American Missionary Association:

No. 53 JOHN STREET.

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New York, Aug. 8th 1868

Mr. Jno. O. Stevenson
Rice Lake, Dodge Co. Minn.

Dear Brother,

It gives me pleasure to reply to your inquiries under date of Aug. 1.

Your first step will be to take measures to secure the calling of a council. For this purpose you must ~~secure~~ obtain the help of the nearest, judicious Congregational Minister. If he should be persuaded of the wisdom of the movement, he can, in connection with his Church, call a council.

Your examination will not probably be severe. The council may, if it pleases, be quite exacting, requiring you to pass examination in the sciences

the languages, theology &c, But in view of the work you propose to do, it will most likely be satisfied with a full account of your religious experience, with your knowledge of the common branches of an English education, your practical acquaintance with the Scriptures and the doctrines of grace. It will also desire some proof of your "aptness to teach" and may require you to produce an outline of a sermon, and perhaps to ~~preach~~ address a popular audience in its hearing. But all these particulars, which vary somewhat with the views of ministers in different localities, you will best learn on consulting with the ministerial brother with whom you ~~to~~ confer in reference to the Calling of the Council.

With Christian regards,

Yours truly

M. E. Strieby.