

## 1904 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[There is no list of officers for 1904]

6 January (pp. 87-88) -- Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report for 1903 and noted that all was in order for that year. The council elected officers for 1904. Christian F. Gennerich thanked the council for his reelection as chair, and Pr. Koepchen welcomed the new members. The chair reported that the board of trustees had met the previous evening and reelected him president of the congregation. They also reelected Johann Jaegeler and Charles Krumweide to their respective offices as secretary and treasurer. Further, the \$2,000 bond for the treasurer had been submitted. The secretary and treasurer had taken over the task of renting pew seats for the year. There followed the election for committees. The council then scheduled the regular congregational meeting for 18 January; the congregation would be notified by postcard. They also decided to print 1,500 copies of the annual report to distribute to the members. [See *Altes und Neues* attached to p. 91.] The pastor was asked to purchase a card index case to be paid for from the congregational account. Koepchen offered to give a slide lecture. [No further details about this lecture.]

18 January (p. 89) – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the secretary read his report from 1903. Pr. Koepchen then gave his annual report. [See *Altes und Neues* attached to p. 91]. The Sunday School superintendent, the treasurer of the Missions Committee, and the Support Committee also gave reports. Pr. Koepchen reported on the *Altenheim* in East New York and the chair on Bethlehem Orphanage. [No details about the reports given.] There followed elections to various committees.

3 February (p. 90) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen relayed Superintendent Andrew Bush's request for two English-speaking committee members for the Sunday School. The pastor and several others will suggest candidates. [This section is unclear.] The treasurer announced that the church had collected \$234 and the Sunday School \$55 to help pay off the debt of the Progymnasium [predecessor of Concordia, Bronxville]. Finally, the council discussed fees for weddings and celebrations for non-members [no further details recorded].

[*Altes und Neues* attached to p. 91.]

2 March (p. 91) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided that the examination of the confirmands would be on Judica Sunday [the Sunday before Palm Sunday] and that confirmation would take place on Palm Sunday in the morning. The young people would conduct the sermon at the evening service.

13 April (p. 92) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The council decided to recommend to the congregational meeting on April 18 that the church be closed for two weeks in August to undertake necessary repairs. They approved Pr. Koepchen's request to attend the Synod Assembly in Buffalo during the

first week in May. Herr Bush offered to read the sermon at the morning service during Pr. Koepchen's absence and suggested cancelling the evening English service. He also asked that the pastor's expenses be paid from the church account. In addition, he suggested celebrating the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday in May instead of on the first. Pr. Koepchen offered to give two slide lectures in the spring. The council accepted this offer with thanks.

18 April (p. 93) – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced that he and three elders had formed a nominating committee that proposed Herr Muhler [sic] for Sunday School superintendent. Herr Muhler was elected unanimously. The congregation agreed to close the church during the first two weeks in August and commissioned the Repair Committee to employ someone to complete the necessary work during that period. The meeting then granted the pastor's request to have that time off to travel west. The congregation approved a request from the Lutheran Hospital in East New York to hold its meeting at St. Luke's from 12 to 8 [no other details given]. Henry W. Schmidt announced that the annual boat trip would take place on June 22 and that the steamer, *General Slocum*, had been leased. He hoped that all would support and take part in the trip. Herr Bush reported that he and two other elders had audited the financial books and all was in order.

5 May (p. 94) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to cancel the evening service and the afternoon Sunday School from the second Sunday in June to the second Sunday in September due to hot weather. The chair also reported that Pr. Hen, from Denver, CO, would give a lecture on Tuesday, May 17, and a reading nearby. After covering costs, the collection from that evening would go to defraying Pr. Hen's travel expenses. The council decided to cancel worship services on the first two Sundays in August to conduct necessary repairs and to allow the pastor free time.

1 June (p. 95) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Schmidt made an extensive report on preparations for the annual boat trip and invited all to attend. The chair reported that Bethlehem Orphanage's festival on Decoration Day was well attended and yielded a good collection.

16 June (p. 96) – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL called because of the sinking and loss of life on the *General Slocum* [June 15, 1904. Over 1,000 people, primarily women and children, died. Many of the passengers were members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church on the Lower East Side (a.k.a. *Kleindeutschland*)]. The council decided to cancel the 1904 boat trip. Pr. Koepchen and others were to write letters of condolence to the members of St. Mark's.)

