

**OUR MEN AND THEIR TASK:
ADDRESSES AND PAPERS GIVEN
AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
UNITED BRETHERN MEN, HELD IN
DAYTON, OHIO, MAY 5-7, 1914**

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National Congress of United Brethren Men,
Held in Dayton, Ohio, May 5-7, 1914.



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INTRODUCTORY.

The National Congress of United Brethren Men, held in Dayton, Ohio, May 5-7, 1914, in its purpose, program, personnel, spirit, and statement of policy was a meeting of commanding importance in the life and work of the United Brethren Church as it faces the second century since the death of Philip William Otterbein. We are yet too near the Congress to give a proper estimate of its significance.

ITS ORIGIN

The General Conference of 1913 put before our denomination great tasks to be accomplished, and elected a Commission on Finance to conduct a comprehensive, educational campaign to give the victories and needs of our united, benevolent work and to introduce a weekly system of giving to meet these needs.

The new Commission on Finance held its first session July 1-3, 1913, when a resolution was offered that we plan to hold a nationwide congress of the representative laymen and ministers, to set forth in a compelling manner our great, united work in the extension of the kingdom of God. The executive committee of the Finance Commission was instructed to consider and report on such a congress. This committee decided to recommend the matter to the Bishops' Cabinet, which convened in Baltimore, in November, 1913. In the meantime the proposition was approved by the conference of superintendents of the Northwest District at a meeting in Chicago. The Bishops' Cabinet considered thoroughly the proposition and voted to hold the congress in Dayton, Ohio, in connection with the annual board meetings.

THE PURPOSE

The general committee elected by the Bishops' Cabinet in its call for the Congress, announced the purpose to be as follows:

1. That our denomination may discover its resources in Jesus Christ, and God's will for us in the extension of his kingdom.

2. That we may recount and be grateful for the victories of the past.

3. That the tasks and opportunities now before our Church may be set forth in a comprehensive, constructive, and convincing manner.

4. That we may discover the one hundred and fifty thousand members in our communion now not active, and the means by which they may be enlisted in the work of Christ.

5. That strong agencies may be provided for the instruction and training of efficient leadership, both in our local churches and the general church work, that our entire membership may reach its maximum power in the work of the kingdom.

6. That a workable, inspiring, denominational program and policy may be adopted as we enter the second century since the death of Philip William Otterbein.

The response to the call for the Congress was beyond all expectations. Nearly seven hundred business men, lawyers, doctors, mechanics, farmers, pastors, conference superintendents, and Bishops were present from forty annual conferences in America and from four foreign fields. These delegates as a rule came at their own expense, and were dominated by a strong purpose to get the full message of the Congress and to carry out speedily its policy and program. From the opening of the first session until the close of the last one, the delegates entered into the work with such promptness, co-operation, and constant intercession as were never before witnessed in any assembly in our denomination.

With open hearts and minds the delegates faced their risen Lord, the unmatched opportunities of this hour, and the distinct responsibility of our communion in extending the kingdom of our Lord. Scores of men testified that their lives had been completely transformed. The delegates returned to their homes changed men, to begin the real task of carrying forward our united work to victory.

The Congress voted to put into book form the messages delivered, that the vision, scope, and power of the Congress may be given to all our people. It is earnestly hoped that every one who reads the important messages of this book will give himself to earnest prayer and a definite purpose to carry into action the policy and program approved.

"The end of the Congress is but the beginning of the enterprise."

(Signed) THE GENERAL COMMITTEE,

S. S. HOUGH, Chairman.

CHAS. W. BREWBAKER.

E. L. SHUEY.

A. C. SIDDALL.

JAY M. COGAN.

H. C. CRIDLAND, Secretary.

A STATEMENT.

THE desirability of keeping within the limits of a book the addresses and papers of the Men's Congress, has made it necessary to condense many of them, and the editorial committee has sought to do this in a way not to detract from the unity and effectiveness of the messages, nor to destroy the style and manner of treatment of each author. In avoiding the duplication of matter there has been omitted from some addresses that which appeared in another.—*Editorial Committee*