

**Report of the First Conference of
the Deaconesses of the United
Church of Canada**

Time—March 2 and 3, 1926.

Place—Morning and Afternoon Sessions at
the National Training School, 135
St. Clair Ave. W.

Evening Sessions, 60 Grosvenor St.

Chairmen—Tuesday—Miss Hall.

Wednesday—Miss Wilcox.

Devotional Study—General Theme—"How
Jesus Faced Life's Questions."

Study 1.—Jesus' Definition of Ideals, led by
Dr. Rich. Davidson.

I find something of what God is like if
I look into the face of nature; more if I
look into the face of my brother man;
most if I look upon the Word made Flesh,
brother of all men, friend of the poor,
feeder of the hungry, healer of the sick.
Jesus didn't define His ideals, He lived
them, and they are forever luminous.

Study 2.—How Far Should Custom De-
termine Our Standards of Con-
duct, led by Rev. A. L. Richards.

1. Give custom an honored place.
2. Give custom an honored place only so
far as it is not contrary to the mind
of Jesus.
3. Custom must give place on great issues,
sectarianism, prohibition, war, the in-
dustrial order.

4. The test of any custom is, "Does it unify life; does it enrich life?"

Study 3.—The Duty of Interpreting the Thought of our Times, led by Rev. Chas. Bishop.

There are three things necessary:

1. An historical perspective.
2. The power to discriminate between the new and the old, movements which are dying and those which will live.
3. A looking to the future-work with the young or in line with the thought of the young.

This ability is a reflex from the ability our Lord had, who, in laying down His life, assured the future of the Kingdom.

Study 4.—How Jesus Faced Life's Questions, led by Dr. J. C. Robertson.

Jesus' Life Problems:

1. Of leaving home.
2. Choosing a Vocation.
3. Of accomplishing His mission.

The whole problem was to carry out the plan of God in God's own way.

The communion service was a season of spiritual refreshment; conducted by Rev. L. S. Albright.

The chief address of the Conference was given by Rev. Peter Bryce on "*The Evolution of Deaconess Work.*"

1. The evolution from supplying the poor family with clothing to that of the trained social worker whose task is the constructive rehabilitation of the family.
2. The evolution from supervizing a nursery to the leadership in Religious Education.

We need the white fire of a great enthusiasm to accomplish great things for Christ, for God and for humanity.

We had a literary evening Wednesday when we were delightfully entertained by Dr. F. H. Kirkpatrick.

The Conference was marked throughout by real fellowship and the spirit of "each preferring the other in love"; and the two days passed all too quickly. Many old friendships were renewed and new ones formed, and it is with gratitude that we look back upon our Conference and with expectation to the future.

Business.

Our most important business was the discussion of questions relating to the future of the Order.

1. What types of church work should be included in the duties of a Deaconess? (See Report of Findings Committee).
2. What are the distinctive differences between the Deaconess and other trained women workers in the Church?
3. Conditions of Entrance to the Deaconess Order. (See Report of Findings Committee).
4. Method of Appointment. (See Report of Findings Committee).
5. Adequate Salary and Superannuation. (See Report of Findings Committee).
6. Uniform and Pin. (See Report of Findings Committee).

The Report of the Findings Committee.

1. Re the duties of the Deaconess.

While it is recognized that the work of the Deaconess in most situations must be of a general character; Resolved, that in the

best interests of the worker and of the church she serves, the energies of the Deaconess should not be dissipated in too many forms of service; that at least major importance should be given, by preliminary agreement and understanding, to the form of work that constitutes the greatest need in the local church; that such an understanding involves a responsibility not only to the Church and the Deaconess, but to whatever Board is charged with supervision of Deaconess Work.

2. In view of developments that are progressively taking place in Deaconess Work, and the increased demands for scientific training in Social Service and Religious Education; Resolved, that standards of entrance must be fixed ever with an eye to the future, not to the past.

3. Re the Method of Appointment.

Resolved, that the method of appointment be through a Committee of the General Council which shall keep in close touch with each Deaconess and make an earnest effort to secure positions for all Deaconesses—recommending the Deaconess to a position and confirming appointments, but leaving the Church or Board to make its own arrangement with the worker, subject to regulations approved by the General Council of the Church.

Resolved, that there should be representatives from the Deaconess Body on the General Council's Committee thus charged with supervision of Deaconess Work.

4. Re Salary; Resolved, that the minimum should be \$1,000 per annum, increasing with experience to \$1,200 or to \$1,500.

Re Superannuation; Resolved, that the hope of the Deaconess' Association is that

provision shall be made for Superannuation of members of the Order through whatever Board of the General Council has responsibility for Superannuation of Ministers of the Church.

5. Re Uniform and Pin; Resolved, that it is in the best interests of the work that a uniform be approved, which Deaconesses shall have the privilege of wearing according to their discretion.

6. Re Deaconess Homes; Resolved, that subject to provision for adequate salary it would be in the best interests of the work of the Church that the present system of residence in Deaconess Homes be not perpetuated.

