

Alliance Action 1963

At the opening session of alliance, held on Wednesday, July 3, Rev. M. W. Bagley was elected Camp President. Other Alliance officers were elected as follows: Vice-President, Rev. A. L. Stairs; Recording Secretary, Rev. L. K. Mullen; Assistant Secretary, Rev. S. E. Cameron; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. G. B. Bridgeo; Treasurer, Rev. N. E. Trafton; Assistant Treasurer, Rev. G. R. Symonds; Auditor, Mr. Harold K. Ingersoll.

Alliance greetings were wired to our missionaries and church people of South Africa and Rhodesia. Greetings were also sent to a number of others who were unable to attend Beulah this year—the Sterritt Sisters, Rev. Errol Watson, Rev. H. C. Mullen, Mrs. F. A. Dunlop, Mrs. P. J. Trafton.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary showed a new record in total denominational giving of \$294,725.85

Recommendations submitted to Alliance by the committee on Procedures and Appointments were adopted as follows:

1. That each Denominational Board be composed of six members, three ministers and three laymen, elected by the Alliance for three year terms, the Alliance Superintendent to be an ex-officio member of each Board.

2. That a rotation system of election of Boards be adopted, whereby the terms of two members, one minister and one layman, expire each year, re-elections or replacements to be cared for by voting action of the Alliance.

3. That a Nominating Committee of five, three ministers and two laymen, be appointed by the Superintendent during the Annual Alliance Session, to bring in nominations at the next annual Alliance Session for all vacancies occurring on Denominational Boards, opportunity to be given for further nominations by sitting members of the Alliance.

4. That the vote for the minister and layman to be appointed be taken on one ballot, a majority of votes cast being sufficient for election.

5. That the names of all nominees be posted at the time voting is called for.

6. That each Board be composed of four officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and two additional members.

7. That each Board elect its own officers in consultation with the Alliance Superintendent.

The Committee also recommended:

That a General Board of the Alliance be established, comprised of the Alliance Superintendent and Treasurer, the Presidents and Treasurers of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and Bethany Bible College, with the Alliance Superintendent as chairman.

The General Board would meet twice a year, at the time of the regular Alliance Sessions and early in the calendar year.

The function of the general Board would be to correlate and coordinate the work of the various departments of the denomination, and by communication and consultation merge the interests and concerns of the various Boards toward better understanding and more efficient operation of the entire programme of the Denomination.

The budgets of the various Boards would be considered by the General Board before presentation to Alliance, and all financial appeals directed by our Boards to local churches, not considered and approved by the Al-

liance, would be directed to the General Board for consideration and approval.

Rev. N. E. Trafton reported to Alliance highlights of a trip to Marion, Indiana, during which he and Rev. H. R. Ingersoll served as fraternal delegates from the Reformed Baptist Church to the Quadrennial Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Two motions, growing out of this report were passed by Alliance:

1. That we record and communicate our favourable interest in the trend toward church union among various groups dedicated to the promotion of scriptural holiness and pray that ultimately all such groups may be united under one banner and in one denominational family, and

That we authorize our committee on church union to obtain for our ministers and churches such information as would enlighten our people in respect to all factors related to a merger with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and other groups considering affiliation with that body, and

That we request all our pastors and people to consider very carefully and prayerfully the vitally important question referred to by these resolutions, seeking to avoid hasty and premature conclusions, and earnestly praying that the will of God may be done.

2. That an itinerary of our churches be planned by our Superintendent, Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, to report on the visit to The Wesleyan Quadrennial Conference and to inform our people on matters of church union.

Following submission of a brief dealing with the relocation of Bethany, building plans, and financial arrangements. The Board of Bethany Bible College presented the following motion to Alliance.

That Bethany Bible College be located in Sussex, New Brunswick on land now owned by the Alliance and that the building and financial plans be approved by this Alliance.

This motion was amended by the addition of the following words:

"And that the implementation of the plan follow approval by our churches according to the discretion and the direction of the Alliance."

The motion as amended was carried by a ballot vote of 78 to 34.

Alliance approved the ordination of four candidates: Lic. Charles Bain, Lic. Wendell Shepherd, Lic. Jack Dow, Lic. Sheila Graham. Three young men were granted a license to preach: David Bishop, Wayne Briggs, James Bragdon.

History was made at this year's Alliance Session in that all business of the Alliance was completed by the Friday afternoon previous to the opening of Camp.

In the final session, Alliance voted an expression of appreciation to Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, Alliance Superintendent, for his efficient leadership as Chairman of Alliance Sessions.

Alliance Action of 1963 could well be historic in that many decisions were made which will affect our entire denomination for years to come. At this point we can only pray that the will of the Lord has been done and that our brightest years as a church are immediately before us.