

# Free Methodist Historical Collection

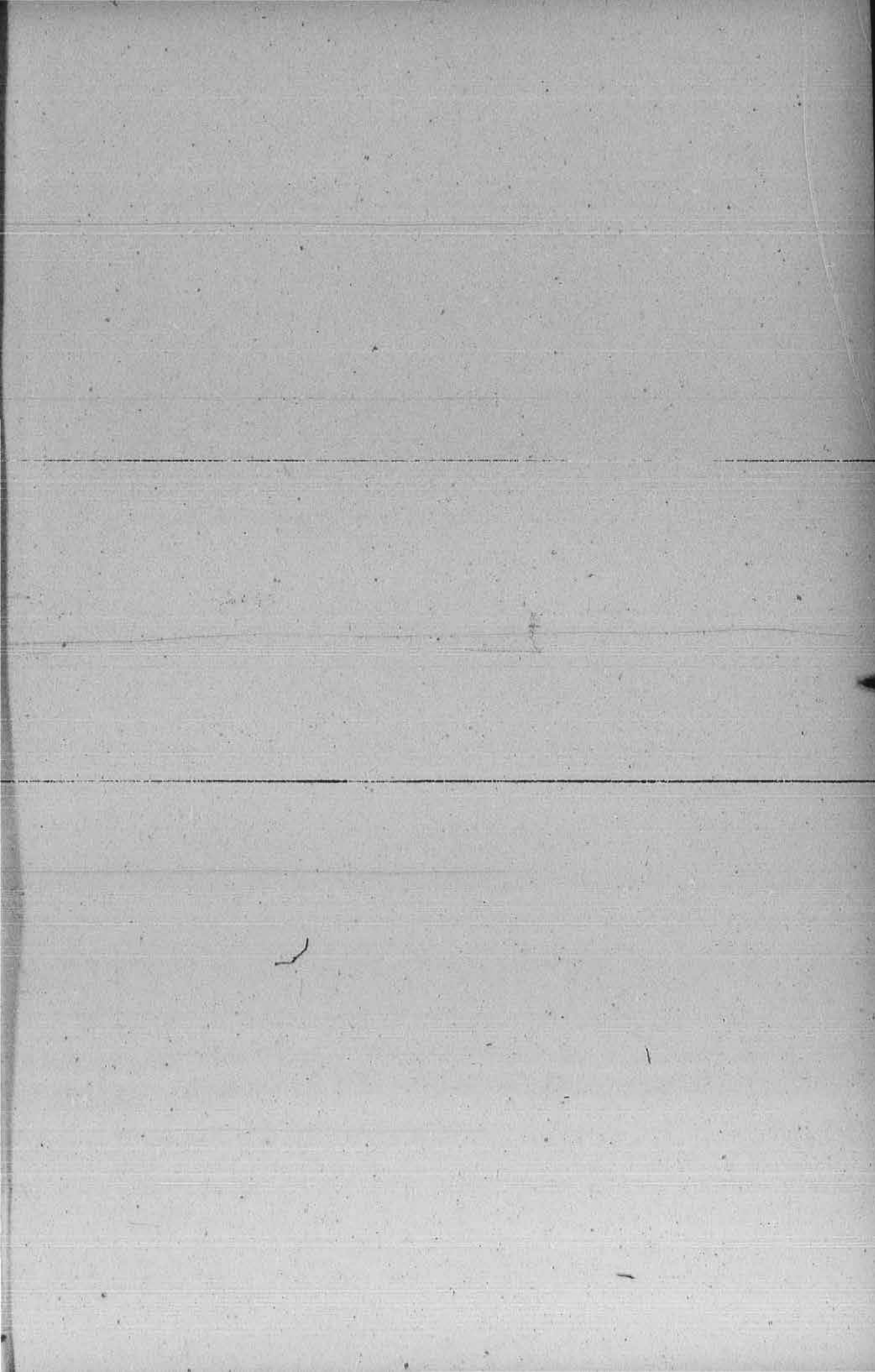


The historic FREE METHODIST CHURCH of Albion, N. Y.  
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**DOCTRINES**

**AND**

**DISCIPLINE**

**OF THE**

**FREE METHODIST**

**CHURCH**

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*"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all  
the flock.—ACTS XX: 28*

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CHICAGO, ILL.  
FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
1915

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# The Free Methodist Church

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## ORIGIN AND CHARACTER

¶ 1. Dearly Beloved: We think it expedient to give you a brief account of the origin and character of Free Methodism.

Wesley says: "In the year 1729 two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness; they followed after it and incited others to do so. In 1737, they saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was their object. God thrust them out to raise up a holy people."

¶ 2. Methodism spread through England and America, and in other countries. From time to time different bodies arose bearing the Methodist name. As they became popular there was more or less departure from the original principles and practise of Methodism.

¶ 3. In the Genesee conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, about the year 1858, several preachers and many members were excluded from the church on various charges and allegations, but really for their adherence to the principles of Methodism; especially to the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification.

¶ 4. Appeals were made to the general conference, which were denied. Those excluded could not join any other Methodist body, for there was none that agreed with them on the issues on which they were

thrust out. Therefore they felt compelled to form a new organization.

¶ 5. The Free Methodist church was organized by a convention of lay members and ministers, which met at Pekin, Niagara county, New York, on the 23d day of August, 1860. The first general conference met on the second Wednesday of October, 1862, at St. Charles, Illinois.

¶ 6. The Free Methodists are a body of Christians who profess to be in earnest to get to heaven, by conforming to all the will of God, as made known in his word. They do not believe that either God or the Bible has changed to accommodate the fashionable tendencies of the age. They solemnly protest against the union of the Church and the world. The conditions of salvation, as they teach, are the same now that they were eighteen hundred years ago. He who would be a Christian in reality, as well as in name, must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Jesus. He must come out from the world and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing.

¶ 7. In doctrine they are Methodists. They believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, in a general atonement, in the necessity of the new birth, in the witness of the Spirit, and in future rewards and punishments. They insist that it is the duty and privilege of every believer to be sanctified wholly, and to be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every one who is received into full connection, either professes to enjoy that perfect love which casts out fear, or promises diligently to seek until he obtains it.

¶ 8. They look upon practical godliness as the never failing result of a genuine religious experience. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Hence they insist that those who profess to be the disciples of Christ should come out from unbelievers and be separate, abstaining from connection with all secret societies,



renouncing all vain pomp and glory, adorning themselves with modest apparel, and not with gold, or pearls, or costly array. We have no right to abolish any of the requirements made by Christ and the apostles; or to make obedience to them a matter of small consequence. The golden rule, they hold, applies equally to all mankind.

¶ 9. The government is not aristocratic, but the members have an equal voice with the ministers in all the councils of the church, except that, in addition to the regularly elected ministerial representatives in the general conference, the bishops are *ex officio* members of that body. Both the annual and the general conferences are composed of as many lay as ministerial delegates, who have an equal voice and vote in all the proceedings. The stationing committee, by which the appointments are made, is composed of the district elders and an equal number of lay members chosen for that purpose. The official boards are selected by the members of circuits, and not appointed by the preachers. They have district elders, who may be appointed to circuits the same as the rest of the preachers. They have bishops elected once in four years, whose duty it is to preside at the annual conferences, and travel through the connection at large. The rights of the members are carefully guarded.

¶ 10. They endeavor to promote spirituality and simplicity in worship. Congregational singing is universal, and performances upon musical instruments and singing by choirs in public worship are prohibited. They believe in the Holy Ghost. If men are really converted and sanctified, it is through the Spirit of God. When he works there is a stir. As President Edwards says, "Eternal things are so great, and of such vast concern that there is great absurdity in men being but moderately moved and affected by them." "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."



The Free Methodists, while they do not believe in any mere formal noise, yet, when the Spirit comes, like "a rushing mighty wind," as on the day of Pentecost, do not dare to oppose the manifestations of his presence. As Edwards says, "Whenever there is any considerable degree of the Spirit's influence upon a mixed multitude, it will produce, in some way, a great visible commotion." To resist his operations is to hinder the work of God.

¶ 11. They do not believe in resorting to worldly policy to sustain the gospel. Christ has said that whosoever giveth a cup of cold water in his name shall in no wise lose his reward. But it is the motive, and not the amount done, that secures the divine approbation. There is no more virtue in giving to the cause of God for carnal pleasure than there is in any other purely selfish action. Hence they give no countenance to modern expedients for promoting Christianity, such as selling or renting pews, lotteries, fairs, sales, or other like expedients for raising money. To say that the Church cannot be sustained without these contrivances to beguile the world into its support is to confess that professing Christians are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." It is to pronounce Christianity a failure. The gospel possesses an inherent power that will not only sustain itself, but make its way through all opposition, wherever its advocates live up to its requirements and rely upon its promises.

¶ 12. They believe the Church of Christ is a soul-saving institution of divine origin for holy purposes, therefore they prohibit festivals and donation parties, such as include anything in the line of entertainments contrary to the spirit and letter of our Discipline, and all other forms of worldly amusements in their church buildings or by their church organizations.

¶ 13. All their churches are required to be as free

as the grace they preach. They believe that their mission is twofold—to maintain the Bible standard of Christianity, and to preach the gospel to the poor. Hence they require that all seats in their houses of worship shall be free. No pews can be rented or sold among them. The world will never be converted to Christ so long as the churches are conducted upon the exclusive system. It has always been contrary to the economy of the Christian Church to build houses of worship with pews to rent. But the spirit of the world has encroached, by little and little, until, in many parts of the United States, not a single free church can be found in any of the cities or larger villages. The pew system prevails among nearly all denominations. They are thoroughly convinced that this system is wrong in principle and bad in tendency. It is a corruption of Christianity. Free churches are essential to reach the masses. The provisions of the gospel are for all. The “glad tidings” must be proclaimed to every individual of the human race. God sends the true light to illuminate and melt every heart. To savage and civilized, bond and free, black and white, the ignorant and the learned, is freely offered the great salvation.

But for whose benefit are special efforts to be put forth? Who must be particularly cared for? Jesus settles this question. “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up,” and, as if all this would be insufficient to satisfy John of the validity of his claims, he adds, “and the poor have the gospel preached to them.” This was the crowning proof that he was the One that should come. In this respect the Church must follow in the footsteps of Jesus. She must see to it that the gospel is preached to the poor. Thus this duty is enjoined by the plainest precepts and examples.—If the gospel is



to be preached to all, then it follows, as a necessary consequence, that all the arrangements for preaching the gospel should be so made as to secure this object. If it be said that seats would be freely given to those who are unable to pay for them, they answer that this does not meet the case. Few are willing, so long as they are able to appear at church, to be publicly treated as paupers.

¶ 14. You will find in this book the doctrines and form of government of the Free Methodist church as adopted by the general conference.

We do not wish any to subscribe to it unless they believe it will be for the glory of God and the good of their souls. We have no desire to build up simply a large church; but we do hope that our societies will be composed, exclusively, of those who are in earnest to gain heaven, and who are determined, by the grace of God, to live up to the requirements of the Bible.

It is of the greatest importance that those who come into this organization shall be of one heart and one mind.

**PART I**  
**THE CONSTITUTION**



## **DIVISIONS**

- I. ARTICLES OF RELIGION**
- II. GENERAL RULES**
- III. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND  
GOVERNMENT**

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

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## **PREAMBLE**

¶ 15. In order that we may wisely preserve the heritage transmitted to us, and also that we may prepare the way for more effective cooperation with other branches of the church of Christ in all that makes for the advancement of God's kingdom among men, we, the ministers and lay members of the Free Methodist Church of North America, in accordance with methods of constitutional legislation established among us, do hereby ordain, establish, and set forth as the fundamental law, or constitution, of the Free Methodist Church of North America, the articles of religion, the general rules, and the articles of organization and government, here following, to wit:

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## **DIVISION I**

### **ARTICLES OF RELIGION**

#### *I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity*

¶ 16. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this

Godhead there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. *Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man*

¶ 17. The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed virgin, so that the two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for the original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men.

