

submit to the jurisdiction of said General Conference, but hereby declare ourselves separate and independent of it — Still claiming to be, notwithstanding, an integral part of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This resolution was passed by the following vote,  
 Ayes 87      No 1      Declined to vote 11.

Soon after the adjournment of the Baltimore Conference at Staunton in March 1861 — the unhappy Civil War broke out, and was in existence in March 1862, the time for the Baltimore to meet again.

But the great body of the Ministers were in Virginia and unable to attend the place (Baltimore City) of its sitting. Most of the minority however, (that is the forty — one declining to vote) were not so unfortunately situated — and hence this minority — notwithstanding the action had at Staunton Va. did meet in the Light Street Church, under the jurisdiction of the General Conference, and under the discipline of 1860 with the new Chapter therein.

It followed therefore, as a matter of course, that a large proportion of the membership in this City, and some of the Preachers, in very self respect and in consonance with their doings at Staunton, were obliged to seek other places of "Worship, and to organize the Church for the mutual benefit until such time as the genuine Baltimore Conference could come together, and take charge of us.

In the declaration which we adopted at our outset, a copy of which we enclose your Excellency, we distinctly and emphatically announced that we were influenced by no political consideration whatever

It occurs to us therefore, that your Excellency will thus perceive that as a Christian Congregation, we were entitled to the great and inestimable privilege of "Worshipping God, upon the same terms and conditions as all other religious Assemblies of this City and State.

So believing we secured in March 1862, two places for Public Worship — the "New Assembly Rooms" and "Biddle Street, — Whateworth (another appointment) had been a preaching place and under the Baltimore Conference since March 1860 — but joined our organization in March 1862, for the reason that they would not submit to the new Chapter.

We come now to say to your Excellency, that since March 1862 up to the 15<sup>th</sup> February last, we have been conducting our public exercises to very large and respectable Congregations, and free from any interruption whatever, and as we fondly hope and sincerely believe, exerting an influence, creditable to Society and the peace and welfare of this Community.

Nor did it ever for one moment occur to us that without any cause whatever, Military Authority would be exercised to forbid us the right to worship our Maker. We were however disappointed, and lamentable, as it is for the age in which we live, such has actually taken place. We ask the attention of your Excellency to a copy of the order from Major Fish Provost Marshal, to the Agent of the New Assembly Rooms, and also the order to the Trustees of the Central M.E. Church and to the reply of our recording Steward and action of the official body in which the subject is fully reviewed — all herewith enclosed.