

To the Members of the General Committee
of the General Council of the Reformed
Episcopal Church the accompanying re-
port is submitted for your information
and consideration by President and Pre-
siding Bishop Samuel Fallows, D.D., LL.D.

Sincerely yours,

CHAS. F. HENDRICKS,

Secretary.

4236 Old York Road,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
August 3rd, 1912.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS
Quebrada Limon
P.O.Box, S, Ponce, P.R.

Report of the Meetings of "The Church of Jesus" in Porto Rico, held during Bishop Rudolph's visit, June the twentieth to July the tenth, 1912, by the General Committee, approved and adopted by the General Council at its third session, held July seventh, 1912.

In anticipation of the return to Porto Rico of our beloved Presiding Presbyter and his family, and the visit of Bishop Robert L. Rudolph, as a delegate from the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States and Canada, a special meeting of the General Committee was held on June the sixteenth, 1912. At this meeting it was resolved to tender a reception to these brethren on their arrival, and, in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Church, to call a special meeting of the General Council, to be held on Sunday, June the twenty-third, for the purpose of electing a Bishop.

On Friday afternoon, June the twenty-first, a delegation on horseback met our returning friends at El Pastillo, and accompanied them to Quebrada Limon. About half way to the Church, a procession of over four hundred persons from the Central and other stations, with banners and hymns, expressed their hearty welcome. This company, which included members of the Sunday School, communicants of the Church, the General Committee, the Missionaries and the Deacons, made their way along the road to the Church chanting psalms and singing hymns. An arch-way of palm branches led to the entrance of the Church, the interior of which was decorated as is our custom on festive occasions. The Deacons, Presiding Presbyter and Bishop, also the members of the household who constitute the choir, took their places in the chancel. The congregation filled the Church to overflowing.

A brief service of thanksgiving for the happy reunion of Pastor & people was held. A touching incident in the service was witnessed when Modesto Rivera, a candidate for orders, who, in the service of the Church, had recently lost his left arm, and who was brought from the hospital in Ponce that afternoon by the Presiding Presbyter, came forward to give thanks for his deliverance from death and to consecrate his life anew to the service of his Lord.

The Presiding Presbyter then addressed the congregation, expressing his thanks for their cordial reception and the demonstration of their love and loyalty. Bishop Rudolph followed and also briefly expressed his appreciation of their welcome, not as an honor given to man, but as a manifestation of their devotion to the Gospel of Christ, as set forth by the Reformed Episcopal Church which he represented, and as it had been preached to them by their Pastor during the last twelve years.

A meeting of the General Committee was called for Saturday, June the twenty-second, to receive Bishop Rudolph officially.

After the benediction pronounced by Bishop Rudolph, the people came forward to greet him and their Pastor.

A meeting of the General Committee was held in the Church, on Saturday, June the twenty-second, all the members being present. After the singing of the Veni Creator and the prayer for the meeting of Ecclesiastical bodies, Bishop Rudolph presented the following credentials:-

GENERAL COUNCIL

of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 13", 1912.

To Whom It May Concern:-

This is to certify that at the Twentieth General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church, held in Christ Memorial Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May eighteenth, 1912, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted,

"Recognizing that there is a body of Latin Christians in Porto Rico who are worshipping with a Prayer Book which is substantially our own, and hearing that they are desirous of securing the Episcopate, we extend to such our hearty greetings, and recommend

- (a) That Bishop Rudolph be requested to visit the field.
- (b) That he advise them as to the steps necessary to organization in harmony with our Canon Law.
- (c) And, if desiring the Episcopate, that they nominate their candidate, supplying the necessary canonical credentials."

The above is a true and faithful copy of the Minutes of the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

(Signed) Chas. F. Hendricks,
Secretary.