III. *Of the Resurrection of Christ*

¶ 18. Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he returns to judge all men at the last day.

IV. *Of the Holy Ghost*

¶ 19. The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. *The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation*

¶ 20. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary



to salvation. By the term Holy Scriptures we understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testaments of whose authority there was never any doubt in the Church.

The names of the canonical books are: Genests, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the First Book of Samuel, the Second Book of Samuel, the First Book of Kings, the Second Book of Kings, the First Book of Chronicles, the Second Book of Chronicles, the Book of Ezra, the Book of Nehemiah, the Book of Esther, the Book of Job, the Psalms, the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher, Canticles, or the Song of Solomon, Four Prophets the greater, Twelve Prophets the less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

## VI. *Of the Old Testament*

¶ 21. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for in both the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof, of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from obedience to the commandments which are called moral.

## VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin*

¶ 22. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, as the Pelagians do vainly talk, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man that

naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil and that continually.

### VIII. *Of Free Will*

¶ 23. The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself by his own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasing and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ enabling us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

### IX. *Of the Justification of Man*

¶ 24. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings; wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

### X. *Of Good Works*

¶ 25. Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins and endure the severity of God's judgments, yet they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

### XI. *Of Works of Supererogation*

¶ 26. Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they



do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly, "When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants."

## XII. *Of Sin after Justification*

¶ 27. Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and by the grace of God rise again and amend our lives. Therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or who deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

## XIII. *Entire Sanctification*

¶ 28. Justified persons, while they do not outwardly commit sin, are nevertheless conscious of sin still remaining in the heart. They feel a natural tendency to evil, a proneness to depart from God and cleave to the things of earth. Those who are sanctified wholly are saved from all inward sin—from <sup>harboring</sup> evil thoughts and evil tempers. No wrong temper, none contrary to love remains in the soul. All their thoughts, words and actions are governed by pure love.

Entire sanctification takes place subsequently to justification, and is the work of God wrought instantaneously upon the consecrated, believing soul. After a soul is cleansed from all sin, it is then fully prepared to grow in grace.

## XIV. *Future Reward and Punishment*

¶ 29. God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, ac-



according to the gospel. The righteous shall have in heaven an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

XV. *Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People Understand*

¶ 30. It is a thing plainly repugnant to the word of God and the custom of the primitive Church, to have public prayer in the Church or to minister the sacrament in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Church*

¶ 31. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of pure men, in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments are duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XVII. *Of the Sacraments*

¶ 32. Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but also they are certain signs of grace, and of God's good will toward us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken but also strengthen and confirm our faith in him.

XVIII. *Of Baptism*

¶ 33. Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference, whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the church.

XIX. *Of the Lord's Supper*

¶ 34. The Supper of the Lord is not merely a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death, insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by holy writ, but it is repugnant to the plain word of the Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner; and the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper, is faith. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

XX. *Of the One Oblation of Christ, Finished upon the Cross*

¶ 35. The offering of Christ, once made, is a perfect redemption, propitiation and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of the masses, in the which it is said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous and dangerous deceit.

XXI. *Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches*

¶ 36. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for

they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's word. Whosoever through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the church, and woundeth the consciences of the weak brethren. Every particular church may ordain, change or abolish rites and ceremonies so that all things may be done to edification.

#### XXII. *Of Christian Men's Goods*

¶ 37. The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor according to his ability.

#### XXIII. *Of a Christian Man's Oath*

¶ 38. As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ, and James the apostle; so we hold that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth in a case of faith and charity, so it be done according to the prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment and truth.

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NOTE: This article shall not deprive of membership in our church those who have conscientious scruples against taking an oath.



## DIVISION II

### GENERAL RULES

#### **Nature, Design and General Rules of Our United Societies\***

¶ 39. In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together, which, thenceforward, they did every week, namely, on Thursday, in the evening. For these and as many more as desired to join with them, for their number increased daily, he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them, and they always concluded their meetings with prayer suited to their several necessities.

¶ 40. This was the rise of the "United Society,"

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\* The United Societies, founded in the United States by the Apostolic Asbury, were organized into the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. The terms "society" and "societies" have always been retained in the Methodist Discipline, however, being used in the sense of church and churches. These terms have also always been used with the same signification in the Free Methodist Discipline.—EDITORS OF THE DISCIPLINE OF 1911.

first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than "a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."

¶ 41. That it may be the more easily discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled the leader. It is his duty,

I. To see each person in his class once a week, at least, in order,

1. To inquire how their souls prosper.

2. To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.

3. To receive what they are willing to give toward the relief of the preacher, the church and the poor.\*

II. To meet the ministers and the stewards of the circuit, in order,

1. To inform the minister of any who are sick, or of any who walk disorderly, and will not be reproved.

2. To pay the stewards what they have received of their several classes during the week.

¶ 42. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies,—“a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins.” But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits.

¶ 43. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

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\* This part refers to towns and cities, where the poor are generally numerous, and church expenses are considerable.

First, by doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practised; such as,

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein, or by buying or selling.

Drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors; or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.

The buying, selling, or holding of a human being as a slave.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.

The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.

The giving or taking things on usury—that is, unlawful interest.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, particularly speaking evil of magistrates or ministers.

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God; as, Belonging to secret societies.

The putting on of gold or costly apparel.

The taking of such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Singing those songs or reading those books which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.

Softness or needless self-indulgence, especially snuffing, chewing, smoking, growing, manufacturing or selling tobacco, or the habitual use of opiates.

Laying up treasure upon earth.

Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

¶ 44. It is expected of all who continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,



Second, by doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort and as far as possible to all men.

To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping those who are sick or in prison.

To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting all with whom they have any intercourse, trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good unless our hearts be free to do it."

By doing good, especially to those who are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying of one another, helping one another in business; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them only.

By all possible diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.

¶ 45. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire for salvation,

Third, By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are,

The public worship of God;

The ministry of the word, either read, or expounded;

The Supper of the Lord;

Family and private prayer;

Searching the Scriptures;

Fasting or abstinence.

¶ 46. These are the general rules of our societies,

all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule both of our faith and practise; and all these we know the Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his way. We will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he hath no more a place among us. We have delivered our souls.

## DIVISION III

### ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

#### I. Pastoral Charges, Quarterly and Annual Conferences

##### ARTICLE I. *Pastoral Charges*

¶ 47. The lay membership of the church shall be divided into local societies, one or more of which shall constitute a pastoral charge.

##### ARTICLE II. *Districts and Quarterly Conferences*

¶ 48. The pastoral charges embraced within each annual conference shall be grouped into districts, and a quarterly conference shall be organized in each district, composed of such official members of the several pastoral charges and invested with such powers as the general conference shall direct.

##### ARTICLE III. *Annual Conferences*

¶ 49. The general conference shall organize the work at large into annual conferences, of which the preachers (not being members of any local societies) shall be permanent members; and to which, at each session, one lay delegate shall be admitted from each pastoral charge, and in case there be more than one



preacher in full membership appointed to a pastoral charge, such pastoral charge shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate for every such additional preacher.

## II. The General Conference

### ARTICLE I. *Of Whom Composed*

¶ 50. The general conference shall be composed of the bishops, and of ministerial and lay delegates, to be chosen as hereinafter provided.

### ARTICLE II. *Ministerial Delegates*

¶ 51. 1. Each annual conference shall be entitled to one ministerial delegate in the general conference; and whenever an annual conference shall reach an aggregate of eight hundred full members, it shall be entitled to two ministerial delegates, and to an additional ministerial delegate for every subsequent six hundred full members, provided, however, that in no case shall a preacher be counted more than once in the election of delegates.

2. The ministerial delegates shall be elected by the ministers of the annual conference by ballot. Such delegates shall be elders, and at the time of their election, as also at the time of the general conference, shall be members of the annual conference which elected them.\*

### ARTICLE III. *Lay Delegates*

¶ 52. 1. Each annual conference shall be entitled to the same number of lay as of ministerial delegates in the general conference.

2. Lay delegates to the general conference shall be elected by the lay delegates of the annual confer-

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\* See paragraph 87.

ences they are respectively to represent. They shall be elected by ballot, from the members of the church in full relation within the bounds of the annual conferences to which they respectively belong, and must be members of the church within the conference which elected them at the time of the general conference.\*

#### ARTICLE IV. *Credentials*

¶ 53. The secretaries of the several annual conferences shall furnish certificates of election to the delegates severally, signed by the president and secretary of each annual conference, as the credentials upon which they are to be admitted to the general conference.

#### ARTICLE V. *Sessions*

¶ 54. 1. The general conference shall meet on the second Wednesday in June, in every fourth year from the year 1903 (which was the forty-first year of its existence as a delegated general conference, it having previously met every fourth year from 1862, in October, and the change having been made by the general conference of 1898), and at such time and place as shall have been determined by the preceding general conference, or by the executive committee, which shall also have the power, in case of emergency, to change the time and place for the meeting of the general conference.

2. The bishop or bishops, or if there be none, the secretary of the general conference, shall, whenever two-thirds of the annual conferences shall demand it, call an extra session of the general conference, fixing the date thereof, and the time of assembling, later

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\* See paragraph 87.



than the next ensuing session of each of the annual conferences.

#### ARTICLE VI. *Presiding Officers*

¶ 55. The general conference shall elect, by ballot, one or more traveling elders to the office of bishop; and the bishops shall preside at various sittings of the general conference in such order as they may determine; but in case no bishop be present, the general conference shall elect, by ballot, an elder as president pro tem. In case of the election of a new bishop or bishops the term of office of such bishop or bishops shall begin at the close of the general conference session at which they were elected.

#### ARTICLE VII. *Missionary Bishop*

¶ 56. The general conference may elect a missionary bishop or bishops, whose duties and official relation shall be confined to the field to which they are respectively elected.

#### ARTICLE VIII. *Other Officers*

¶ 57. 1. The general conference shall elect, by ballot, a secretary, a treasurer, except when the general conference shall refer the election of a treasurer to the executive committee, an editor of the Free Methodist, an editor of our Sunday-school literature, a publishing agent, a missionary secretary, the trustees of the general conference as required by the articles of incorporation, and such other general officers as it shall decide upon. The secretary of the general conference shall continue in office until his successor is elected, and shall be the custodian of the general conference records, journal and seal.

2. The general conference may elect, by ballot, one or more general conference evangelists.



### ARTICLE IX. *Executive Committee and Missionary Board*

¶ 58. The general conference shall also elect one traveling elder and one lay member from each of the general conference districts, who were members of the general conference which elected them; and who, with the bishops, shall constitute the executive committee; and one traveling elder and one lay member from each of the general conference districts to act on the missionary board. The membership of the general missionary board shall not be restricted to members of the general conference electing them.

### ARTICLE X. *Quorum*

¶ 59. At all times when the general conference is in session, it shall require two-thirds of all the delegates elected by the annual conferences to form a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

### ARTICLE XI. *Voting*

¶ 60. The members of the general conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; nevertheless, upon the call of one-third of the members present and voting, the house shall divide; and it shall require a majority of the ministerial and of the lay delegates to pass any vote, or transact any business, provided, nevertheless, that for changes of the constitution, a vote of two-thirds of the general conference shall be sufficient, as provided for in article XIII.

