

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL CALLED BY THE INDEPENDENT
 JAPANESE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
 (NOW AT TANFORAN ASSEMBLY CENTER, SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA)
 AND THE PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN OAKLAND,
 CALIFORNIA, TO BE HELD AT THE TANFORAN ASSEMBLY CENTER
 TO PROCEED WITH THE EXAMINATION AND ORDINATION OF
 MR. GEORGE AKI AND MR. MASAYOSHI WAKAI, ON THURSDAY,
 THE ELEVENTH OF JUNE, 1942, AT ONE O'CLOCK.

The council was called to order and the letter missive read by the moderator pro-tem, Dr. Clarence Reidenbach. Thereupon the moderator called for the nomination and appointment of a temporary Scribe; Mr. Eugene Sill, having been nominated by Professor James Mullenburg and the nomination seconded by Mr. William Kidd, was chosen by the Council as temporary Scribe. The initial roll-call was then made by the Scribe and the churches present responded merely with the word "here." Fourteen of the twenty persons and churches invited having been present and the letter missive having asserted that "these churches and ministers present shall constitute a quorum," it was determined that a quorum was present.

The temporary moderator then called for nominations for a permanent Moderator of the Council. Dr. Herman F. Swartz was nominated; it was moved, seconded and ordered that the nominations be closed, and Dr. Swartz was elected. Immediately upon his election, the Moderator of the Council took the chair and constituted the council by offering prayer. He then suggested that a permanent Scribe be chosen, and it was moved, seconded, and carried that the temporary Scribe should continue in that capacity. Although it is thereupon customary to take a permanent roll of the voting members of the Council, it was decided that, because of the extreme brevity of the time allotted by the visiting hours at Tanforan Assembly Center, each person and church should present to the Scribe his or its credentials containing the names of pastors and delegates of the invited churches. Following is the list of those voting members who were present and who gave evidence of that fact by presenting their credentials to the Scribe:

Church	Pastor	Delegate
First Congregational Church, San Mateo:	(Absent: Represented by Mrs. Sidney Buckham)	Miss Marcia LaGrave
First Congregational Church, San Carlos:	Rev. H. J. Loken	
First Congregational Church, Campbell:	Rev. J. H. Bennett	
First Congregational Church, San Jose:	(Absent: Represented by Rev. Jeannette O. Ferris)	Miss Jean Thoits
First Congregational Church, San Francisco:	Rev. J. N. Pierce	Dr. E. David Akers
Ocean View Congregational Church, San Francisco:	Eugene Sill	William E. Kidd
Grace United Church, San Francisco:	Rev. Donald F. Gaylord	Carol Gaylord
First Congregational Church, Berkeley:	(Absent: Represented by Rev. Edward Reighard)	Mrs. Herman Swartz
North Congregational Church, Berkeley:	Dr. Pierson Parker	Harry Fowden
First Congregational Church, Oakland:	Dr. Clarence Reidenbach	Mrs. Clarence Reidenbach
Japanese Methodist Church, Oakland:	(Absent)	

Church	Pastor	Delegate
Japanese United Church, Berkeley:	(Absent)	
Japanese Free Methodist Church, Berkeley:	(Responded to the first roll-call but presented no credentials or names of delegates to the Scribe)	
Japanese Federated Church, San Francisco:	(Absent)	

Persons invited:

Professor James Maillenburg (Present)

Professor George T. Tolson (Absent)

Professor G. C. McCown (Absent)

Reverend Holland F. Burr (Present)

Reverend William Meyer (Came in after the first roll-call)

Reverend Herman F. Swartz (Present)

No further roll-call having been made, the two churches extending the call for the council were asked to report upon the action taken preparatory to the convening of that examining body. Acting clerk, Miss Dorothea Darch, in behalf of Miss Alice Osborne, clerk of Plymouth Church, presented the report concerning Mr. Wakai. Having read an account of the action taken by that Church in calling the Council, Miss Darch reported that Mr. Wakai is a member of Plymouth Church in good standing. The letter of the Conference Committee on Ministerial Standing was then read by Miss Darch, the communication testifying that the candidate had appeared before the committee and had been recommended for ordination proceedings. The report having been completed, the Moderator affirmed that the usual procedure of presenting evidence of the action of a church in calling the candidate as pastor was not appropriate under the circumstances.

