then approved].

The Committee for Travel Expenses reported:

Travel expenses for the meeting	\$66.90
“ “ for the Executive Committee	<u>4.39</u>
	71.29

Equally divided upon 14 members [it] becomes per member \$5.10.

The report was accepted.

Brothers Scharlott and Oscar Åström were presented to the meeting.

The Temperance Committee turned in its report, which after necessary changes in agreement with the discussion, which had occurred, was accepted and it was recommended to be published as so changed in S. B.⁷⁸ and “Väktaran”⁷⁹.

Was decided to change the word meaning in the Constitution Committee’s appointment, so that it makes proposals for changes in the statutes and present them at the next annual meeting.

The meeting place for the next annual meeting was set for Ortonville, Minn.

Two letters, one from Dahlberg and the second from Dahlgren, were read for the meeting. The Secretary was directed to answer these hearty letters and send the meeting’s greetings.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the chairman and Secretary through a standing vote thereupon.

The Chairman was requested to officially carry the meeting’s thanks to the Pastor and the Congregation for their hospitality and hearty reception [of the meeting’s delegates.]

Brother Scharlott requested to get J. O. Stead [to come to] Swan Lake, which was approved.

The Baptist Congregation requested a preacher for Saturday afternoon. A. Farrell promised to go there.

The minutes were read and accepted. The minutes as a whole were accepted.

J. A. Gabrielson, Chair

A. Farrell, Sec.

Temperance Committee’s Report

Whereas in our time, temperance efforts are conducted with such seriousness, and

Whereas these efforts force themselves into politics more and more, it befits every proper and Christian citizen to faithful duty to do his uttermost for the elimination of alcoholic beverages, and

Whereas the political power lies in the citizen’s hand through the right to vote, ought each citizen see to that only such men are elected to the legislative bodies, who make themselves known as uncompromisingly committed to this matter. And although we recognize what the two old parties have done for temperance in certain states, it is however a sorrowful knowledge that they have not done what they could, and often refuse the right-to-vote citizen his right to get this matter impartially before the people for a general election for an amendment to the [Constitution] and absolutely forbid [its] introduction.

Therefore: We express herewith as an association of preachers, our great disappointment/unhappiness over our state’s last legislative body in their handlings with the temperance matter, both in regard to the liquor licensing laws’ recognition and the legislation that

⁷⁸ Probably an abbreviation for “Sändebudet”.

⁷⁹ Translates as “Watchman”. I believe there is a publication entitled “Watch Tower” that is associated with the Salvation Army.

drunkards are punished with fines under it [but] that dispenser not only go free [but] rather even have the law's protection in their murderous business.

Therefore we recommend:

1st That each preacher as well as every voting citizen with all lawful means work for the liquor license system's elimination.

2nd That they in the most powerful manner work as well as speak and write [as well as] use their ballot rights at the ballot urn in order to introduce and establish prohibition laws.

The Committee.