### ARTICLE XII. *Powers and Restrictions*

¶ 61. The general conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for the Free Methodist church, under the following limitations and restrictions:

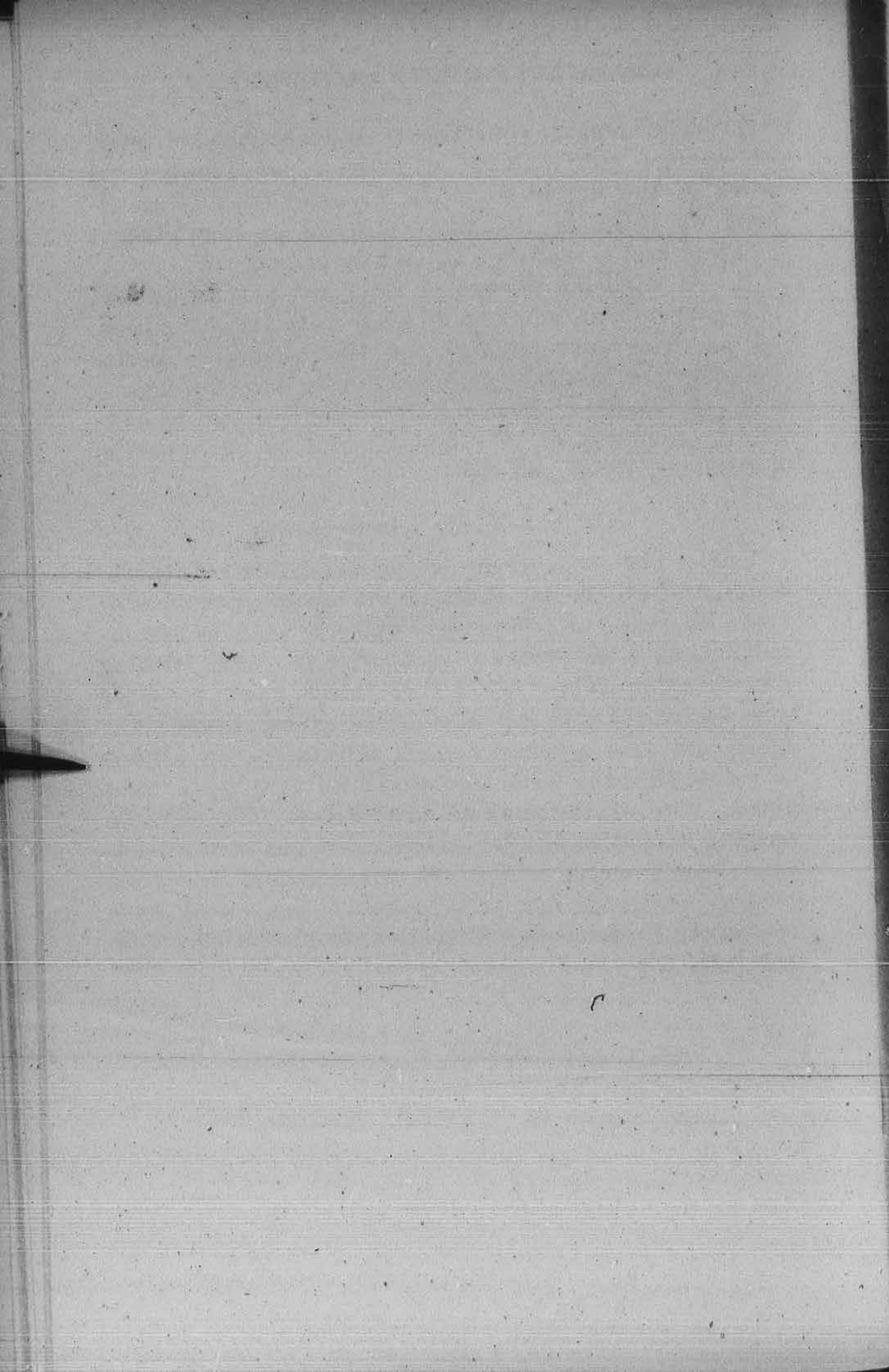
1. The general conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our articles of religion, or the general rules of the united societies, or establish any standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

2. It shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away with lay delegation, or an itinerant ministry, or the general superintendency, or the free-seat system in our churches.

3. It shall not have power to deprive our preachers or members of the right of trial by an impartial committee, or of the right of an appeal.

### ARTICLE XIII. *Amendments*

¶ 62. The concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the members of the several annual conferences, who shall be present and vote on such recommendation, shall suffice to authorize the next ensuing general conference, by a two-thirds vote, to alter any of the foregoing restrictive rules, except the last; and also whenever such alteration, or alterations, shall have been recommended first by a two-thirds vote of the general conference, then so soon as three-fourths of the members of the several annual conferences, who were present and voted on such recommendation, or recommendations, shall have concurred therein, such alteration, or alterations, shall take effect.





**PART II**  
**THE CHURCH**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. SPECIAL ADVICES**
- II. MEMBERSHIP**
- III. WORSHIP**

# CHAPTER I

## SPECIAL ADVICES

### I. Temperance

¶ 63. A spirit of self-denial is indispensable to the Christian character. A large proportion of the crime and pauperism of the country is caused by strong drink. The Spirit of Christ never leads one to countenance the use or sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

¶ 64. The stewards on all our circuits shall make provision to use the unfermented juice of the grape in celebrating the Lord's Supper. In no case shall intoxicating wine be used for this purpose.

¶ 65. Every man of God should break away from party trammels, and never knowingly give his vote or influence to elect any man to office who will use his official or personal influence to legalize the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage. As Christians we are bound to do all we can to prohibit by law this nefarious traffic.

### II. Marriage and Divorce

¶ 66. We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not members of our church, provided such persons give evidence of being converted to God; but we are determined to discourage their marrying those who do not come up to this standard.



¶ 67. Some of our members have married with unsaved persons. This has produced bad effects. They have either been hindered for life or have turned back to perdition. To discourage such marriages: 1. Every preacher shall publicly enforce the apostle's command, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14). 2. All should be exhorted never to marry without advising with some of the more serious of their brethren.

¶ 68. In general a woman ought not to marry without the consent of her parents. Yet there may be exceptions. For if, (1) A woman believes it to be her duty to marry, and if, (2) Her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian, then she may, nay, ought to marry without their consent.

¶ 69. We recognize no other ground for divorce than that permitted in the word of God (Matt. 5:32; Mark 10:11, 12). Any person guilty of a violation of this law shall have no place among us.

¶ 70. Our preachers shall not officiate at the marriage of any person who is under eighteen years of age, unless the parents or guardians be present or have given written consent, and unless at least two witnesses, knowing the contracting parties, be present. They shall in every case refuse to officiate at the marriage of divorced parties, unless furnished with satisfactory evidence that the case is such as would not conflict with the law of divorce recognized in the preceding paragraph.

### III. Dress

¶ 71. We insist on the rules concerning dress. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of apparel. Therefore, receive none into the church till they have left off superfluous ornaments. In order to this: 1. Every one who has charge of a cir-

cuit shall read Mr. Wesley's sermon on dress at least once a year in every society. 2. In visiting the classes be very mild but very strict. 3. Allow of no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

#### IV. Secret Societies

¶ 72. 1. Voluntary associations are not necessarily sinful because they are secret. But secrecy is always a ground of suspicion. Evil works instinctively incline to darkness. Good works grow up in light. God commands us to let our light shine. Even a good cause under the shadow of secrecy invalidates its claim to the confidence of open and honest men. Grace and guile can have no affinity. All secrets necessary to be kept can be kept without an oath. A bad institution should not, and a good one need not, be secret. Philanthropic associations claiming our cooperation on Christian grounds, must do so with open face. They must lift the veil while demanding our salutation, or we cannot salute them by the way. Therefore, all secret societies are to be eschewed.

2. Any society requiring an oath, affirmation, or promise of secrecy, as a condition of membership, is held to be a secret society; and any member joining or continuing in such, violates his covenant obligations, and shall in due form be excluded from the church; and the preacher shall report that he is excluded for infraction of our rules and regulations.

¶ 73. 1. We would not oppose the open and honest organization of the laboring classes seeking in a proper way their betterment without injuring others or violating the inherent rights of any, but we are opposed to the element of pledged or oath-bound secrecy, the policy of coercion, the practise of lawlessness, or any other evil in such organizations, and we prohibit our members from membership in labor unions or other societies where such evils exist. We

hold that labor unions as now generally constituted are secret societies and that membership therein is a bar to membership in the church.

2. We also declare that discrimination in favor of unionism as against non-unionism on the part of contractors or employers is a violation of paragraph 44 of our general rules. Any contractor or any employer of labor found guilty, according to due process of disciplinary trial, of thus discriminating shall be debarred from membership in the Free Methodist church.



## CHAPTER II

### MEMBERSHIP

#### I. Reception on Probation

¶ 74. None shall be admitted on probation until they give evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come, by bringing forth fruits meet for repentance, and give affirmative answers to the following questions: 1. Have you the assurance of sins forgiven? 2. Do you consent to be governed by our general rules?

#### II. Admission into Full Membership

¶ 75. None shall be received into full membership unless they give evidence of a renewed heart by living up to the requirements of the general rules, and have met in class six months on probation, have been baptized,\* have, wherever practicable, been recommended by the official members of the society, and give satisfactory answers to the following questions, which shall be proposed to them before the society:

1. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?
2. Have you that perfect love which casteth out fear?

(If the candidate shall answer no, then this ques-

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\* Persons baptized in infancy must publicly assent to the baptismal covenant.

tion shall be asked, Will you diligently seek until you obtain it?)

3. Is it your purpose to devote yourself the remainder of your life wholly to the service of God, doing good to your fellow men, and working out your own salvation with fear and trembling?

4. Will you forever lay aside all superfluous ornaments, and adorn yourself in modest apparel, not with gold, or pearls, or costly array, but, which becometh those professing godliness, with good works?

5. Will you abstain from connection with all secret societies, keeping yourself free to follow the will of the Lord in all things?

6. Do you subscribe to our articles of religion, our general rules, and our Discipline, and are you willing to be governed by the same?

7. Have you Christian fellowship and love for the members of this society, and will you assist them, as God shall give you ability, in carrying on the work of the Lord?

¶ 76. The person giving affirmative answers to the above questions shall, with the consent of three-fourths of all the members present at a society meeting, be admitted to all the privileges of a member. Any person in good standing in any evangelical church may be received into full membership upon his meeting the other requirements of this chapter, without his having been on probation in our church.

¶ 77. Where societies already organized, or several persons, design to unite with the Free Methodist church and form a new society, they should adopt the Discipline as a whole, and then each person should be admitted in his individual capacity by answering the questions in paragraph 75 and by the consent of three-fourths of the persons forming such society.

¶ 78. Any member who withdraws from the church,

and against whom there were no complaints pending at the time, may, by a recommendation of the official board, and by a three-fourths vote of the society from which he or she withdrew, be reinstated to full membership without being required to serve on probation, providing the one wishing to reunite shall make request to the pastor of the society within one year from the date of withdrawal.

### III. Transfer of Membership by Certificate

¶ 79. 1. ~~None are to remove from one circuit to another without a certificate from the preacher in charge, in these words:~~

"A. B., the bearer, wishing to remove from this society, we hereby certify that.....is an acceptable member of the Free Methodist Church in..... and cordially commend.....to the Free Methodist Church in....., or in any other place. When admitted to another society his membership in this society shall cease. This certificate is good for one year only, unless renewed."\* Without such a certificate, they will not be received into the church in other places.

When a pastor gives a certificate of membership with a view to transferring a member to another society, he shall at once notify the pastor of the society to which the certificate is addressed that such certificate has been given.

2. If any of our members live at a great distance from the class to which they belong and are unable to attend, they shall, once a quarter, send to the leader or preacher their testimony as to their religious state. If they fail to do this, or to pay their confer-

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\* The person holding this certificate remains a member of the society by which it was given until the certificate has been deposited in another society.



ence claims, they may at the end of one year be recorded on the register as "Removed without a letter." If such persons afterwards claim their membership, the official board may restore it. A member holding a certificate shall be amenable to the circuit from which the certificate was taken until the certificate is received in another place. After the certificate has been handed in on another circuit, he shall be responsible for his conduct during the time he held the certificate to the society which he shall have joined. It shall be the duty of the preacher receiving such certificate of membership to notify the preacher in charge of the circuit from which the certificate was given, in these words: "You are hereby notified that A. B. has been duly enrolled as a member of this church upon a certificate issued from the church of which you are a pastor. Signed . . . . ."

