

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# EAST PA. CONFERENCE

OF THE

## UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

HELD IN

Pottsville United Evangelical Church

POTTSVILLE PA.,

FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 2, 1898

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EV. JACOB KAECHELE, was born Dec. 1856, in Emberg, Germany.

His life follows: "I was the youngest of five of my age were enjoying youthful in solitude, and separated from reading works of a religious nature. My strong inclination to genuine religious endeavor led me to the effort to me."

Dismissed from the school through conflict with two he emigrated to America in search of a better home. On August 5, 1856, he emigrated to Wilhelminia Ballor, and God blessed his life. On Christmas Day, in Morristown, Canada, in the morning between 9 and 10 o'clock, he received the divine call to the ministry, and was licensed by the Evangelical Association, June 12, 1861, to preach in charges in Canada: Carrick and Burg, Berlin, and Waterloo. The Lord blessed him in all these fields. On April 15, 1861, he was ordained Deacon, by the sainted Bishop Long, of the Evangelical Association.

In the year 1866 he was sent to the duty of the Evangelical Association. On his return he was aided by his faithful wife and children. He worked in Berne, Switzerland. In 1868 he was elected of the Switzerland District; in 1872 he was elected of the Reutlingen District; in 1871 he was elected Moderator; in 1875 he was reelected to the office of Moderator; in 1875 he was reelected to the office of Moderator; in 1875 he was reelected to the office of Moderator. While occupying this office, he also served as Moderator of the Reutlingen and Stuttgart Districts. He was elected Moderator of the Annual Conference of 1871, 1875, 1879 and 1883. He served on the Board of Missions. After nineteen years he returned with his family to America in 1885. He was elected Moderator of the New York Conference of Syracuse, in the New York Conference of 1891 he left the Evangelical Association. He was elected Moderator of the "Evangelical Church," of Buffalo, N. Y. in 1897, when he, with his congrega-

tion, united with the East Pa. Conference of the United Evangelical Church. He was appointed to this charge by the conference, and served it faithfully until called to his reward.

As a preacher he was thorough, eminently biblical, spiritual and practical in the highest sense, practical. He was a conscientious pastor, never failing to make careful inquiry into the spiritual life of his people, and to give loving attention to the children of the families whom he visited. As a scholar he was possessed with marked ability. He was a theologian who was mighty in the Scriptures. He was an author who used his pen with more than ordinary power, having written no less than fifteen different books, among these, "The Catechism of the United Evangelical Church," "The Work of the Holy Spirit," and "The Second Coming of Christ," and being a regular contributor to the *Evangelische Zeitschrift*.

As a friend and brother he was sympathetic and helpful, and he is remembered by all with loving memories.

After a long sickness he peacefully passed away Thursday evening, Jan. 27, 1898. He was fully prepared to go, and gave his loved ones the happy assurance that he was going to be with God.

May the mantle of his devotion and power fall upon us.

The REV. WILLIAM SHULER, was the son of pious parents, and was born at Weissport, Pa., March 2, 1861. At the age of twelve years, he was soundly converted to God and became an active worker in the church. At the Conference Session of 1883, he was licensed to preach the Gospel. Two years later he was ordained to the office of Deacon, and in 1887, to the office of Elder. He served the following charges: 1883-84 Bath Circuit, 1885-86-87 White Haven Mission, 1888-89-90 Beartown Circuit, 1891-92 Harrisburg Mission, 1893-94 Frackville Mission, and in 1895 Mount Joy Mission, which he served until God called him up higher, in 1897.

On May 2, 1885, he was united in holy matrimony with Lizzie Peters. The union was blessed by God with five children.

After a protracted illness, the Lord took him to Himself, in the prime of life, on September 26, 1897.

In the death of Bro. Shuler, the church has lost one of her most devoted and pious men, and the conference one of its earnest workers. He was a good parliamentarian, and often took an active part in the debates on the conference floor. He was very pronounced in his convictions, and courageously defended them. He was a faithful, earnest student, and a consecrated, practical and fearless preacher. His was a strong analytical mind, and this enabled him to present the truth with great clearness and power. His ambition was ever, to reach the people

with the truth. He left us in his prime. The question, "Why so soon?" awaits eternity for an answer. His spirit remains with us, and in the morning land of the soul, we shall meet again.

WHEREAS, The time for preparation on the part of those who are appointed by the Conference to speak at the Memorial Service, in memory of our departed brethren is too limited, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Presiding Elders be constituted a committee to appoint such brethren as they deem best fitted to speak on the life and work of such brethren as may be called from our midst during the year, giving the appointees as much time before conference as may be necessary to proper preparation.

Your committee suggest that the Memorial Services be held at such time as the conference may select.

We recommend that Bro. Bishop R. Dubs speak on the life and work of Bro. Jacob Kaechel, and B. J. Smoyer on the life and work of Bro. Wm. Shuler.

Sister CAROLINE MERTZ, the widow of Rev. David Mertz, one of the pioneer preachers of our church, was born July 7, 1808. She was converted in 1832, through the pious example and influence of Francis Gable, who came to live with them. He prayed with them in family worship and gave thanks at meals in such a sincere and spiritual manner, that conviction was brought to the household.

Brother and Sister Mertz were the first converts in that valley. Their house became a home for our preachers. Revs. John Zinzer, John Leib, Jacob Schnerr, John Sensel and Jacob Riegel preached in their house. In those times the members of the church came from far and near to the quarterly conference occasions. As they were the only family that would entertain, they had many to provide for. People came a distance of forty miles. Mother Mertz served the Lord loyally and faithfully for sixty-five years.

She had a remarkably strong faith and was always happy in the Lord's work. She loved the gospel ardently, and by her thoughtful, pleasant face was a real help to the preacher. During the last year of her long journey on earth, she was stricken with blindness. She was emphatically an example of piety, intelligent interest in, and loyal devotion to her church and denomination. Twelve hours before she died, when utterly prostrated with weakness, she was made supernaturally strong by the power of the Holy Ghost, and became shouting happy in the arms of her son, David, and nearly leaped out of his arms for joy. What a grand life!

She fell sweetly through a long life ranks of the large a build up the church of our God!

Sister SEVILLA C and devoted wife of of Albright Collegia at Pine Grove, Pa.

She attended the she completed her e England Conservato stitution she accept Schuylkill Seminar; to herself and benefi 1890, and the same y who was then princiy was blessed with two

Sister Bowman ac held the offices of pri ary. There she eng with her husband in

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She was sick for fortitude and cheerfu Lord's keeping. Ab desire to visit the h After a few days there

Sister Bowman w piety, and liberal edu sphere of the soul is tl labored as publicly as in her own way—God helpful to many a one she was devoted, earn ant smile and her kind lonely and homesick st

Her love for her h tion for her children, l happiness. She alway