7. Re Probation; Resolved, that while time has not been sufficient for the consideration of all the implications of a one, and two-year period between graduation and being designated to the Deaconess Order, that this Conference commend this question to the careful, and sympathetic consideration of the Deaconess Board.

Recommendations of the Executive, endorsed by the Conference.

1. Re Name of Association, the name shall be The Deaconess Association of the United Church of Canada.
2. Re Membership. All Deaconesses in active service are eligible.
3. Time of Meeting. (Referred to the new executive.
4. The membership fee shall be \$1.

Motion.

It was agreed that in addition to the formation of the Deaconess Association of the United Church of Canada, to be comprised

of Deaconesses in active service, there shall be formed or continued an Alumnae Association, which shall be comprised of all graduates of the Training School or Schools.

Officers for the Ensuing Year.

Hon. President Miss Jean Macdonald, B.A.
Miss Winnifred Thomas, B.A.
President Mrs. Mina McMaster
1st Vice-President Miss Mary Blain
2nd Vice-President Mrs. Elsie Smith
Recording Secretary ... Miss Caroline Wilcox
Corresponding Secretary. Miss Clara Ranton
Treasurer Miss Margaret Hall

DEACONESSES IN ACTIVE SERVICE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA.

Deaconesses in (Former) Methodist Church.

Elsie R. Smith (Mrs.),
Field Secretary, 135 St. Clair Ave. W.
*Marie Lytle (Mrs.),
Matron, Methodist National Training School.
*Amy Sherwood,
Asst. Matron, Methodist National Training School.

Toronto Conference.

*Mary Lake,
Supt., Barbara House, 257 Jarvis St.
*Josie Brailey,
Assistant Supt., Barbara House, 257 Jarvis St.
*Helen McGregor,
Metropolitan United Church, Toronto.
*Mina McMaster (Mrs.),
Sherbourne United Church, Toronto.
*Lillie Howe,
145 Jarvis St., Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.
*Laura Riddolls,
145 Jarvis St., Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.
*Eva Large (nurse),
145 Jarvis St., Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.
Clara Crowhurst (nurse),
145 Jarvis St., Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.
Lazelle Boake,
Traveller's Aid, 343 Jarvis St., Toronto.
*Lillian Bechtel,
Traveller's Aid, 343 Jarvis St., Toronto.
*Ethel Kitcheson,
Danforth Avenue United Church, Toronto.

- *Stella Burry,
Woodbine Heights United Church, Toronto.
- *Mary Burwash (Mrs.),
Queen Street United Church, Toronto.
- *Viola Crouse,
Queen Street United Church, Toronto.
- *Margaret Morton,
Queen Street United Church, Toronto.
- *Clara H. Ranton,
Trinity United Church, Bloor Street, Toronto.
- *Esthel Moffitt,
St. Paul's United Church, Avenue Rd., Toronto.
- *Rose Miller,
Matron, Armenian Boys' Farm, Georgetown.
- Ida Johnston—(Loaned for work in Florida),
420-6 St. South, St. Petersburg.

Hamilton Conference.

- *Caroline Wilcox,
Supt., Deaconess House, 279 Main St. E.
- *Annie Richardson,
Centenary Church, Main St. E.
- *Annie Thomas,
Calvary Church, Main St. E.
- Jessie Swetman,
Simcoe St. Church, Main St. E.
- *Bessie Irwin,
Italian Mission, 107 Sandford Ave. N.

Bay Quinte Conference.

- *Gertrude Staples, Picton, Ont.

Montreal Conference.

- *Leone Winter, St. James Church, 7 Cursol St.
- *Etta Hart, St. James Church, 7 Cursol St.
- *Bertha Shier, Delorimier and Trinity, Cursol St.

Nova Scotia Conference.

- Mabel Newsome, Union Settlement, Sydney.
- Ida Pitt, Community House, Sydney, 932 Victoria Ave.

Manitoba Conference.

- Edith Sherwin, Girls' Worker All People's Mission,
659 Beverley Street, Winnipeg.
- Charlotte Collinson, First Church, Brandon.

Saskatchewan Conference.

- Nellie Barker, Regina Metropolitan Church.
- Agnes Maud Thompson, Zion Church, Moose Jaw.

London Conference.

*Vera Simons, Traveller's Aid, Y.W.C.A., London, Ont. -

Alberta Conference.

Lillie M. Carr, Central Church, Calgary.
Ruth Lannigan, Ukrainian Mission, Edmonton.
Agnes Allan, McDougall Church, Edmonton.
*Maud Lyon,
Supt. Mountain Redemptive Home, Calgary.

British Columbia Conference.

Eva. B. Elliott, Wesley Church, Vancouver.
Ada Garbutt, Metropolitan Church, Victoria.
Isabel Haddock, Prince Rupert,
919½ Pandora Ave. Box 1533.

Newfoundland Conference.

Frances Staples,
Supt. Methodist Orphanage, St. John's.

On Leave of Absence.