3. Every member of our church in good standing removing to another circuit, or desirous of uniting with any other evangelical church, is entitled to a certificate of his good standing, and upon request it shall be given him.

4. No person who wishes to leave our church, without uniting with any other society or church, is entitled to a certificate of membership.

5. When a certificate is given to a member of our church who wishes to unite with some other evangelical denomination, the certificate shall read as follows: "A. B., the bearer, wishing to become a member of another evangelical church, we hereby certify that . . . . has been an acceptable member of the Free Methodist Church, and cordially commend . . . . to the fellowship of any such church with which . . . . may desire to unite. H . . . . membership in the Free Methodist Church ceases when this certificate is given."

## CHAPTER III

### WORSHIP

#### I. Order of Public Worship

¶ 80. For the establishment of uniformity in public worship among us on the Lord's day: 1. The morning and afternoon service shall consist of singing, prayer, reading of the Scriptures and preaching. 2. The evening service shall consist of singing, prayer and preaching. 3. On the days of administering the Lord's Supper, the reading of the Scriptures in the morning service may be omitted. 4. In administering the ordinances and in the burial of the dead, we recommend that the form of the Discipline be used. We advise that the Lord's prayer also be used on occasions of public worship in concluding the first prayer, and the apostolic benediction in dismissing the congregation; also that the official members of each society appoint some qualified person to lead the singing at the morning and evening services. 5. The preachers should join as one man and enlarge on the impropriety of irreverent and secular conversation before and after service, and strongly exhort those who are concerned to do it no more. If the people assemble before the hour of service, or remain after it, let the time be improved in singing, prayer and testimony.

#### II. Singing

¶ 81. We should guard against formality in singing. Therefore,



1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once—seldom more than four or five stanzas.

2. Have the tune suited to the sentiment, and do not suffer the people to sing too slow.

3. In every society it shall be the duty of the preacher in charge to see that due attention be given to the cultivation of vocal and sacred music.

4. If he, himself, cannot sing, let one or two be chosen in each society to lead the singing.

5. As singing is a part of divine worship, in which all ought to unite, therefore exhort every person in the congregation to sing, not one in ten only.

6. In no case let there be instrumental music or choir singing in our public worship.

7. Let the preacher in charge see that in all cases the Free Methodist Hymnal be used in the regular services.

### III. Love-Feasts

¶ 82. A love-feast shall be held on each circuit at least once in three months.

### IV. Classes and Class Meetings

¶ 83. The chapter on general rules says of those who compose our societies: That it may be the more easily discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled the leader. It is his duty,

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least; in order, (1) To inquire how their souls prosper, (2) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require. (3) To receive what each is

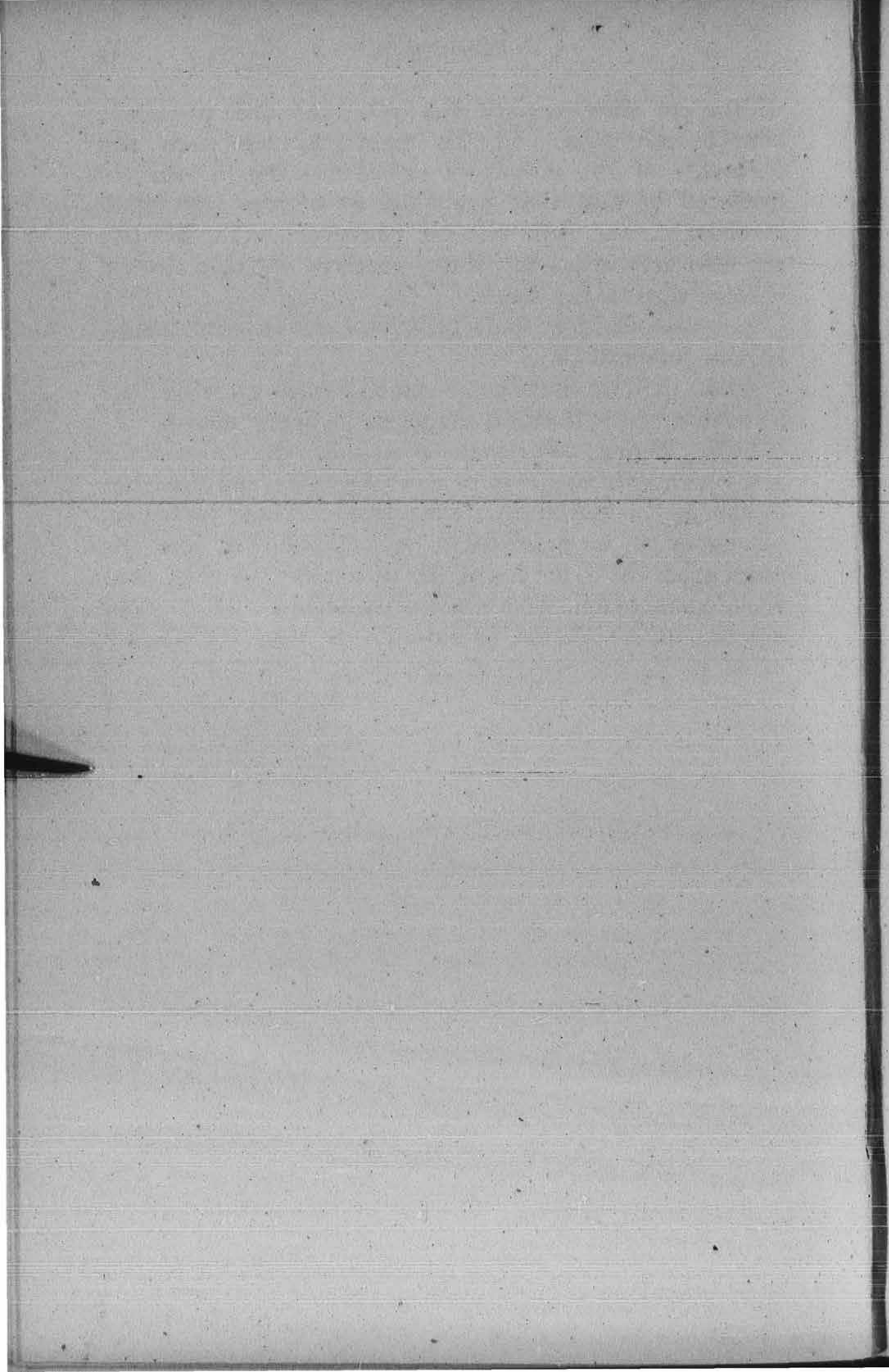


willing to give toward the relief of the preacher, church and poor. 2. To meet the ministers and stewards of the circuit in order, (1) To inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd. (2) To pay the stewards what they have received of their several classes during the week.

3. The classes shall meet, wherever practicable, on the Sabbath day.

¶ 84. There shall be a general class meeting held in each society the first Sabbath in every month.

¶ 85. When any member of our church wilfully and repeatedly neglects to meet his class, the preacher in charge, his assistant, or the leader should visit him, whenever it is practicable, and explain to him the consequences if he continues to neglect, namely, censure, suspension, and finally, expulsion. If he does not amend he should be brought to trial for neglect of duty.



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**PART III**

**OFFICIAL BODIES**



## **CHAPTERS**

- I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**
- II. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- III. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES**
- IV. SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE**
- V. THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE**
- VI. THE OFFICIAL BOARD**
- VII. THE CIRCUIT MEETING**
- VIII. THE SOCIETY MEETING**

## CHAPTER I

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

¶ 86. It is desired that all things be considered on these occasions as in the immediate presence of God; that every person speak freely whatever is in his heart. While we are conversing, let us have an especial care to set God always before us. In the intermediate hours, let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises. Therein let us give ourselves to prayer for one another, and for a blessing on our labors.]

¶ 87. The general conference shall be composed of the bishops, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates belonging to the Free Methodist church, to be elected by the annual conferences, at their respective sessions next preceding the session of the general conference, except that conferences held within three months of the general conference may elect their delegates the year before.

¶ 88. Each annual conference shall be entitled to one ministerial and one lay delegate in the general conference; and whenever an annual conference shall reach an aggregate membership of eight hundred in full relation it shall be entitled to two ministerial and two lay delegates, and one additional delegate of each kind for every subsequent six hundred members in full relation within the conference, provided, nevertheless, that in no case shall a preacher be counted more than once in the election of delegates.

¶ 89. In electing delegates to the general conference, the preachers and lay members shall vote separately, each branch electing by ballot; the preachers

from the elders in full membership in the conference, and the lay delegates from persons in full membership in the church within the bounds of the conference, the delegates to which they are respectively entitled. Ministerial delegates shall be members of the conference which elected them, and lay delegates members of the church within the bounds of the conference which elected them, at the time of the meeting of the general conference.

¶ 90. Whenever two-thirds of the annual conferences shall demand it, the bishop or bishops, or, if there be none, the secretary of the general conference, shall call an extra session of the general conference, fixing the date thereof, and the time of assembling, later than the next ensuing session of each of the annual conferences.

¶ 91. The general conference shall meet on the second Wednesday of June, 1903, and once in four years, thereafter, at such place as it may designate.\*

¶ 92. At all times, when the general conference is met, it shall take two-thirds of all the delegates elected by the annual conferences to form a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

¶ 93. One of the bishops shall preside in the general conference; but, in case no bishop be present, the general conference shall elect, by ballot, an elder as president pro tem.

¶ 94. Each general conference shall elect, by ballot, one or more traveling elders as bishops, a secretary and treasurer, except when the general conference shall order such treasurer to be elected by the executive committee, an editor of the Free Methodist, an editor of our Sunday-school literature, a publishing agent, and a missionary secretary. The general con-

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\* See paragraph 54.



ference may elect, by ballot, one or more general evangelists. It shall also elect one traveling elder and one lay member from each of the general conference districts, who, with the bishops, shall constitute the executive committee; and one traveling elder and one lay member from each of the general conference districts to act on the missionary board. The general conference may elect a missionary bishop or bishops whose duties and official relation shall be confined to the field to which they are respectively elected.

¶ 95. The secretary of the general conference shall continue in office until his successor is elected, and shall be the custodian of the general conference records and journal.

¶ 96. The members of the general conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; nevertheless, upon a call of one-third of the members present and voting, the house shall divide; and it shall require a majority of the ministerial and of the lay delegates present to pass any vote, or transact any business.

¶ 97. The general conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for our church, under the following limitations and restrictions:

1. The general conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our articles of religion, or the general rules of the united societies, or establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present, existing and established standards of doctrine.

2. It shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away with lay delegation, or an itinerant ministry, or general superintendency, or the free-seat system in our churches.

3. It shall not have power to deprive our preachers or members of the right of trial by an impartial committee, and of an appeal.

¶ 98. Provided, nevertheless, that upon the concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the

members of the several annual conferences, who shall be present and vote on such a recommendation, then a majority of two-thirds of the general conference succeeding, shall suffice to alter either of the above restrictions, except the last; and also, whenever such alteration, or alterations, shall have been first recommended by two-thirds of the general conference, as soon as three-fourths of the members of all the annual conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect.

¶ 99. 1. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually an amount equal to two cents per member in full relation, to defray the expenses of entertaining the general conference.

2. We recommend our people to observe the Friday preceding each general conference as a day of fasting and prayer.

## CHAPTER II

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

¶ 100. The executive committee shall consist of the bishops, and one traveling elder and one lay member from each of the general conference districts, to be selected by the general conference from its members.

¶ 101. The executive committee shall meet annually, and whenever the bishops or one-third of the committee shall deem it necessary. A majority of the members elected shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

¶ 102. 1. The executive committee shall, during the interim of the general conference sessions, fill all vacancies occurring, either in its own body or in any of the general conference elective offices, subject to the provisions of the Discipline.

2. The executive committee may elect by ballot an assistant publishing agent; the publishing agent may nominate.

¶ 103. 1. The executive committee shall constitute a court of appeals, which shall, if necessary, hold a session once a year, for the purpose of trying all appeals that may be taken thereto by any traveling preachers, from the decision of an annual conference. One of the bishops shall preside at the trial of appeal cases. Eight members of the committee on appeals shall constitute a quorum.

