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Levi Pennington

People

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### Pennington to Friends on 2 Dec. 1959

Levi T. Pennington

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LEVI T. PENNINGTON  
1000 SHERIDAN STREET  
NEWBERG, OREGON

December 2, 1959

To the Members of Newberg Monthly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight.

Dear Friends:--

Though no approval was expressed last evening of my suggestion that I get to each of you a copy of the proposed constitution of the Yamhill County Council of Churches, I am venturing to do it, so that we may know more definitely what we are to act on when the matter comes up at our next meeting, after such a long delay.

The need for wider cooperation in the support of the religious work for Eola Village, the migrant workers quarters near Dayton, was one of the things that emphasized the need for a united church organization for the county, but there were other incentives that brought together representative groups of ministers and laymen in three meetings held to consider this county-wide organization.

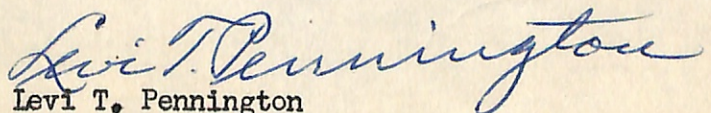
The first of these was held May 26 of this year, and after thorough discussion it was decided to appoint a committee to draw up a proposed constitution for consideration at a future meeting. This committee was appointed, and after careful consideration, at a meeting held July 26, a proposed constitution was prepared, to be presented to a meeting to be called later for its consideration and for further discussion as to the advisability of organizing this county council.

A copy of this proposed constitution was supposedly sent to every Protestant church in the county by the committee. One paragraph of the covering letter says..."The committee feels that this constitution carefully guards both the 'evangelical principle' and the 'representative principle' required by some denominations as conditions to such inter-denomination cooperation. In other words, membership is open only to congregations confessing faith in Jesus Christ as divine Lord and Savior, and membership is denied associations and individuals who represent only themselves, or at most organizations which are less than churches."

The last meeting held thus far occurred October 4, at which the proposed constitution was thoroughly discussed, and approved with only minor changes. And now the organization will be formed if a sufficient number of individual congregations unite to make it a real united Christian force in the county.

Enclosed is a copy of this proposed constitution, which of course will be passed upon by the entire organization if this organization is effected.

Sincerely your friend,

  
Levi T. Pennington

Enclosure



# PROPOSED CONSTITUTION--YAMHILL COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## PREAMBLE

In the Providence of God, the time has come when it seems fitting more fully to manifest the oneness of the Christian Churches of Yamhill County, Oregon, in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Savior, by the creation of an inclusive cooperative agency.

## ARTICLE ONE --NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Yamhill County Council of Churches.

## ARTICLE TWO--OBJECTS

1. To cooperate in works of serving love through which the faith of Christians finds expression.
2. To study the religious needs of the communities and devise plans through which these needs may be met.

## ARTICLE THREE--MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the Council is open to congregations which declare their acceptance of the objects and purposes of the Council as stated in the Preamble and in the constitution's article on "Objects".
2. These congregations shall be represented by the pastor, the Sunday School Superintendent, the director of religious education, a layman and a laywoman and a youth office, plus one additional representative for each 100 members or major portion thereof, to be elected by each church.
3. Officers of the council and chairmen of its committees and departments shall be chosen from among these representatives.

## ARTICLE FOUR--OFFICERS

The officers shall be a president, two vice-presidents (one of whom shall be a woman) a secretary, a treasurer. These officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices, and shall serve until their successors are elected.

## ARTICLE FIVE--MEETINGS

The Council shall call an annual meeting, the date and place to be determined by the executive Committee. This meeting shall be for the purpose of:

1. Elect officers.
  2. Review reports.
  3. Adopt plans and policies for the coming year.
  4. Transact such other business as may be in the interest of the Council.
- Special meetings may be called by the executive Committee. Members representing one-third of the member congregations shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE SIX--PRINCIPLES & POLICIES

1. The Council shall exist as a voluntary association, without mandatory power in relation to the bodies choosing to make use of it as a channel of counsel and of joint Christian expression.
2. The complete autonomy and corporate integrity of each Communion shall be mutually respected and safeguarded in all relations involving interdenominational fellowships & activities.
3. The council will respect the right of the individual congregations to choose the areas of the council's work in which they wish to cooperate.

## ARTICLE SEVEN--EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive committee shall be composed of the officers of the Council, the chairman of each standing committee, the chairman of the Youth Council and one representative of each denomination in the membership. The Executive Committee shall act as the Council in the interim between meetings and shall report through the secretary at the annual meeting. Matters of major importance however, should be acted upon by a called meeting of the entire council. The Executive Committee shall recommend to the vouncil for action whatever program it deems necessary for the communities, as well as the proposed budgets. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly, and at other times by special call from the president of the Council or the written request of at least five members of the Council. Temporary committees may be named as needed.

#### ARTICLE EIGHT--FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall be composed of representatives of all member denominations and the treasurer. The duties of the committee shall be:

1. To draft a "core Budget" for the normal administrative expenses of the council.
2. To draft a "Project Budget" for each special activity of the council or of its units, and to direct the campaigns to raise necessary funds.
3. To provide for proper auditing of the books of the treasurer.

#### ARTICLE NINE--NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A nominating committee, consisting of a chairman and four others, elected by the Executive Committee at its first meeting of the year, shall nominate all officers, standing committee and chairmen, and all other officers. This committee shall also nominate candidates for offices vacated during the year. The nominations of the committee are not final, and additional nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting.

#### ARTICLE TEN--PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As many program committees as are necessary may be named, such as Christian Education, Evangelism, Social Action, Youth Work, Overseas Relief, Migrant Work, Radio and TV, Public Relations, Special Events, Institutions, etc.

#### ARTICLE ELEVEN--AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a majority vote of the members present, provided that written notice of the amendment shall have been given to all members one month in advance.

#### ARTICLE TWELVE--BY-LAWS

The Council may adopt such By-Laws as it deems proper, provided they are not in conflict with the constitution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Constitution Committee, proposed Yamhill  
County Council of Churches

The Rev. Thomas L. Auer  
Trinity Lutheran Church (ULCA)  
McMinnville, Oregon

The Rev. Gerald Emerson  
First Presbyterian Church  
Newberg, Oregon

Mrs. H. A. Taylor, Pres.  
McMinnville United Church Women