Marzetta Cairns, 89 Ontario, St. Catharines.
Amelia Crocker, 55 Appleton Ave.
Augusta McWilliams, Florida.
Flossie Moore, Cameron, Ont., R.R. No. 2.
*Ethel Taylor, Galt, R.R. No. 4.
Olive Lyous, Alliston, Ont.
*Margaret Erratt (Mrs.), 135 St. Clair Ave. W.
*Leah Bratt, 1508 Church St., Windsor.
Mary Young,
Temple Hall, 35 Temple St., Boston, Mass.
*Hattie King, 135 St. Clair Ave. W.
Bertha Bradley, 617 Aylmer St., Peterboro, Ont.

Retired.

Ora McElhenic.
Emma Cunningham.

DEACONESSES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN CANADA ENTERING THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA, AND IN ACTIVE SERVICE,
DEACONESS POSITIONS, JUNE, 1925—
APRIL, 1926.

Graduates Misionary and Deaconess Training Home,
Toronto

Adelaid Sutherland,
(W.M.S.) Strangers' Work, Vancouver, B.C., 1909.
*Ethel Cameron,
(W.M.S.) Strangers' Work, Montreal, Que., 1911.

Agnes R. Coutie,
 (W.M.S.) Edmonton, Alta., 1912.

*Bertha Putman (Mrs.),
 (W.M.S.) School Home, New Liskeard, Ont., 1912.

Frances Grogan,
 (W.M.S.) Strangers' Work, Winnipeg, Man., 1913.

Sophie Mitchell,
 Laidlaw Memorial Church, Hamilton, 1913.

*Jeanie R. King,
 (W.M.S.) Strangers' Work, Montreal, Que., 1913.

Jessie McKenzie,
 Port Douglas Church, Winnipeg, Man., 1916.

Susan Sylvester,
 (W.M.S.) Joggins, N.S., 1917.

Anna M. Keith,
 (W.M.S.) Ruthenian Mission, Oshawa, Ont., 1918.

*Agnes H. Staples,
 (W.M.S.) All Peoples' Mission, S.S. Marie, 1918.

Elizabeth Laughlin,
 (W.M.S.) Hospital Visitor, Toronto, 1919.

Elizabeth Latimer,
 (W.M.S.), File Hills Indian Reserve, Lorie, Sask.,
 1919.

*Mary A. Firth,
 Riverdale United Church, Toronto, 1919.

Louise Pirch, B.A.,
 St. Andrew's Church, North Bay, 1919.

Elizabeth MacIvor,
 (W.M.S.) United Mission, Sydney, 1921.

*Margaret C. Hall,
 Kew Beach Church, Toronto, 1921.

Adah Webster,
 First Church, Truro, 1921.

Edna J. Pearson,
 Maclean Mission, Winnipeg, Man., 1922.

*Nettie B. Bickell,
 Avenue Road Church, (Nov. 25-Mar. 26), 1922.

Frances Kinghorn,
 Beverley Inst., Edmonton (non-grad. special),
 1922.

C. Estelle V. MacKenzie,
 (W.M.S.) River Hebert, N.S., 1922.

*Mary McIlraith,
 (W.M.S.) Extension Work, Tor. Pres., 1923.

Olive J. Whyte,
 (W.M.S.) Vancouver Island, B.C., 1923.

M. Adella Macpherson,
 Chalmers' Church, Ottawa, 1923.

Bessie Fennell,
 St. Andrew's Church, Moose Jaw, Sask., 1923.

*Ruby Brown,
 College St. Church, Toronto, 1923.

*Mabel K. Smith,
(W.M.S.) St. John's, N.B., 1923.
Ethel M. Quick,
(W.M.S.) Timmins, Ont., 1924.
Prudence Littlewood (Mrs.),
(W.M.S.) United Mission, Stellarton, 1924.
Mabel Lindsay, B.A., (Mrs.),
(W.M.S.) School Home, Battleford (special), 1924.
*Mary Blain, M.A.,
(W.M.S.) Silverthorn District, Toronto, 1924.
Alice I. Walker,
(W.M.S.) Drumheller, Alta., 1925.
Ella R. Siteman,
(W.M.S.) Indian School, Alberui, Sask., 1925.
Jessie Oliver,
Jewish Mission, Montreal, 1926.

Graduates Manitoba College, Deaconess Course.

Alice Ridgeway,
First Church Settlement, Vancouver, 1924.
Minnie Houston,
Robertson Memorial, Winnipeg, 1924.
Myrtle McArthur,
(W.M.S.) Pine River, Man., 1924.
Barbara Henderson,
New Canadian Institute, Port Arthur, 1924.
Laura Marshall,
Robertson House, Winnipeg, 1924.
Margaret McKinnon,
Westminster Church, Winnipeg, 1924.
Marjory Maxwell,
Port Douglas Church, Winnipeg, 1925.
Laidio Stoddart,
Robertson Memorial Institute, Winnipeg, 1925.

*To indicate those present at Conference.