2. The executive committee shall have the power to decide all questions of law referred to it in the interim



of the general conferences. In case of any alleged legal irregularities in a trial court, where such court shall deliver a verdict against the Church, the prosecution may upon a written recital of such irregularities, apply to the executive committee or the general conference for a writ of review, and it shall be the province of the body receiving such application to review the proceedings of the lower court as recited, and if such body shall find the alleged irregularities to exist, the case may be remanded for a new trial, but such case can be remanded but once.

3. The executive committee shall also constitute the board of conference claimants.\*

¶ 104. The executive committee shall have general supervision of the publishing interests of the church during the interim of the general conference sessions, and shall carefully examine into their condition. It shall not, however, have power to change the site of the publishing house, except with the consent of three-fourths of all the members, who shall be present at a regularly called meeting.

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\* See paragraph 218.

## CHAPTER III

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES\*

¶105. Each annual conference shall be composed of all the traveling, supernumerary and superannuated preachers who have been duly received into full membership, within its bounds, and of lay delegates elected by the several circuits, as provided for in paragraph 130 (2), and women evangelists as provided for in paragraph 172 (4).

¶106. Each circuit shall be entitled to one delegate, and whenever there shall be more than one preacher traveling upon a circuit, if the preacher or preachers be members in full relation in conference, the circuit shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every such additional preacher.

¶107. There shall be the following annual conferences, to wit: The Genesee, the Illinois, the Susquehanna, the Michigan, the Kansas, the Minnesota and Northern Iowa, the New York, the Iowa, the Wisconsin, the North Michigan, the Ohio, the Central Illinois, the Texas, the Missouri, the West Kansas, the South Dakota, the Pittsburgh, the California, the East Michigan, the Louisiana, the Oregon, the West Iowa, the Wabash, the Colorado, the North Minnesota, the Nebraska, the Southern California, the Arkansas and Southern Missouri, the Columbia River, the Washington, the Platte River, the West Ontario, the East Ontario, the Kentucky and Tennessee, the

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\* See paragraph 86.

North Dakota, the Oil City, the Oklahoma, the South Africa, the Southern Oregon, the Georgia and Florida, the Saskatchewan, the Alberta, the East Texas, and such others as may be organized as hereinafter provided.

¶ 108. Whenever a new society shall be organized near the boundary line between any two conferences, and the conference in whose territory the new society is located shall have no organized work within forty miles of said new society, such new society shall be permitted to decide for itself to which conference it shall belong.

¶ 109. Each annual conference shall appoint the place, and, with the concurrence of the bishops, the time of its own sessions. If for any reason a conference cannot be held at the place appointed, the determination of the place shall be left with the district elders and the secretary of the last conference.

¶ 110. 1. In the absence of the bishop, or of the elder whom he may have appointed, the conference shall elect, by ballot, an elder from their own number, to preside.

2. It shall elect a secretary who shall record in a suitable book the proceedings of the annual conference, and send said record to the general conference for examination. He shall continue in office until his successor is elected and shall be the custodian of the conference records and journal.

3. It shall elect a treasurer, and in case of a vacancy in said office the district elders of the conference may appoint a treasurer to act until the next session.

4. It shall elect an auditor who shall carefully audit the accounts of the treasurer and report at the close of each annual session.

¶ 111. It shall be the duty of the secretary of each annual conference holding its session next preceding



the session of general conference to transcribe from the annual conference records all the decisions of disciplinary law rendered by the bishops during the quadrennium, giving the number of page or pages upon which such decisions are recorded, and forward the same with the conference records to the seat of general conference.

¶112. The ministers and lay members composing the annual conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; but at the call of one-fourth of all the members present and voting, the house shall divide, and the ministers and lay members vote separately; and it shall require a majority of both branches to constitute a vote of the conference.

¶113. The territory embraced by each annual conference shall be divided into districts, and over each of these one of the elders shall be appointed by the conference as district elder.

¶114. The district elders and an equal number of lay members to be elected by ballot the first day of the session, together with the president of the conference, shall constitute a stationing committee, of which the president shall be chairman, and have a casting vote. No person who is recommended to the annual conference to be received on trial, though acting as a delegate, shall be eligible to serve on the stationing committee. It shall be the duty of the stationing committee to appoint the preachers to their several fields of labor. No preacher shall be appointed to the same circuit more than three years in succession, except in the case of appointments among foreign speaking or colored people.

¶115. It shall be the duty of each annual conference having claimants, to appoint a committee at each annual session on claimants and claims, composed of the president of the conference, and two ministers and two lay members nominated by the president and

elected by the conference. No minister shall be placed on the superannuated list without having first been recommended by this committee. It shall also be the duty of this committee at the session during which it serves, to report as to who are claimants and to estimate the amount necessary for their support for the ensuing year, subject to the approval of the conference, which shall forward the estimate to the secretary of the board of claimants.

¶ 116. An annual conference may, upon the unanimous recommendation of the stationing committee, leave a preacher without an appointment. Any preacher so left without an appointment two years in succession may be located by vote of the annual conference.

¶ 117. When a preacher is located, or discontinued by an annual conference, the stationing committee shall fix the place of his membership. When an unordained preacher on trial and in good standing in the annual conference is discontinued from the traveling connection by his conference, he shall sustain the relation of local preacher until the ensuing session of his quarterly conference.

¶ 118. A preacher may be appointed to a circuit without having charge of the same; in such cases the administration of the circuit shall devolve upon the district elder and the official board.

¶ 119. Each annual conference is required to organize a conference evangelistic board which shall be authorized to carry on aggressive evangelistic work within its bounds. This board shall have power to raise funds and to employ evangelists, band workers and helpers to labor within the conference bounds, who, with the concurrence of the district elders, shall be authorized to establish new societies where the interests of the cause of God require, providing that it

make provision and be responsible for the support of all the laborers which it employs.

¶ 120. Whenever a woman holding an evangelist's license is recommended by the quarterly conference as a suitable person to be received into the annual conference, she may be received on trial and into full membership and be ordained a deacon, on the same conditions as we receive men into the same relations: provided always, that this ordination of women shall not be regarded as a step toward ordination as elder, and provided further, that no woman whose husband is a member of an annual conference either on trial or in full relation shall be eligible to be received into the conference.

¶ 121. Members of an annual conference may be appointed as evangelists. They shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of those appointed to circuits, and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, so far as they apply to their circumstances. They shall be subject to the restrictions of paragraph 172 (8). No preacher, however, shall be granted an evangelist's relation to the conference who does not intend to devote all his time to evangelistic work.

¶ 122. Each annual conference shall inquire—

1. What are the names of preachers and delegates having a seat in this conference?
2. Who are the stationing committee?
3. What preachers are admitted on trial?
4. Who remain on trial?
5. Who are admitted into full membership?
6. Who are the deacons?
7. Who have been elected and ordained elders this year?
8. Who have located this year?
9. Who are the supernumerary preachers?
10. Who are the superannuated or worn-out preachers?



11. Who have been received by transfer and from what conference?\*

12. Who have withdrawn from the conference this year?

13. Who have been given certificates of good standing with a view to transfer to another conference?

14. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation? Have they, during the past year, discharged their duties to God, themselves, and one another. See paragraphs 135 to 138 and 142.†

15. Who have died this year?

16. What is the number of church members?

17. Amount collected for conference claimants? For the bishops? For general missions? For the annual conference missionary fund? For foreign missions? For educational fund?

18. Number of Sunday-schools? Of officers and teachers? Of scholars? Of members on the cradle roll? Of members in the home department? Of volumes in library?

19. What has been expended during the year on the circuits for Sabbath-school purposes? What has been raised by the Sabbath-schools for foreign missions and other benevolences?

20. How many copies of the Free Methodist are taken?

21. What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?

22. At the session next preceding the session of the general conference, the question shall be asked, What amount is necessary for us to raise toward

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\* It shall be the duty of the conference receiving a preacher by transfer to notify the secretary of the conference from which he was transferred of his reception.

† Let the president call attention to the contents of these portions of the Discipline.

defraying the expenses of delegates to the general conference?

23. What has been collected on the foregoing accounts, and how has it been applied?

24. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

25. Where, and when, shall our next conference be held?

We recommend our people to observe the Friday preceding each annual conference as a day of fasting and prayer.

## CHAPTER IV

### SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE

#### I. Membership

¶ 123. There shall be three classes of membership as follows:

1. **Members in Full Relation.**—Missionaries who are members in full relation of any conference in America, and who may have their certificates of standing at the time of the organization of this conference, shall be members of this conference in full relation, as well as those who may be regularly admitted hereafter, either by certificates of standing, or from the condition of preachers on trial.

2. **Acting Missionary Members.**—All missionaries on the field who hold credentials from the missionary board, and who shall have been on the field two years, and have passed a satisfactory examination in the required course of study, shall be members of the conference.

3. **Native Lay Members.**—These shall be selected by their respective circuits, according to the Discipline. Each charge, circuit or station shall be entitled to one delegate, and whenever there shall be more than two missionaries upon any charge, circuit or station, entitled to a vote in the conference, then that charge, circuit or station shall be entitled to an additional delegate.



## II. Reserved Subjects

¶ 124. The three classes of members above specified shall sit and vote as one body on all matters coming up before the conference, according to Discipline, with the following exceptions:

1. Electing district elders.
2. Electing the stationing committee.
3. Passing the character of ministerial or acting missionary members of the conference.
- 4. The consideration or investigation of any questions or complaints affecting the character of ministerial or acting missionary members of the conference.
5. Requesting appropriations from the general missionary board, or applying on the field moneys appropriated by the board.

In consideration of the questions above mentioned, the missionaries shall sit and vote apart from the conference, and all missionaries who hold credentials from the board and who have been on the field the two years required by the rules, shall be entitled to sit and vote on the above mentioned subjects. Any missionary, however, who shall have been regularly appointed to the charge of a mission station, or of a mission school, or is a member of the annual conference in full relation, before the expiration of the two years above referred to shall be entitled to sit and vote on the above subjects after having been one year on the field, and having passed the first year's examination in the study of the language.

6. The meeting of the missionaries when sitting and voting apart shall be known as "the missionary meeting."

¶ 125. 1. The question of receiving any one on trial or in full membership, or of electing to deacon's or elder's orders shall not be brought before the confer-

ence unless the case of each individual has been first considered by the missionary meeting and that body has by a majority vote recommended that the person be so received or elected.

2. Acting missionary members may be elected to orders and ordained after meeting the requirements, for each class, according to paragraphs 120, 155, 156 of the Discipline.

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See paragraphs 397, 398.

## CHAPTER V

### THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

¶ 126. 1. The quarterly conference shall be composed of the traveling preachers and the members of the official boards of the district.

2. Four sessions of the quarterly conference shall be held each year, in connection with the general quarterly meetings, at such times and places as it may designate, provided, however, that upon the written request of one-half of the preachers on the district and an equal number of lay members, who are members of the quarterly conference, the district elder may call a special session.

3. The district elder shall be president of the quarterly conference, and in his absence the quarterly conference shall elect one of its members to preside.

4. A secretary shall be elected by the quarterly conference, who shall keep a faithful record of its proceedings, and shall send the said record to the annual conference for its examination. The quarterly conference shall also elect a treasurer for the district.

5. The quarterly conference shall,

(1) Hear complaints.

(2) Try appeals.

(3) Grant and renew licenses to preach.

(4) License band workers.

(5) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference to be employed as traveling preachers.

(6) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference to receive deaconess' license.



(7) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference to receive ordination as deacons or elders.

(8) In connection with the district elder, appoint and hold camp meetings as the interests of the cause of God may require.

6. No person shall be licensed as a local preacher until he has been previously licensed as an exhorter and has been recommended by the official board of the circuit to which he belongs, and until he has first been examined by the quarterly conference, or district elder, in regard to his soundness in doctrine and his piety, gifts, and usefulness have been duly considered. No one shall be licensed until satisfactory answers are given to all the questions found in paragraph 134 of the Discipline: "Of the Examination of Those Who Think They are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach."