6 July (p. 97) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the pastor had sent a letter of condolence to St. Mark's and that \$250 had been given to that congregation from the church, the Sunday School, and the Ladies Aid Society. Finally, the council decided to cancel its meeting in August because of the heat.

[No regular Church Council meeting in August 1904.]

28 August (pp. 98-99) – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Bush substituted for Herr Gennerich as chair. The purpose of the meeting was to announce the death of Herr Gennerich's wife and to plan to attend the funeral service and burial. They also agreed to send a floral arrangement costing \$20. The pastor and the secretary were tasked with preparing a letter of condolence to his family. [A copy of the letter is included in the minutes.]

30 August (pp. 100-101) – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Bush presided in place of Herr Gennerich. The purpose of the meeting was to announce the death of Johann H. Tietjen and to ask council members to attend his funeral. They also agreed to send a floral arrangement costing \$20. The pastor and the secretary were tasked with preparing a letter of condolence to his family. [A copy of the letter is included in the minutes.]

7 September (p. 102) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Bush substituted for Herr Gennerich as chair. The council had received letters from the families of Herr Gennerich and Herr Tietjen, and the secretary was instructed to place them in the files. Pr. Koepchen reported that he had not been able to recover the \$50 deposit from the *General Slocum* because the company went bankrupt. The council decided to hold a Missions Festival on the second Sunday in October (morning in German; evening in English). The collection would go to the missions account. Herr Wittpenn reported that the windows and carpet had been cleaned and that linoleum had been placed around the organ [unclear]. The council decided to hold the next quarterly congregational meeting on September 19.

19 September (p. 103) – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the voters agreed to hold the Missions Festival as outlined in the last council meeting. The pastor would seek a guest preacher for both services that day. The chair notified the congregation that Bethlehem Orphanage was in financial need, and the congregation decided to hold a special worship service on November 13 to raise money for the institution. The pastor, along with the delegates to the orphanage, would prepare a flyer to advertise the event. Pr. Koepchen gave a long report on the Day School. The School Committee was instructed to consult with Herr Lübkert [the teacher] and to report at the next congregational meeting about the money [that had not yet been returned by him (?). This matter seems to have something to do with the fact that Herr Lübkert had been absent without excuse and may have been overpaid.] The congregation approved the request of the New York and New England Conference to hold its next meeting at St. Luke's. The pastor further reported that the Sunday schools (German and English), the Saturday School, and the Confirmation Class have made a good start. There were some 60 students in the Confirmation Class and 90 in the Sunday School. He also announced that another issue of *Altes und Neues* would be published in October.

- 12 October (p. 104) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. Friedrich Maute, treasurer of the Missions Committee, reported that the Missions Festival on October 9 had yielded \$80.24.
- 2 November (p. 105) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced the formation of a nominating committee to fill vacancies for church offices in 1905. The committee was to meet at the pastor's house to form a list of possible candidates. The council decided to hold special worship services on November 13 for the benefit of Bethlehem Orphanage (morning in German; evening in English).
- 7 December (pp. 106-107) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the School Committee reported that they had given the treasurer \$10.48 as surplus for November [reason unclear]. Pr. Koepchen reported that the confirmation class had some 75–80 students who expected to be confirmed on Palm Sunday. He also noted that the German Saturday School was well attended. The council decided to hold the next congregational meeting on December 27 and to notify the congregation by postcard. The council then elected the final slate of candidates for upcoming vacancies.
- 27 December (p. 107) – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced the death of Herr Bush the previous day. The council decided to participate in his funeral and to task the secretary with preparing a letter of condolence [a copy of the letter included in the minutes]. They also agreed to purchase a floral arrangement for the funeral and to serve as pallbearers. Finally, they agreed to provide five carriages for the funeral procession.
- 27 December (pp. 108-109) – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced the passing of Herr Bush and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence. The chair then set out the twofold purposes for the meeting: to rent pew seats for 1905 and to elect officers for three-year terms. The meeting decided to donate the collection from January 1, 1905 to the Lutheran Hospital. The chair announced that the collection for Bethlehem Orphanage had yielded \$616.26, minus expenses of \$28.25. Herr Schmidt gave a long report about the Day School. [no details] The chair then announced that the next church council meeting would be on the second, not the first, Wednesday in January. The annual congregational meeting would be on January 16. The congregation would be notified by postcard and by announcements from the pulpit. Elections for officers followed. Finally, Herren H. Hundermann and Gustav Schultz were welcomed as new members.