

United Church Deaconess Conference

Date — AUGUST 30, 31—SEPT. 1.

Place — The United Church Training School, 135 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, Ont.

Hospitality

The Board of Management of the United Church Training School, through its House Committee cordially invites all registered members of the Conference to be their guests throughout the Conference.

The hospitality of the House will be extended from Tuesday morning, August 30th, to Thursday evening, September 1st.

Travelling Expenses

Since a large number of the deaconesses, including those from the East and the West, will be in or near Toronto at the time of the Conference, no provision is being made for the pooling of travelling expenses.

Expenses of Conference

The expenses of the Conference will be met by the registration fee of one dollar and the annual membership fee in the Deaconess Association, which is one dollar per year. It is hoped that every member of the Deaconess Order will avail herself of the privilege of membership in the Association under whose auspices the conference will be held.

Programs will follow later.

DEACONESSES IN ATTENDANCE AT
CONFERENCE.

Lillie Howe, Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.
Elizabeth McIvor, United Mission, Sydney, N.S.
Martha May Sleeth, New Canadian Institute, Port
Arthur.
Annie Richardson, Kerrwood, Ont.
Bertha Shier, Barrie, Ont.
Clara Ranton, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto.
Ida Johnstone, Toronto, Ont.
Mary Firth, Westminster Central, Toronto.
Helen McGregor, Toronto, Ont.
Caroline Wilcox, Hamilton, Ont.
Margaret Hall, Protestant Children's Home, Toronto.
Mary Lake, Queen St. United Church, Toronto.
Mrs. Mary Burwash, Barbara House, Toronto.
Leone Winter, Queen St. Church, Toronto.
Ethel Ketcheson, Danforth United, Toronto.
Mrs. Mina McMaster, Sherbourne United, Toronto.
Elizabeth Laughlin, Hospital Visitor, Winnipeg, Man.
Mrs. Margaret Erratt, Zurich, Ont.
Esther Moffitt, Wayside House, Fort William, Ont.
Amy Sherwood, Brockville, Ont.
Mrs. Betha Putnam, Alma, N.S.
Mary Currey, Barbara House, Toronto.
Mrs. Marie Lytle, Toronto, Ont.
Hattie King, Toronto, Ont.
Bessie Irwin, Maclean-Malpass Mission, Thorold, Ont.
Ruby Brown, Zion Church, Brantford, Ont.
Ethel Taylor, Bathurst United, Toronto.
Agnes Coutie, Hospital Visitor, Toronto.
Mamie Gollan, Church of All Nations, Toronto.
Stella Burry, Carlton United, Toronto.
Ruth Lanigan, Ukrainian Church and Mission, Win-
nipeg, Man.
Margaret Campion, St. Columba House, Montreal.
Louise Mollenhauer, Newmarket, Ont.
Etta Hart, Toronto, Ont.
Louise Pirch, Metropolitan Church, Toronto.
Ida MacKenzie, Church of All Nations, Montreal.
Margaret Halliday, Angola, West Africa.
Winnabell Harper, Kew Beach United, Toronto.
Vera Symons, Montreal, Que.
Joyce James, Neighborhood Workers, Toronto.

Report
of
The Fifth Conference
of the
Deaconess Association
of the
United Church of Canada

Assembled in the

Library of the

United Church Training School
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto 5, Ontario

August 30th and 31st 1932

REPORT OF DEACONESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 30-31, 1932

Forty deaconesses registered, representing work in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Angola, West Africa. Missionaries and other church workers were also present.

Miss Jean Macdonald, Principal of the Training School, led the opening service of worship, centering her remarks around the thought that what we are is more important than what we do, and what we are will serve us at any time in any place.

The President of the Association, Miss Ruby Brown, occupied the chair, and addressed the conference, expressing the appreciation of the executive and members of the conference for the ever ready hospitality extended to the Deaconesses by Miss Macdonald and her committee, giving a brief account of the work of the Executive during the year, and reminding members of the conference that while thinking of ourselves as church workers and leaders we must not forget that first of all we are followers of Jesus, and only in so far as we follow can we lead.

Miss Winnifred Thomas, Secretary of the Inter-Board Committee on Women Workers in the church, presented the report of the committee, together with her Autumn News Letter. Copies of these have already been forwarded to each Deaconess. The new Deaconesses whose names were presented to the conference are: Gloris Oleson, Knox United Church, Regina; Ida McKenzie, Church of All Nations, Montreal, Que. Points of special interest to which Miss Thomas called attention were, (1) that a new Designation service for Deaconesses has been prepared and will be published in the new Book of Forms. (2) That there is a Deaconess Fund which is to be used for Deaconesses' Conferences, grants to Deaconesses in serious illness or to Deaconesses for purpose of study, and (3) that the new booklet "Church Work a Vocation" should be in the hands of each Deaconess. A tribute was paid to the work of Dr. McLaughlin during his thirty-five years as lecturer in the school, and his continued interest in the students of the Training School and the

Deaconess Order. The suggestion was made that the Deaconess Association might express their appreciation in some definite way. Appreciation of Miss Hawkins' interest and willing service as Miss Thomas' secretary in the school, and as her secretary in all the work of the Inter-Board Committee, was also expressed. In the News Letter announcement was made that Miss Thomas had accepted the appointment of General Secretary for the Woman's Missionary Society which would necessitate her withdrawal from the work of the Deaconess Order. At the evening session Miss Esther Moffitt, on behalf of the Deaconess Association, took the opportunity of expressing to Miss Thomas appreciation of her services as Superintendent of the Deaconess Order, as Secretary of the General Council's Committee, and latterly Secretary of the Inter-Board Committee on Women Workers; for the unflinching friendly attitude that has been maintained in her personal relationships with the Deaconesses, and their regret at the necessary severance of this official relationship. Miss Louise Mollenhauer, on behalf of the Association, presented Miss Thomas with an overnight bag and portfolio. Miss Thomas fittingly replied.