### **Order of Business for Quarterly Conference**

¶ 127. 1. Call to order, by district elder, or, in his absence, by the secretary.

2. Devotional exercises.

3. Calling of the roll. (At the first session of the year a roll should be made out and then called.)

4. Election of secretary.

5. Election of treasurer.

6. Reading of the minutes of previous session.

7. Reports from committees.

8. Is there any unfinished business?

9. Is there any new business?

10. Are there any complaints?

11. Are there any appeals?

12. Shall we hold any camp meetings this year? If so, how many? When? Where?

13. Are there any recommendations for local preacher's license? For evangelist's license? For band worker's license?

14. Reports from preachers on condition of the charges, and also regarding the Sunday-schools.

15. Reports from evangelists and deaconesses.

16. Financial report of district elder.

17. Report of treasurer.

(Questions 18 to 24, last session of year only.)

18. Are there any licenses to be renewed?\* Local preachers'? Evangelists'? Are there any deaconesses to be recommended to the annual conference for renewal of license or for permanent license?

19. Are there any suitable persons to be recommended to the annual conference for reception on trial?

20. Are there any women evangelists to be recommended for a seat in the annual conference?

21. Are there any evangelists to be recommended for annual conference license?

22. Are there any women to be recommended to the annual conference for deaconess' license?

23. Are all the local elders, local deacons, evangelists and deaconesses licensed by the annual conference, blameless in life and faithful and efficient in service?†

24. Are there any recommendations to the annual conference for ordination? As elder? As deacon?

25. When and where shall our next session be held?

26. Reading and approval of minutes.

27. Adjournment.

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\* All licenses previously granted should be renewed at the last session of the conference year.

† All preachers, evangelists and deaconesses should retire while their characters or their licenses are under consideration. Evangelists licensed by the annual conference shall make a report of their work to the quarterly conference, and in case of failure to do so, the quarterly conference may recommend to the annual conference that said license be revoked.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE OFFICIAL BOARD

¶ 128. 1. An official meeting, composed of the pastors, local preachers, exhorters, evangelists, deaconesses, stewards, class leaders, Sunday-school superintendents who are members of our church and belong on the circuit, and trustees of church property when such trustees are members of our church on the circuit where the church property is located, shall be held in each circuit once a month whenever practicable.

2. The preacher in charge shall be chairman of the official meeting, except as provided for in paragraph 160 (6), and in his absence a chairman shall be elected.

3. A secretary and treasurer shall be elected by the official board. The secretary shall keep in a suitable book, provided for that purpose, faithful minutes of the proceedings of the official board, and also of the meetings of the circuit and shall properly record all marriages and baptisms. The treasurer shall keep a record of all money raised on the circuit for religious purposes, and of the manner in which the same was expended, and give a full report of the same at the annual circuit meeting.

4. The official board shall look after the spiritual and temporal interests of the circuit.

#### Order of Business for Official Meeting

¶ 129. 1. Devotional exercises.

2. Election of a secretary.



3. Calling of the roll.
4. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Election of a treasurer.
6. Inquire, (1) Are there any sick?  
(2) Are there any poor needing help?  
(3) Are there any whose probation has expired?  
(4) Are there any walking disorderly and who will not be reproved?  
(5) Are there any recommendations from the society for exhorter's license?\*
- (6) Are there any exhorters' licenses to be renewed?
- (7) Are there any exhorters to be recommended for local preachers' license?
- (8) Have the collections been taken as ordered by the conference?
- (9) What amount has been raised for pastoral support?
- (10) What amount has been raised for the district elder's claim?
- (11) What amount has been raised for other purposes, and how has it been applied?
- (12) Is there any money in the treasury?
- (13) Are there any claims to be presented?
- (14) Is there any unfinished business, or are there any committees to report?
- (15) Is there any new business, or are there any committees to be appointed?
- (16) Are there any vacancies in the board of trustees?
- (17) Is the title of the church property secure?
- (18) Is the church property insured?
7. Reading the minutes.
8. Adjournment.

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\* No person should be licensed to exhort without a recommendation from the society of which he is a member.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE CIRCUIT MEETING

¶ 130. 1. Every circuit shall have, within three months prior to the session of the annual conference to which it belongs, an annual circuit meeting, of which the preacher in charge shall be chairman, and the secretary of the official board shall be secretary. Such circuit meeting shall be announced in each society at least ten days before said meeting shall be held.

2. At this meeting the members of the church in full relation on the circuit shall elect, by ballot, one or more of their number to represent them in the annual conference according to the provisions of paragraph 106. No person on trial in an annual conference shall be eligible to election as a delegate.

3. The annual circuit meeting shall decide the number of stewards to be elected upon the circuit, and also the number to be elected by each society. Where there is but one society, stewards, Sunday-school superintendents and trustees (when not in conflict with the charter or the laws of the state) may be elected by the annual circuit meeting. Any vacancy that may occur shall be filled by the society in which such vacancy occurs. See paragraph 132 (3).

4. At this meeting there shall be a full report presented by the trustees of the church property. See paragraph 234.

5. The preacher in charge of a circuit, or in his absence or refusal to do it, a majority of the official

board, may call a meeting of the circuit, whenever in their judgment the interests of the church require it.

### Order of Business for Circuit Meeting

- ¶ 131. 1. Devotional exercises.  
(Secretary of the official board acts as secretary.)
2. Calling of the roll.
  3. Report of treasurer of official board, paragraph 128 (3).
  4. Election of tellers.
  5. Election of a delegate to the annual conference.
  6. Election of a reserve delegate.
  7. Decide the number of stewards to have in each society on the circuit.
  8. Receive the report of the trustees.
  9. Miscellaneous business.
  10. Approval of the minutes.
  11. Adjournment.



## CHAPTER VIII

### THE SOCIETY MEETING

¶ 132. 1. The society meeting shall be composed of all the members of the church in full relation, composing a single society.

2. The preacher in charge shall be chairman of the society meeting, and a record of its proceedings shall be kept by a secretary elected for that purpose.

3. It shall be the duty of the society meeting to recommend suitable persons for exhorters' and evangelists' licenses, for deaconess' license and for band workers; to elect the number of stewards directed by the annual circuit meeting; elect Sunday-school superintendents; to select persons to act as a committee in case of the trial of members; decide the propriety of incorporating; elect trustees subject in all cases to the statutes of the state, territory or country in which the society is located.

4. The preacher in charge of a circuit, or in his absence or refusal to do it, a majority of the official board, may call a meeting of the society, whenever in their judgment the interests of the church require it.

#### Order of Business for Society Meeting

¶ 133. 1. Devotional exercises.

2. Calling of the roll.

3. Election of a secretary.

4. Recommendations: (1) For exhorter's license (to the official board). (2) For evangelist's license

(to the district quarterly conference). (3) For deaconesses' license (to the district quarterly conference). (4) For band worker's license (to the district quarterly conference).

5. Election of tellers.

6. Election of stewards (the number fixed by the circuit meeting).

7. Election of Sunday-school superintendent. (The preacher in charge may nominate. See paragraph 253.)

8. Elect trial committee (if necessary).

9. Decide whether to incorporate (if necessary).

10. Elect trustees (if the state law allows).

11. Miscellaneous business.

12. Approval of the minutes.

13. Adjournment.

Each class elects its own class leader. The preacher in charge may nominate. See paragraph 176 (1).





**PART IV**  
**THE MINISTRY**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK**
- II. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFER-  
ENCES**
- III. DEACONS AND ELDERS**
- IV. BISHOPS**
- V. DISTRICT ELDERS**
- VI. PASTORS, OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE**
- VII. SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNU-  
ATED MINISTERS**

# CHAPTER I

## QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK

### I. The Call to Preach

¶ 134. Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach.—1. The following questions shall be asked the candidate, namely: Do you know God as a pardoning God? Have you the love of God abiding in you? Do you desire nothing but God? Do you believe you are called of God to preach the gospel?

2. The following questions shall be considered by the quarterly conference: Have they gifts as well as grace for the work? Have they in some tolerable degree a clear, sound understanding, a right judgment in the things of God, and a just conception of salvation by faith? Has God given them any degree of utterance? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly? Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin, and converted to God by their preaching? And are they holy in all manner of conversation?

As long as these marks concur in any one, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved by the Holy Ghost.

### II. Rules for a Preacher's Conduct

¶ 135. Be diligent. Never be unemployed; never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time;



neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

Be serious. Let your motto be, Holiness to the Lord. Avoid all lightness, jesting and foolish talking.

Converse sparingly and conduct yourself prudently with women (1 Tim. 5:2). Take no step toward marriage without first consulting your brethren.

Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

Speak evil of no one, because your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast, till you come to the person concerned.

Tell every one under your care what you think wrong in his conduct or temper, and that lovingly and plainly as soon as may be; else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all. Be ashamed of nothing but sin.

Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore, spend and be spent in this work; and go always not only to those who need you, but to those who need you most.

Observe, it is not only your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society, but to save as many as you can; to bring as many sinners as you can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And remember that a Free Methodist preacher is to mind every point, great and

small, in the Free Methodist Discipline! Therefore, you will need to exercise all the sense and grace you have.

Act in all things not according to your own will, but as a son in the gospel. As such it is your duty to employ your time in the manner in which we direct; in preaching, and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation and prayer. Above all, if you labor with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful that you should do that part of the work which we advise, at those times and places which we judge most for his glory.

¶ 136. The following smaller advices may be of use:

Be sure never to disappoint a congregation.

Begin at the time appointed.

Always suit your subject to your audience.

Choose the plainest texts you can.

Take care not to ramble, but keep to the text, and make out what you take in hand.

Avoid everything awkward or affected, in your gesture, phrase or pronunciation.

Do not usually pray more than eight or ten minutes, at most, without intermission.

Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of scripture; and young preachers should often exhort without taking a text.

Always avail yourself of the great festivals, by preaching on the occasion.

Let your deportment be serious, weighty and solemn.

### III. Spiritual Qualification

¶ 137. A preacher is to be qualified for his charge by walking closely with God, and having his work greatly at heart; and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.



¶ 138. We should frequently ask each other the following questions:

Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? At what hour do you rise? Do you punctually observe the morning and evening hours of retirement? Do you spend the day in the manner which the conference advises? Do you converse seriously, usefully and closely?

To be more particular, you should use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons.

They are either instituted or prudential.

The instituted are:

1. Prayer—private, family and public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession and thanksgiving.

Do you use each of these? Do you forecast daily, wherever you are, to secure time for private devotion? Do you practise it everywhere? Do you ask everywhere, Have you family prayer? Do you ask individuals, Do you use private prayer every morning and evening in particular?

2. Searching the Scriptures—reading regularly, some part every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully, with notes; seriously, with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practising what you learn there; meditating, at set times and by rule; hearing the word at every opportunity, with prayer, before, at, after. Have your Bible always about you.

3. The Lord's Supper. Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With deliberate self-devotion?

4. Fasting. Do you use as much abstinence and fasting every week as your health, strength and labor will permit?



5. Christian conference. Are you convinced how important and difficult it is to order your conversation aright? Is it always with grace, seasoned with salt, meet to minister grace to the hearers? Do you converse too long at a time? Is not an hour commonly enough? Would it not be well always to have a determined end in view, and pray before and after?

The prudential means we may use either as Christians, as Free Methodists, or as preachers.

As Christians, what particular rules have you in order to grow in grace? What arts of holy living? As Free Methodists, do you never miss your class? As preachers, have you thoroughly considered your duty? Are you conscientious in executing every part of it? Do you meet each society and its leaders?

These means may be used without fruit. But there are some means which cannot; namely, watching, denying ourselves, taking up our cross and living always as in the presence of God.

Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin? Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense, imagination, honor? Are you temperate in all things? Instance, in food? Do you use only that kind and that degree which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? Do you use only that kind and degree of drink which is best both for the body and soul? Do you choose and use water for your common drink? And only take wine medicinally or sacramentally? Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous to nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby? Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see his eye continually fixed upon you? Never can you use these means but a blessing will ensue. And

the more you use them, the more you will grow in grace.

#### **IV. Matter and Manner of Preaching**

¶ 139. The best general method of preaching is:  
1. To convince. 2. To offer Christ. 3. To invite.  
4. To build up. 5. To do this in some measure in every sermon.

¶ 140. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach him in all his offices, and to declare his law, as well as his gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly and closely insist upon inward and outward holiness in all its branches.

#### **V. Where to Preach**

¶ 141. We do not deem it advisable to preach in as many places as we can without forming societies. We have made the trial in various places, and that for a considerable length of time. In all cases the seed has fallen by the wayside. There is scarcely any fruit remaining.

1. We should endeavor to preach most where there is the greatest number of quiet and willing hearers, and where there is most fruit.

2. We ought diligently to observe in what places God is pleased at any time to pour out his Spirit more abundantly; and at that time to send more laborers than usual into that part of the harvest.

#### **VI. Pastoral Visitation and Enforcement of Practical Religion**

¶ 142. We should endeavor to assist those under our care, and to aid in the salvation of souls by instructing them in their own homes. What unspeakable need there is of this!

We can but just touch on a few particulars. How



little faith is there among even professing Christians! How little communion with God! How little living in heaven, walking as for eternity, deadness to every creature! How much love of the world, desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money! How little brotherly love! What continual judging one another! What gossiping, evil-speaking, tale-bearing! What want of moral honesty! To instance only one particular: Who does as he would be done by in buying and selling?

Family religion is wanting in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels? We must, yea, every traveling preacher must instruct the people from house to house.

Our religion is not sufficiently deep, or universally uniform. It is superficial, partial, uneven. It will be so until we spend half as much time in this visiting, as we now do in talking uselessly. Can we find a better method of doing this than Mr. Baxter's? If not, let us adopt it without delay. His whole tract, entitled; The Reformed Pastor, is well worth a careful perusal. Speaking of this visiting from house to house, he says: "We shall find many hindrances, both in ourselves and the people.

1. "In ourselves there is much dulness and laziness, so that there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work.

2. "Some of us have a foolish bashfulness. We know not how to begin, and blush to contradict the devil.

3. "But the greater hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak, because the spring of it is weak.

4. "Lastly, we are unskilled in the work. How few know how to deal with men so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers; to choose the fittest subjects,



and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness, terror, love, and meekness?"

Undoubtedly this private application is implied in those solemn words of the apostle: "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom, preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering."

O brethren, if we could but set this work on foot in all our congregations, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common lukewarmness were banished, and every shop and every house were busied in speaking of the word and works of God, surely God would dwell in our habitations, and make us his delight.

¶ 143. It is objected, 1. "This will take up so much time we shall not have leisure to follow our studies." We answer, 1. Gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is better. By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge, that of God and eternity. 2. You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too. Only sleep no more than you need; "and never be idle or triflingly employed." But, 3, if you can do but one, let your studies alone. We ought to throw by all the libraries of the world, rather than be guilty of the loss of one soul.

It is objected, 2. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will. And all the success with them will repay all your labors. Oh, let us herein follow the example of St. Paul! 1. For our general business, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind. 2. Our special work, Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock. 3. Our doctrine, Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4. The place, I have taught you publicly, and from house to house. 5. The object and manner of teach-

ing, I ceased not to warn every one night and day, with tears. 6. His innocence and self-denial herein, I have coveted no man's silver or gold. 7. His patience, Neither count I my life dear unto myself. And among all other motives, let these be ever before our eyes: 1. The Church which he hath purchased with his own blood. 2. Grievous wolves shall enter in; yea, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things.

Write this upon your hearts, and it will do you more good than twenty years' study. Then you will have no time to spare; you will have work enough. Then, likewise, no preacher will stay with us who is as salt that has lost its savor. For to such, this employment will be mere drudgery. And in order to do it, you will have need of all the knowledge you can procure, and all the grace you can obtain.

¶ 144. The sum is, Go into every house in course, and teach every one therein, young and old, to be Christians, inwardly and outwardly. Make every particular plain to their understandings. Fix it in their minds, write it on their hearts. In order to do this, there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this! We must needs do this, were it only to avoid idleness. Do we not loiter away many hours in every week? Each try himself. No idleness is consistent with a growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time, you cannot retain the grace you received in justification.

¶ 145. Why are we not more holy? Why do we not live as for eternity? Why do we not walk with God all the day long? Why are we not all devoted to doing good, breathing the whole spirit of missionaries?

Chiefly because we do not properly use the means. 1. How few wait upon the Lord in secret prayer until his blessing comes on the soul? 2. Do we know the



obligation and benefit of fasting and abstinence? 3. How often do we practise it? 4. How little there is of self-denial? 5. How few bring their tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord? 6. How much there is of consecration to our own wills instead of to the will of the Lord? 7. How few manifest a disposition to submit themselves one to another? 8. What a want there is of properly governing the tongue? The neglect of these alone is sufficient to account for our feebleness and faintness of spirit. We should amend from this hour.

¶ 146. How shall we guard against Sabbath breaking, evil speaking, unprofitable conversation, lightness, expensiveness or gayety of apparel, and contracting debts without due care to discharge them?

1. We should preach expressly on each of these heads. 2. Read in every society the sermon on evil speaking. 3. The leaders should closely examine and exhort every person to put away the accursed thing. 4. The preachers should warn every society that none who is guilty herein can remain with us. 5. Extirpate from our church all buying or selling of goods which have not paid the duty laid upon them by government. 6. Extirpate bribery, receiving anything, directly or indirectly, for voting at any election. 7. Strongly advise our people to discountenance all treats given by candidates before or at elections, and not to be partakers in any respect of such practises. Show no respect to persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing.

## VII. Employment of Time

¶ 147. We advise you, 1. As often as possible, to rise at five. 2. From five to six in the morning, and from five to six in the evening, to meditate, pray, and read the Scriptures with notes, and the closely



practical parts of what Mr. Wesley has published. 3. From seven in the morning till twelve (allowing one hour for breakfast) read with much prayer, some of our best religious books.

Other reasons may concur why the people under our care are not better, but the chief is, because we are not more knowing and more holy.

But why are we not more knowing? Because we are idle. We forget our first rule, "Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary." We fear there is altogether a fault in this matter, and that few of us are clear. Which of us spend as many hours a day in God's work as we did formerly in man's work? We talk—talk or read what comes next to hand. We must, absolutely must, cure this evil, or betray the cause of God. But how? 1. Read the most useful books, and that regularly and constantly. 2. Steadily spend all the morning in this employment, or at least five hours in the four and twenty. "But I have no taste for reading." Contract a taste for it by use, or return to your former employment. "But I have no books." Be diligent to spread the books, and you will have the use of them.

### VIII. Union Among Ourselves

¶ 148. We should be deeply sensible, from what we have known, of the evil of division in principle, spirit, or practise, and of the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we divide, we shall destroy ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

In order to a closer union with each other,

1. We should be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it. 2. Pray earnestly for, and speak

freely to each other. 3. When we meet, let us never part without prayer. 4. Take care not to despise each other's gifts. 5. Never speak lightly of one another. 6. Defend one another's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth. 7. Labor in honor each to prefer the other before himself. 8. We recommend a serious perusal of *The Causes, Evils and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*.

### IX. Union with Others

¶ 149. We have Christian fellowship and love for all persons of whatever denomination, who show by their lives that they "follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." We will unite with all well disposed persons, in an open, Christian manner, in promoting social and civil reforms. But we cannot unite, where we are required to compromise our principles, in holding union meetings with any person, or denomination, whose practical standard of Christian character and church fellowship, is obviously below that plainly set forth in the New Testament.

## CHAPTER II

### MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES

#### I. Reception on Trial

¶ 150. A preacher may be received on trial by an annual conference after passing a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study, and after having been duly recommended by a quarterly conference; and when so received he shall receive from the annual conference a certificate of his relation, signed by the president and secretary. But the requirements of this paragraph shall not be so fully enforced as to preclude the reception of a person converted or called to preach in middle life, who, in the judgment of the annual conference, is possessed of natural gifts and graces such as to promise at least a fair degree of success in the work of God; such exceptions in all cases to follow the unanimous recommendation of the stationing committee.

#### II. Reception into Full Membership

¶ 151. A traveling preacher may be received into full membership after having been employed in the regular itinerant work two successive years subsequent to his reception on trial by an annual conference, and after passing a satisfactory examination in the required course of study, and giving satisfactory answers to the following questions, namely:

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Have you present assurance of sins forgiven?



3. Do you believe in Christian perfection?
4. Have you attained to this rich experience in your own heart? (If not) Are you groaning after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?
6. Do you know the general rules? Do you keep them?
7. Do you regularly attend the sacrament?
8. Have you read our Discipline?
9. Are you willing to conform to it?
10. Have you considered the rules for a preacher?
11. Will you keep them for conscience' sake?
12. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
13. Will you endeavor not to speak too long or too loud?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting, or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you in debt?

### III. Reception from Other Denominations

¶ 152. 1. Ministers from other evangelical churches who desire to unite with our church may be received according to our usages, on condition of their giving satisfactory answers to the questions which we propose to our own members and ministers before receiving them into full membership and of their giving satisfaction to an annual conference of their being in orders, and of their agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government and usages; provided the conference is also satisfied with their gifts, graces and usefulness.

2. Every minister, whether local or itinerant,

whose ordination is recognized by an annual conference, shall be entitled to a parchment from the president of the conference, certifying the fact of his ordination.

#### IV. Termination of Conference Membership

¶ 153. 1. By voluntary location.

2. By location through action of the conference, under the provisions of paragraph 116.

3. By ceasing to travel or do the work assigned, without the proper consent. See paragraph 157.

4. By withdrawal with consent of the conference. See paragraphs 122 (12), 390.

¶ 154. When satisfactory evidence shall have been received that a conference minister has united with another denomination without having requested or received from our church proper credentials of withdrawal, he may be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference. No minister leaving the church after complaints have been lodged against him shall, if by any means he regain membership in the church, be allowed to exercise any of the functions of the ministerial office until legal satisfaction shall have been given the conference to which he belonged at the time of leaving the church.\*

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\* In case an ordained minister in good standing in the Free Methodist church unites with another church, or is granted his request to withdraw from the Free Methodist church, he shall deposit his parchments with the secretary of the conference, who shall give him a receipt for the same. If an ordained preacher shall be expelled from the church, or be permitted to withdraw under charges, he thereby forfeits his parchments and they shall be deposited with the secretary of the conference from which he withdrew or was expelled. If he refuses or neglects to so deposit them, the conference shall by official action, declare them forfeited.

## CHAPTER III

### I. DEACONS AND ELDERS

¶ 155. Traveling Deacons: 1. A minister who has been employed in the regular itinerant work for two successive years after his reception on trial, and who has passed a satisfactory examination in the required course of study, may be constituted a traveling deacon by the election of a majority of the conference, and the laying on of the hands of the president.

2. It is the duty of a deacon to baptize, to officiate in marriage ceremonies, to assist the elder in administering the Lord's Supper, and, when appointed to a charge, to perform all the duties of a traveling preacher.

¶ 156. Traveling Elders: 1. Every traveling deacon shall exercise that office two years before he is eligible to the office of elder, except in the case of missions, when the conference shall have authority to elect him to the elder's office sooner if they judge it expedient. A traveling deacon shall be constituted a traveling elder by the election of a majority of the conference and by the laying on of the hands of the president and some of the elders present, after having passed a satisfactory examination in the required course of study.

2. It is the duty of an elder to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to officiate in marriage ceremonies and all parts of divine worship, and, when



appointed to a charge, to perform all the duties of a traveling preacher. No unordained preacher of the Free Methodist church shall be authorized to solemnize the marriage ceremony.