Upon motion Mrs. Ferrando was unanimously elected the official interpreter. Bishop Rudolph made a brief address further emphasizing the cordial and fraternal disposition of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States and Canada towards the "Church of Jesus" in Porto Rico. A number of letters from leading clergymen received by him before leaving New York were read. The following articles were presented by the Bishop in commemoration of his visit:-

- The Prayer Book and Hymnal of the Reformed Episcopal Church;
- The Declaration of Principles, the Articles of Religion, the Catechism, and the Constitution and Canons;
- The Life of Bishop George David Cummins;
- The History of the Reformed Episcopal Church by Mrs. Price;
- The Journal of the Nineteenth General Council;
- The Minutes, of the 30" and 31" Councils of the New York and Philadelphia Synod, of the 29" Council of the Synod of Chicago, of the 38" session of the South Carolina Convocation;
- A Catalogue of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church, Several copies of the Episcopal Recorder, May 23", 1912;
- A sermon by Dr. Dager, entitled "Why the Reformed Episcopal Church?"

The following pamphlets:-

- Events leading to the formation of the Reformed Episcopal Church; by Professor D. O. Kellogg;
- Has the Reformed Episcopal Church the Historic Episcopate?, by a Layman,
- The Lord's Supper in its relation to Christian Union, by the Reverend Doctor Muhlenberg;
- The points of difference between the Protestant Episcopal Church and the Reformed Episcopal Church;
- What is the Reformed Episcopal Church? by Bishop Cheney;
- A form of Confirmation Certificate;
- Copy of the Order of Service of the Consecration of Bishop Rudolph,
- Four photographs of the members of the 20" General Council, held in Philadelphia, May 1912.

One of the Deacons at the request of the General Committee made the following response:-

"Very Reverend Brother:-

The General Committee of this Church, profoundly moved by the Christian and courteous attitude of the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States and Canada, requests me to express to you in brief words our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their action, which comes to renew our hopes as to the realization of our desire of obtaining the Episcopate in order to complete our form of government and ecclesiastical discipline. This desire, I can assure you, exists not only in the General Committee, but also in our whole Church.

The official and personal relations of our beloved Presiding Presbyter with the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States and Canada, have made us acquainted from the beginning of our existence as an ecclesiastical body, with the principles sustained by your Church; and, finding them to be in perfect harmony with the Word of God, which is our only rule of conduct and faith, we did not hesitate to embrace them as the basis of our organization, except in such points of disciplinary liberty as pertain to times and places.

Not believing in the Apostolic Succession, it has been easy for us to see in the person of our beloved Presiding Presbyter, the anointed of the Lord and our own Bishop. Nevertheless we must confess that something seemed to us all to be lacking, not only in order to fully honor him whom we so love for his Apostolic zeal and fatherly love towards us, but also in order to have our Church brought into a category that would command the respect of other historic Churches.

I refer to the Consecration of him whom our hearts already venerate as our Bishop. But how to realize this general desire was a difficult problem for us to solve, because we lacked the necessary knowledge for procedure in such a case.

The General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church has solved this difficulty, and you may imagine the gratitude we all feel, and which I, in the name of the General Committee express to you, and ask that you will convey the same to your own people, when you return to them after terminating your mission.

Welcome to you, and may God enable our Church to express to you the general rejoicing caused by your presence among us."

It was unanimously carried that we recommend to the General Council the election of Bishop Rudolph as Presiding Officer during his stay in Porto Rico.

It was further resolved, that, in compliance with the object of Bishop Rudolph's visit, we recommend, secondly, that a Bishop be chosen in the following manner:-

- (a) That nominations be made at the meeting to be held Sunday June the 23".
- (b) That the election be held at a second session of the General Council, at the CENTRAL, on June the 30"; and that notice of the second session be sent to all the members at the various stations.

On motion the Committee adjourned after the benediction by the Bishop.

On Sunday, June the 23", after morning prayer and a sermon by the Reverend Doctor Ferrando, a letter to the Church from our beloved Brother, the Reverend D.M. Stearns was read. Mr. Stearns, to whom we owe more than we can ever express, commended his Bishop to our kind care and fellowship, trusting that we would receive him as we would himself, and saying that the object of the Bishop's visit was to encourage us to greater things, and to ascertain if we desired Doctor Ferrando to be consecrated our Bishop.

At the conclusion of the reading of this letter the entire congregation rose to express their cordial reception of Bishop Rudolph.

The benediction having been pronounced, the General Council was called to order.

The Chairman of the General Committee reported the action taken by that Committee on the previous day. A translation of the credentials was read; and the publications of the Reformed Episcopal Church were presented.