Then the delegate from the Independent Japanese Church presented similar evidence in regard to Mr. Aki, who is a member of that church in good standing. Having presented the letter indicating that the Independent Japanese Church had voted on April 19, 1942 to call an ecclesiastical council to ordain Mr. Aki, the delegate from that church read the communication from the Conference Committee on Ministerial Standing that it had examined Mr. Aki and, finding the examination satisfactory, recommended that the council be called. The Moderator then extensively questioned the delegate from the Independent Japanese Church in regard to Mr. Aki's present function at Tanforan, asking whether or not the candidate held a pastoral relationship to the Japanese Church. It was determined that he does serve in a pastoral relationship to this church which has now been moved from Oakland to Tanforan. There being no further questioning, it was moved and passed that the reports from both churches be deemed satisfactory.

The council having then voted to hear both candidates before examining either of them orally, the Moderator of the Council called upon Mr. Wakai to present evidence of his educational qualifications and previous religious services. The credentials presented by the candidate included a diploma conferring upon him the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Hawaii and another conferring the degree of Bachelor of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion. Mr. Wakai then gave to the Moderator evidence of his religious services. No questions having been asked, it was moved and voted that the credentials of the candidate be accepted as satisfactory.

The candidate was subsequently asked to present a paper covering an account of his own religious life and experience, a discussion of his reasons for entering the ministry, and the statement of his Christian faith.

Mr. Wakai's paper having been read, the second candidate, Mr. Aki, was requested to present his credentials. Although the recent restriction of Japanese from the Fresno area had made it impossible for him to procure a diploma or other evidence of the fact, the candidate affirmed that he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Fresno State College. He presented a diploma from the Pacific School of Religion, where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree. As evidence of his previous religious experience, Mr. Aki offered the letter which affirmed his licentiate from the Bay Association of Congregational Churches. There being no questions asked, the Council voted that these credentials be approved as sufficient. The Moderator then called upon the candidate to present his paper covering his religious experiences, his reasons for entering the ministry, and statements of his Christian beliefs.

The two papers having been completed, the period of oral examination was begun. Rev. Robert Inglis urged that the discussion be limited to seventeen minutes, due to the lateness of the hour and the time-limit placed by the military authorities. Hence the Moderator ordered that the questions be brief. During this period, Dr. Reidenbach commended Mr. Wakai on the excellence of the sermon which he submitted to the Committee. The Moderator then asked the candidate to outline the sermon; it was written upon the problem of suffering. The Moderator then put the first and only question to the candidates, asking whether there is a chance for progress in ministering among the Japanese in America. Mr. Aki answered the question, having asserted that there had been little progress thus far among the Japanese at Tanforan. When the Moderator put the question in another way, however, Mr. Aki suggested that he saw hope for the long-run Christian ministering to the people of his race. Rev. Holland Burr then offered a word of appreciation to the two candidates and particularly to the Pacific School of Religion for so excellently training them. Mr. Burr concluded these remarks with a motion that the council be by itself. The motion was carried, and it having been determined that the council constituted a minority of those present, the voting members retired to an adjacent room.

When the council was by itself, it was suggested that, because of the extreme limitation of time, the customary roll-call vote, in which each minister and delegate votes individually, be omitted. Thereupon it was moved and passed that the examination be called satisfactory. Without discussion, the motion was carried unanimously, with a comment from the Moderator that the vote showed high approval of the two men. The committee for conducting the ordination service was then appointed, Rev. Robert Inglis and the two candidates being named to the position. After it had been decided that the time did not permit the bringing of the candidates into the room and informing them publicly of the council's action, a vote was passed which named the Moderator and the Scribe as a committee to complete the minutes and to file a copy with the candidates, the churches which called the council, the registrar of the local Association, and the registrar of the State Conference. The motion was then made and carried that adjournment be taken at the close of the ordination service.

Following is the program as prepared by the Committee for the ordination service:

Piano Prelude

Moderator's Announcements to the Candidates of the Council's Decision, and his announcement of the outline of the ordination service.

Japanese A Cappella Choir: "A Mighty Fortress is our God" (Luther)

Invocation - Rev. Norio Ozaki (Rev. Norio Ozaki)

Scripture - Rev. Holland Burr

Japanese A Cappella Choir - "Cherubims' Song"

Sermon - Rev. Clarence Reidenbach

Prayer - Professor James Hallenborg

Vocal Solo - "The Lord's Prayer" (Mallotte) sung by Lloyd Hansen, 3rd Class
Petty Officer, U. S. Navy

Charge to the Candidate - Rev. Pierson Parker

Charge to the Christians at Tanforan - (Rev. Donald Gaylord
(Mr. Nishimura

Right Hand of Fellowship - Rev. Robert Inglis

Prayer - Rev. George Aki

Benediction - Rev. Masayoshi Wakai

The meeting was automatically adjourned with the pronouncement of the
Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Eugene Sill,

Scribe.