

Minutes of the Seventh International Conference of the International Hebrew Christian Alliance

Held at Ramsgate, England, from June 10 to 13, 1947

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

The Conference convened at 8 p.m., the President, the Rev. Arnold Frank, D.D., in the chair.

1. A hymn was sung, the Rev. H. D. Leuner read a passage of Scripture and the President offered prayer.

2. Delegates from Great Britain, America, Holland and Denmark presented their credentials. It was reported that unforeseen circumstances had prevented delegates from France, Hungary, Rumania and Switzerland from attending as they had hoped.

3. The Recording Secretary gave notice that the Nominations Committee would consist of the Revs. H. C. Carpenter and H. B. Gentz, Drs. Kadar and Salzberg, Messrs. Ellison, van Gelderen and Plotke, with the Secretaries.

4. The Conference stood as the Recording Secretary read the names of Hebrew Christian leaders who had passed to their rest and reward since the last Conference. After prayer the Conference joined in the hymn "For all the saints who from their labours rest."

5. The Rev. Arnold Frank, D.D., delivered his Presidential Address.

6. A hymn was sung and the President closed the session with the Benediction.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

The Conference convened at 10.30 a.m., the Rev. Arnold Frank presiding.

1. The President offered prayer.

2. A roll call showed that representatives of all the Alliances were present.

3. The minutes of the proceedings on Tuesday, June 10, were read and confirmed.

4. The Conference proceeded to consider the reports of the Executive Committee. The first was handed in by the Rev. N. Levison, who, during the absence of the President, had acted as chairman of that committee. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. Jacob Peltz, seconded by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter and carried unanimously. The second was handed in by the Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. Jacob Peltz, seconded by the Rev. H. D. Leuner, and carried unanimously. The third was handed in by the Secretary for America. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. Jacob Gartenhaus, seconded by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter, and carried unanimously. The fourth was handed in by the Secretary for Great Britain. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. H. B. Centz, seconded by Mr. H. L. Ellison, and carried unanimously.

5. Mr. H. L. Ellison moved, the Rev. H. C. Carpenter seconded, and it was unanimously resolved, that in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and as a small acknowledgment of his life-long work for Jews and Hebrew Christians and of his services as President of the International Hebrew Christian Alliance for ten years, the Rev. Arnold Frank, D.D., be given the honorary title of President Emeritus.

6. The Rev. N. Levison moved, the Rev. H. D. Leuner seconded, and it was resolved, that in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and in order to emphasize the international nature of the Alliance's work and to bring affiliated Alliances more closely into its operations, the presidency should be given to representatives of affiliated Alliances in rotation.

7. The Rev. Jacob Peltz moved, Mr. E. Cohen seconded, and it was resolved, that the first Vice-President be resident in Great Britain and able to preside at committee meetings when the President is not able to attend.

8. The session then adjourned.

9. Upon resumption brief reports of the work of the affiliated Alliances in Great Britain, America, Denmark and Holland were given by chosen representatives. It was resolved to place on record sincere regret that it had not been possible for delegations from Hungary and Rumania to attend the Conference.

10. Mr. H. L. Ellison briefly described conditions in Rumania and Poland.

11. The Rev. B. Pernow addressed the Conference, describing the work done by the Swedish Church, through its Jewish Mission Committee, to rescue and relieve Hebrew Christians on the Continent. The Rev. N. Levison moved, the Rev. Jacob Peltz seconded, and it was resolved, that the Conference place on record their deep and heartfelt gratitude for this labour of love and sympathy, their thankfulness to God for so great a token of true Christian charity and fellowship, and their prayer that the Divine blessing may continue to be given richly and abundantly.

12. Greetings were read from Alliances in France, Portugal and Rumania.

13. The President pronounced the Benediction and the session concluded.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

The Conference convened at 10.30 a.m., the Rev. Arnold Frank presiding.