Hearty thanks were tendered to the Bishop by a rising vote. Appreciation was further expressed when one of the Deacons stepped forward with a Spanish Bible in his hand, and said to the Bishop:-

"The Church of Jesus presents you with this Book, in the hope that on the occasion of your next visit to Porto Rico you will be able to expound its doctrines to us in Spanish."

This report was received by the unanimous vote of the Council. Bishop Rudolph reminded the Council of the absolute necessity of Divine guidance in taking a step of such vital importance in the life of the Church.

After leading the Council in prayer, he suggested that the unanimous vote reported by the General Committee be confirmed in Council assembled. In accordance with the Chairman's suggestion, it was moved that the Secretary of the Council cast one vote for the unanimous confirmation of the election of the Reverend Doctor Ferrando as Bishop.

The motion was carried, the ballot was cast, and Doctor Ferrando was declared by the Chairman to be duly elected.

The Rev. Ramon Cortez, Deacon, and Don Antonio Gerardino, Senior member of the General Committee, were appointed a Committee to notify Doctor Ferrando of his election to the Episcopate.

As the Committee returned with Doctor Ferrando, the large and fully representative congregation rose and sang the Gloria in Excelsis.

Doctor Ferrando addressed the Council, expressing his gratitude for the confidence involved in the action just taken, and pleaded with the members of the Church to co-operate with him in securing the advancement of the Kingdom of God by their zeal and prayers.

It was ordered that the minutes of the Council be referred to the General Committee, and that the Committee be instructed to prepare the petition to the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church for the consecration of Doctor Ferrando, and that these minutes and petition be submitted for approval at the next session of the Council.

After the benediction by Doctor Ferrando, the Council adjourned to meet on Sunday, July the 7th.

On Sunday July the 7th, 1912, an adjourned meeting of the Church of Jesus was held at Quebrada Limon, at the close of the morning service, Bishop Rudolph presiding.

After the singing of the hymn, "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove", and a prayer by Doctor Ferrando, the Chairman called for the reading of the fore-going report of the General Committee.

On motion this report was unanimously adopted.

The General Committee then submitted the following Resolutions:-

RESOLUTIONS

offered by the General Committee at a meeting of the General Council of the Church of Jesus on Sunday, July the 7th, 1912.

- I. WHEREAS, the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United and Canada has responded to the earnest desire of our hearts in sending Bishop Robert L. Rudolph to us as a delegate clothed with authority to define the conditions upon which the Council is willing to consecrate to the Episcopate our choice for that holy office,
RESOLVED, that we do hereby express our heartfelt gratitude to the General Council in view of this action.
- II. WHEREAS, A. We find ourselves in perfect accord with the doctrine of the Reformed Episcopal Church as set forth in the standards of the Church, and
B. We have given evidence of our devotion to a liturgical form of worship by the use of the Evangelical Prayer Book of the Reformed Episcopal Church during the period of our existence, and
C. We have expressed unanimously and authoratively our readiness to adopt the Constitution and Canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church for our government, and
D. The Church of Jesus has been publicly recorded and well known as

- "Reformed Episcopal" owing to its affiliation with the Church of the Atonement, Germantown, Philadelphia,
- RESOLVED, that we make respectful application to be received as a Jurisdiction of the Reformed Episcopal Church in the United States and Canada.
- III. WHEREAS, A. The General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church has most graciously expressed a readiness to consecrate a Bishop of our choice upon certain conditions, and
- " B. We firmly believe that an Episcopal Constitution is most desirable to insure the stability and further development of our work, and
- " C. We have intended to fulfil the conditions contained in your Delegate's credentials by the resolutions contained in the above report of the meetings of our General Council
- RESOLVED, That we submit our action, in the election of the Reverend Manuel Ferrando, D.D., to the Episcopate, to the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church for approval, and that we earnestly petition the Council to consecrate our nominee.
- IV. WHEREAS, A. Our object in this application is not to secure financial support, and
- " B. It may possibly appear inexpedient to bring this work into corporate union with the Church in the United States and Canada,
- RESOLVED, that we do hereby pray that the General Council may grant us at least the consecration of the Reverend Doctor Ferrando with the privilege of a separate ecclesiastical existence in harmony and fellowship with it.