The Book Review brought to the conference many old friends and introduced many new ones: "What and Where is God" (Swain); "Devotional Diary" (Oldham); "Bible Commentary" (Abingdon); "Which Way Religion" (Ward); "God in the Slums" (Begbie); "Religious Education" (Soares); "Shadows on the Rock" (Cather); "Magnificent Obsession" (Lloyd Douglas); "Progress of World Wide Missions" (Glover); "The Golden Book of Faith" (Clark); "Personality and Science" (Harold Hough); "Beliefs That Matter" (Brown); "By an Unknown Disciple."

At noon the conference adjourned to the Chapel, where Miss Mary Lake presided at the Memorial Service for Miss Mazetta Cairns, who died in St. Catharines on January 21st, 1931, and Miss Lillian Bechtel, who died at her home in Byron on March 20th, 1932.

"Miss Cairns was one of the earlier Methodist deaconesses, a graduate of the class of 1907. She was a member of a rather exclusive family in very well-to-do circumstances, and along with her sense of personal privilege there was a very keen desire to give of what

she had and what she was in the service of those less privileged, and that opportunity she sought in the work of a deaconess. There was also a very strong family affection and loyalty. Three sisters were left with very strong convictions of their duty toward each other. Because of this, Miss Cairns was a good deal in and out of active service, a condition that was somewhat unsatisfactory to her, but one that she accepted as necessary, and in the fitness of things. She willingly gave her first service where the first duty called, when that was at home. Miss Cairns' first appointment after graduation was to a church in Vancouver. She also had a term in St. James' Church, Montreal, and two appointments in Hamilton, one in a little church on the outskirts of the city that the Conference was seeking to establish among newcomers. This work was largely unorganized and difficult on that account and far from the Deaconess Home, but it gave Miss Cairns a field in which to exercise her outstanding faculty, that of being a personal friend to individual people. One of the classmates related that on one occasion she asked Miss Cairns, 'What do you do when you have so much to do that you just don't know what to do?' 'Well,' Miss Cairns said, 'I just sit down and try to think out what are the most important things to be done, and what can best be left undone, and then I act accordingly.' This perhaps is the best illustration of Miss Cairns' spirit in all her work."

Miss Bechtel was one of thirteen deaconesses who graduated from the Methodist National Training School in 1913. Her first appointment was to a church in Winnipeg, the only church appointment in her eighteen years of service,—somewhat to her own regret as far as personal preference was concerned. She also served the Protestant Orphanage in St. John's, Nfld., and as Travelers' Aid in Montreal and Toronto. Her classmates remember Miss Bechtel's eagerness as a student—an enthusiastic eagerness that fairly rushed out to meet its object. During those days one who occupied the adjoining room was admonished each morning that here was a new day upon us and it does behoove us to be up and doing even a little previously. At a later date in Montreal when some of the workers would be taking their time, Miss Bechtel would be up

and away and in that task she maintained the same eagerness of spirit, weary often in it, it may be, but never weary of it. There was the same eagerness to meet a new day as to meet new knowledge and new experiences. Some of us know the eagerness that was in Miss Bechtel, increasing in later years, to probe the farthest reaches of the unsearchable riches of the grace of God. There was in her an insatiable desire to go the farthest, to know more and yet more, and in that yearning one means to an end was a frank and free exchange of thought and experience. Her life still speaks of a quick readiness to hear what God the Lord will say, to see what God the Lord will reveal, and to do as God the Lord will lead.

"These are they who from their own small corner of life were called to share their spiritual experience, who adventured not knowing whither it would lead, who in so doing found themselves ever on a larger personal quest, and who have been led out and led on till they see Him whom they have believed.

"And still their silent ministries
Within our hearts have place,
As when on earth they walked with us,
And met us face to face."

The memorial service merged into the Communion service, which was conducted by Rev. H. J. Pritchard, D.D., Chairman of the Inter-Board Committee.

A service of worship was conducted at the beginning of each session of Conference. These were led by Miss C. Ranton, Miss L. Pirch, Miss E. Ketcheson and Miss E. McIvor.

The Executive in planning the general conference program tried to keep in mind the particular phases of work in which our deaconesses were engaged and thus time was given to discussion of Children's Work, Girls' Work, Young People's Work, and work with Adults.

CHILDREN'S WORK.

Miss Mary Eadie.

"If our aim is to help girls and boys become their best, how is this Christian personality to be achieved?" By (1) developing God consciousness—God relationship, (2) Jesus—understanding and appreciation of