1. The President offered prayer.

2. Delegates from Palestine and South Africa presented their credentials.

3. A roll call showed that representatives of all the Alliances were present.

4. The minutes of the proceedings on Wednesday, June 11, were read and confirmed.

5. The President called for the reports of the Nominations Committee. The Committee recommended the election of the Rev. A. J. Kligerman, D.D., as President. This was moved by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter, seconded by the Rev. Jacob Peltz, and carried unanimously. The Committee recommended the election of the Rev. N. Levison as first Vice-President and of Mr. H. L. Ellison as second Vice-President. This was moved by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter, seconded by the Rev. Jacob Gartenhaus, and carried unanimously. At this stage Dr. Frank vacated the chair and laid down the office he had adorned for so long. In the unavoidable absence of the new President, the chair was taken by the first Vice-President, the Rev. N. Levison. The Committee recommended the election of the Rev. Harcourt Samuel as Recording Secretary and Treasurer. This was moved by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter, seconded by the Rev. Jacob Peltz, and carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended the election of an Executive Committee as follows: the Office Bearers, the Presidents of affiliated Alliances, Lady Levison, Miss Reich, the Revs. H. B. Centz and Jakob Jocz, Messrs. M. Kagan, J. Katz, H. Newmark and B. Segall. This was proposed and seconded; an amendment was moved, seconded and carried, adding the name of the Rev. Jacob Gartenhaus. The resolution, as amended, was carried.

6. On the motion of Mr. H. L. Ellison, seconded by the Rev. H. C. Carpenter, it was resolved to confer honorary membership upon those who, in the opinion of the Conference, had rendered outstanding service to the Alliance; it was further resolved that the following be invited to accept honorary Membership as a token of gratitude for their service to Hebrew Christian refugees: Pastors B. Pernow, Magne Solheim, Goté Hedenquist and Jac van Nes, Probst. Gruber, Mlle. Barot, Dr. Conrad Hoffmann and the Bishop of Chichester.

7. The Rev. H. C. Carpenter read a paper entitled "The Reason for the Alliance." Discussion followed.

8. The session then adjourned.

9. Upon resumption Mr. H. L. Ellison read a paper entitled "The Organization of the Local Alliance." Discussion followed.

10. A brief report of the work of the newly formed South African Alliance was given by Dr. Peter Salzberg.

11. The Chairman pronounced the Benediction and the session concluded.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

The Conference convened at 10.30 a.m., the Rev. N. Levison presiding.

1. The Chairman offered prayer.

2. A roll call showed that representatives of all the Alliances were present.

3. The minutes of the proceedings on Thursday, June 12, were read and confirmed.

4. Mr. Ellison moved, the Rev. Jacob Peltz seconded, and it was resolved, that the title of President Emeritus should carry with it membership of the Executive Committee.

5. The Conference gave consideration to the needs of displaced persons. Mr. Ellison moved, the Rev. Jacob Peltz seconded, and it was resolved, that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be instructed to consider the following suggestions and to take appropriate action:

i. That several representatives of the Alliance be sent to various camps in Germany, Austria and Italy to ascertain the numbers of Hebrew Christians in displaced persons camps.

ii. That officers of the Alliance permanently resident in Germany and Poland

be appointed to advise Hebrew Christian displaced persons and help them to obtain documents.

iii. That negotiations be opened with appropriate authorities in Germany and Poland to obtain recognition of the status of the Alliance Committee or representative for the purpose of issuing documents required for emigration.

6. The Chairman called for the report of the Trustees of Abraham's Vineyard. This was handed in by the Rev. Harcourt Samuel. The Rev. H. B. Centz moved, Mr. H. L. Ellison seconded, and it was resolved, that the report be received.

7. Mr. E. J. Plotke addressed the Conference on conditions in Palestine; he outlined plans put forward by the Palestine Alliance for a hostel. The Conference heard him with sympathy and resolved to request the Trustees of Abraham's Vineyard to examine the plan with the same sympathy.

8. The minutes of the day's proceedings were read and confirmed.

9. The Conference closed with prayer and the Benediction.