On motion these resolutions were unanimously approved and adopted by a rising vote.

There being no other business before the house, Bishop Rudolph, addressed the Council, giving as his farewell message two passages of Scripture, II. Timothy, 4: 1-5; and Jude, 24, 25.

The Council adjourned, sine die, after the singing of the Doxology, and the benediction by Bishop Rudolph.

(Signed EDITH M.P. FERRANDO,
Secretary of the General Council.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

(Here is attached the seal of the General Committee and the seal of the Church of Jesus.)

(The original document is in Spanish; the translation is by Mrs. Ferrando; the correctness of this copy of the translation is vouched for by the undersigned,

ROBERT L. RUDOLPH)

Antonio Gerardino
Jacobina Feliciano G.
Epifanio Maldonado
Francisco Rivera
Esteban Olivieri

DEACONS: -

Victor Rivera
Primitivo Maldonado
Hermenegildo Maldonado
Ramon Cortez

PRESIDING PRESBYTER: -

Manuel Ferrando

The Rev. William A. Freemantle, D.D., presented the following Resolutions, seconded by Bishop Charles Edward Cheney, D.D., S.T.D., which were unanimously adopted, by a rising vote, to wit:-

WHEREAS, The Church of Jesus, in Porto Rico, has unanimously petitioned this Council, to be received into organic union with the Reformed Episcopal Church, in the United States, and also that the Rev. Manuel Ferrando, D.D., be consecrated to the Episcopate, for ~~work~~ work in the Church of Jesus,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we extend to the Church of Jesus, our heartiest greetings in the Lord, and pray that grace, mercy and peace may be multiplied unto them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the opinion of this Council, it is inexpedient, at this time, to effect any organic union, between the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Church of Jesus in Porto Rico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Council instruct the Presiding Bishop to consecrate the Rev. Dr. Ferrando, to the Episcopate, and that Dr. Ferrando, be transferred to the Church of Jesus in Porto Rico, in order that he may exercise his office in that field, unhindered, thereby securing the freer and fuller development of the polity of that Church.

Bishop Fallows announced that the Consecration of Rev. Dr. Ferrando would take place this evening, at the Church of the Atonement, Germantown, Philada.

On motion of the Rev. William T. Way, the Chair appointed the Revs. William T. Way, William D. Stevens, D.D., William A. Freemantle, D.D., as a Committee to notify the Rev. Dr. Ferrando, that the Council had authorized the Presiding Bishop to proceed with his consecration to the Episcopate, for the Church of Jesus in Porto Rico. On behalf of this Committee, the the Rev. Dr. Freemantle, presented to the Presiding Bishop the Rev. Dr. Ferrando, The Council sung the Gloria in Excelsis . The Presiding Bishop presented the Rev. Dr. Ferrando to the Council, who addressed the Council with great feeling because of the added responsibility placed upon him.

On motion of the Rev. Duane Wevill, Bishop Robert L. Rudolph, D.D., our delegate to the Church of Jesus in Porto Rico, was discharged, with the grateful thanks of the Council.

Modesto Rivero was presented by Bishop Rudolph to the Presiding Bishop, who presented him to the Council. Mr. Rivero is a young man who is studying for the ministry that he might labor among his own people in Porto Rico.

On motion of Mr. Thomas L. Perry, it was ordered, that Mr. William Gibson, Treasurer of the General Council, be instructed to pay out of the Entertainment Fund, the expenses of Entertaining the DEputies to this Special Meeting of the Twentieth General Council.

Bishop Fallows announced that it was impossible for him to make a visit to the Missionary Jurisdiction of the Pacific, as requested at the last meeting of the General Council, and he had requested Bishop Rudolph to make such a visit, which he had done, to the great encouragement of Bishop Cridge and the Jurisdiction.

Bishop Rudolph presented and read his report in connection with his visit to the Missionary Jurisdiction of the Pacific, which, on motion, was received and ordered spread upon the Minutes, to wit:-

BISHOP RUDOLPH'S REPORT OF HIS VISIT TO THE
MISSIONARY JURISDICTION OF THE PACIFIC.