

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

of the

*102nd Annual Session*

of the

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

of the

Evangelical Church

Held in the

FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

May 22 to 26, 1946



BISHOP GEORGE E. EPP, D.D., LL.D., *Chairman*

JOHN F. SCHAEFER, *Secretary, Editor and Publisher*

He received his education at North Central College, was licensed by the Canada Conference, and continued in the active ministry for 47 years. He served the following fields: Perkins Grove, Loraine, Chadwick, Davis, Owosso, Mich., Aurora, Dixon, Highland Park, Chicago (Adams St.), Chadwick (second time), Aurora (second time), Shannon, Highland Park (second time), Chicago (Lane Park), and Downers Grove. He also served efficiently in many positions of responsibility in the general church, and the Illinois Conference. In 1895 he married Miss Cora Long of Davis, who survives.

Brother Finkbeiner had an unusually wide circle of acquaintance. He was always known as a conscientious, sincere, frank, loyal, and sympathetic friend, a faithful pastor, an able preacher, a wise counsellor. He made an outstanding contribution to his church, and through her his productive life continues to bear fruit in the earth.

*Reverend Charles Wunsch* was born Dec. 1, 1869, in Germany, and died Jan. 18, 1946, at his home in Pontiac, Illinois. In 1881 he came with his mother to America and settled in Owega Township, Livingston Co. Upon attending the Owega Evangelical Church, he experienced a change of heart, became a loyal member, and served in all major offices of the church.

Prior to entering the Christian ministry, he served as a missionary for the American Sunday School Union. He was licensed to preach in 1909, and ordained deacon in 1917.

On Jan. 5, 1890, he was married to Miss Emma Friesleben. To this union was born four sons and two daughters.

Brother Wunsch served the following appointments in the Illinois Conference: Roberts, Emmanuel-Weston, Weston-Roberts, Pontiac-Weston, and Groveland.

His loyalty to Christ and the Church has inspired countless men and women and children who knew him and were blessed by his faithful service.

*Reverend Isaac Divan* was born in Cadiz Township, Green Co., Wis., on Nov. 27, 1854, and died at the home of his daughter in Mt. Morris, Ill., April 8, 1946.

He was recommended for the ministry in 1883 by the St. Peter's Evangelical Church of the Orangeville Circuit, and was licensed by the Illinois Conference. During the fifty years of his active ministry he served Weston, Assumption, El Paso, South Dixon, Dixon which he started as a mission field, Stockton, Rock Grove, Cedarville, Reddick, Forreston, Pierce, Ottawa, Peotone, Sterling, Woodbine, and Prairie View.

Brother Divan was interested in church construction and architecture, and his advice was sought frequently. At Assumption, Dixon, and Reddick churches were built under his direction. He also was the architect and builder of the present Oakdale tabernacle and hotel.

Of Brother Divan it can be said as it was said of his Master, "He went about doing good." He was loyal to his calling to the end and today he has inherited the place of "many mansions" prepared for all those who love and faithfully serve their Lord.

*Bishop Emeritus Samuel Peter Spreng* was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 11, 1853, and was called on Good Friday, April 19, 1946. As a youth he had a definite experience of personal salvation through Christ, and soon after felt the call to the Christian ministry.

He received his education at North Central College and was licensed to preach by the Ohio Conference. He served for 70 consecutive years as an itinerant minister of the Evangelical Church as pastor, district superintendent, editor, and bishop. For 20 years he served with great distinction as editor of the *Evangelical Messenger* until he was elected bishop in 1907, and then served in this capacity for 23 years until his retirement in 1930. He transferred his membership to the Illinois Conference in 1920 on establishing his episcopal residence in Naperville.

Bishop Spreng was an inspiring leader with profound spiritual insight whose talent and ability was recognized at home and abroad. He was an eloquent and persuasive preacher and a prolific writer. He carefully studied the social and spiritual movements of the day which gave rise to our church, and with his literary gifts made the history of the Evangelical Church live again. With rare genius as a writer he also gave us a concise statement of our Evangelical faith. He occupied a unique position as mediator between the founding fathers and succeeding genera-