¶ 157. No elder or deacon who ceases to travel, without the consent of the annual conference, certified under the hand of the president of the conference, except in case of sickness, inability, or other unavoidable circumstances, shall on any account exercise the peculiar functions of his office, or even be allowed to preach among us; nevertheless, the final determination in all such cases is with the annual conference.

## CHAPTER IV

### BISHOPS

¶ 158. The general conference shall elect by ballot one or more traveling elders as bishops, who shall remain in office during the quadrennium and until others shall be elected in their places.

¶ 159. It shall be the duty of the bishops:

1. To travel through the connection at large.
2. To oversee the spiritual and temporal interests of our church, and to labor to promote its purity, peace and prosperity.
3. To establish new societies.
4. To receive and suspend preachers, according to the provisions of the Discipline.
5. To change preachers from one district to another, where the districts are presided over by different elders, with the consent of the preacher to be removed and of the district elders, and a majority of the official board of the circuit from which he is to be removed.
6. To transfer a preacher from one conference to another, with the consent of the preacher and of the conference to which he is transferred, and, in the intervals of the sessions of the conference, with the consent of the district elders of the conference to which he is transferred; provided, that no preacher shall be transferred to another conference without a certificate of his good standing and general acceptability, given by his annual or quarterly conference.
7. To form new conferences in the intervals of

general conferences, as the wants of the work may demand, subject to the approval of the general conference; provided, that no new conference shall be formed without the consent of the conference whose territory is affected, and also, without the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the executive committee; provided, also, that no new conference shall be organized with less than five preachers in full membership and one hundred full members within its bounds.

8. To preside at the sessions of the general conference, the executive committee, the annual conferences, and at the trial of appeals taken from quarterly or annual conferences, and to decide all questions of law therein, subject to an appeal to the general conference.

9. The bishops shall estimate the amount necessary to pay the expenses of delegates to the general conference, and shall apportion the same among the several conferences. Any annual conference deficient in its apportionment shall have such deficit deducted from the amount appropriated for the expenses of its delegates to the general conference.

10. The bishops shall be amenable to the general conference for the discharge of their official duties, and for their Christian conduct to the annual conferences to which they respectively belong.



## CHAPTER V

### DISTRICT ELDERS

¶ 160. It shall be the duty of the district elder:

1. To look after the spiritual and temporal interests of the church within his district; to take the charge of all circuits without a preacher, and the oversight of the work on his district, according to the Discipline.

2. To see that every part of the Discipline is duly enforced.

3. To visit every circuit on his district whenever he may judge it expedient. The district elder is especially directed and required to visit any circuit in his district, when so requested by the official board, in case of any dispute or difficulty, or any emergency that may arise. In such cases he shall have power to call an official, society or circuit meeting, and to preside over the same. The circuit sending for him shall pay his traveling expenses.

4. To hold four general quarterly meetings in his district during each year.

5. To hold quarterly meetings once in three months in each circuit within his district, and to labor as an evangelist within his district, if in the judgment of the annual conference the cause of God can be best served thereby. He shall also make a statement of the growth and progress of the work on the district at each general quarterly meeting.

6. When a district has a traveling district elder he may hold an official, circuit, or society meeting on

each circuit, in connection with his quarterly meetings; or he may appoint a supply subject to the approval of the pastor.

7. To appoint, receive, suspend and change preachers in his district or districts in the intervals of the conference sessions; provided he shall not change any preacher contrary to his wishes, unless by the request of two-thirds of the members of the circuit.

8. To see that deeds of lands upon which it may be proposed to build any church or parsonage within the bounds of his district are properly made out and recorded, or that a good and sufficient bond or contract is given for such deed before such building is begun.

9. To give the bishop all the necessary information of the state of his district.

10. The district elder shall not have power to employ a preacher that has been rejected by the annual conference, without permission of said conference.

11. The district elder may, with the consent of the preacher in charge and the official board, divide a circuit in the intervals of the annual conference, if the interest of the work require it.

12. No district elder shall preside over the same district in the same conference more than four years in succession.

13. Traveling district elders shall be elected by ballot in open conference, without debate, and shall be assigned to their respective districts either by an election to the districts direct, or by appointment by the stationing committee, as the conference shall decide.

14. Stationed district elders shall be nominated by ballot by the stationing committee, and elected by ballot in open conference, without debate.

15. In case there should be a vacancy in the office of district elder during the intervals of the sessions

of any annual conference, the president of the conference or his successor shall have power to fill such vacancy, subject to the approval of the ensuing quarterly conference of the district; but if such vacancy should be filled after the last session of the quarterly conference of the conference year, then the secretary of the quarterly conference shall have power to call a special session for the sole purpose of confirming the appointment of the president.

16. Whenever in the judgment of an annual conference the interests of the work can be best subserved thereby, the same district elder may be appointed to more than one district at the same time.

17. The district elder shall be a member of the quarterly conference on the district which he serves; and, in case he be appointed to two or more districts, the stationing committee shall fix his quarterly conference relation.

18. The district elder shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed, unless he devotes all his time in labors as an evangelist, as provided for above, in which case he shall receive his support from the district, each circuit contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the quarterly conference.



## CHAPTER VI

### PASTORS, OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

¶ 161. The duties of a preacher who has the charge of a circuit are, 1. To receive and dismiss members according to the Discipline; provided, however, that no person shall be recorded on the register as "withdrawn at his own request" until such action is approved by the official board.

2. To see that the other preachers in his circuit behave well, and need nothing.

3. To examine each of the leaders concerning his method of leading his class, observe which leaders are the most useful and have these meet the other classes as often as possible, and see that all the leaders are persons not only of sound judgment, but truly devoted to God. See also paragraph 176 (4).

4. To hold watch-nights and love-feasts, and to see that the sacrament is administered at least once in three months.

5. To take care that every society is duly supplied with books.

6. To take an exact account of all members in the societies of their respective circuits, keeping the names of all local elders, deacons and preachers properly distinguished, and deliver such account to the annual conference, that their number may be printed in the minutes.

7. To give an account of his circuit every quarter to the quarterly conference.

8. To report to the society, at least once a quarter,

the names of those who have been received into the church, or excluded therefrom during the quarter, also the names of those who have been received or dismissed by certificate, and those who have died or withdrawn from the church.

9. To make a regular catalogue of the societies in towns and cities, giving the residence of each member by street and number.

10. To leave his successor a particular account of the circuit, including an account of the subscribers for our periodicals.

11. To enforce vigorously, but calmly, all the rules of the society.

12. As soon as there are four believers in any place to put them into a class.

13. To meet the societies and classes; to visit the sick; to visit all members and probationers on his circuit, at least once in three months, and all members of his congregation whenever practicable; to preach out of doors wherever an attentive congregation can be found; to raise money for the purchase of tracts and attend to their distribution upon his circuit; to see that all the collections ordered by the conference are raised in full. All members shall pay their claims for the entire year to the circuit from which they were last reported to an annual conference.

14. To warn all from time to time, that none are to remove from one circuit to another without a certificate from the preacher in charge.

15. To recommend everywhere decency and cleanliness.

16. To read the rules of the society, with the aid of the other preachers, once a year in every congregation, and once a quarter in every society.

17. To see that the trustees are duly elected according to the law of the state; and that the real

estate belonging to the church is duly secured according to law.

18. To see that no steps be taken involving the circuit in financial liability, without the consent of the official board.

19. To warn the people of the evil consequences to themselves and the Church of God, of covetousness and withholding of their means from supporting the gospel, and to urge upon all systematic and proportionate giving, and to preach upon the same, encouraging our people to tithe their incomes.

20. To see that a fast be held in every society in his circuit, on the Friday preceding every quarterly meeting.

21. To execute all the rules fully and strenuously against all frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies, secret societies, labor and capitalistic organizations, contravening paragraph 73, suffering none to remain in our church, on any account, who are found guilty thereof.

¶ 162. During the sittings of the conferences all appointments should stand according to the plan of the circuit. Engage as many local preachers and exhorters as will supply them; and pay them for their time in proportion to the allowances of the traveling preachers. If preachers and exhorters cannot attend, let some person of ability be appointed in every society to sing, pray and read one of Mr. Wesley's sermons. But if that cannot be done, let there be prayer meetings.



## CHAPTER VII

### SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNUATED PREACHERS

¶ 163. A supernumerary preacher is a member of an annual conference whose efficiency is temporarily impaired, and whose relation as a supernumerary is fixed by a vote of his conference on recommendation of the stationing committee. His annual conference may give him an appointment or leave him without one, as in its judgment may seem best. In no case shall he have any claim on the superannuated fund. When left without an appointment, his quarterly conference relation shall be determined by the stationing committee.

¶ 164. A superannuated preacher is one who is so disqualified by physical disability or old age that he cannot take charge of a circuit or occupy any position in the church which will afford him sufficient income for his support. The question as to his disability shall be determined by his conference, on the recommendation of the committee on claimants and claims. His quarterly conference relation shall be fixed by the stationing committee.

**PART V**  
**LOCAL PREACHERS AND LAY**  
**HELPERS**

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## **CHAPTERS**

- I. LOCAL PREACHERS**
- II. EVANGELISTS**
- III. EXHORTERS**
- IV. DEACONESSES**
- V. BANDS AND BAND WORKERS**
- VI. CLASS LEADERS**
- VII. STEWARDS**



## CHAPTER I

### LOCAL PREACHERS

¶165. The quarterly conference shall take cognizance of all the local preachers in the district, and shall inquire into the gifts, labors, and usefulness of each preacher by name.

¶166. A licensed local preacher shall be eligible to the office of deacon after he has preached four years from the time he received a regular license, and has obtained a recommendation from the quarterly conference, after proper examination as to his Christian character, his usefulness as a preacher, and after he has passed a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study.

¶167. A local deacon shall be eligible to the office of elder after he has preached four years from the time he was ordained a deacon, and has obtained a recommendation from the quarterly conference of which he is a member, certifying his qualifications in doctrine, discipline, talents and usefulness, and has passed a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study.

¶168. Every local elder, deacon or preacher shall be amenable to the quarterly conference where he belongs for his Christian character and the faithful performance of his ministerial office. He shall have his name recorded on the journal of said conference, and also enrolled on a class paper, and shall meet in class; and in neglect of the above duties, or neglect to pass a satisfactory examination in the prescribed

course of study, the quarterly conference, if they judge it proper, may deprive him of his ministerial office; provided, no ordained local preacher shall be deprived of his ministerial functions without due form of trial and conviction.

¶ 169. Let the appointments be so arranged as to give the local preachers regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

¶ 170. When a local preacher or evangelist is employed as a supply, his membership shall be on the charge where he labors. He shall take a regular church letter whenever he may be so employed outside of the district where his membership may be.

¶ 171. The examination of local preachers may be conducted orally.

## CHAPTER II

### EVANGELISTS

¶ 172. Evangelists are a class of preachers called of God to preach the gospel, to labor to promote revivals of religion, and to spread abroad the cause of Christ in the land; but not in all cases called to a pastoral charge or to government in the church.

1. Any brother or sister in good standing in our church, feeling called of God to this work, may, upon recommendation of the society to which he belongs, be licensed by the quarterly conference, after due examination, according to paragraph 134 of our Discipline, entitled "Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach." Such evangelists shall be members of the quarterly conference, amenable to it, and shall pass an examination in the course of study for local preachers.

2. Those who labor successfully as evangelists for the period of four years, may, upon recommendation of the quarterly conference, be licensed by the annual conference; and such license shall hold good until revoked by the action of said annual conference.

3. A woman who has been duly licensed as an evangelist may be received into an annual conference as a traveling preacher under certain conditions, according to paragraph 120 of the Discipline.

4. When women evangelists have been licensed by the annual conference, and have served two successive years under appointment as pastors, they may, upon recommendation of the quarterly conference of



which they are members, and at the option of the annual conference, have a voice and vote in the annual conference; and in the transaction of conference business they shall be counted with the preachers. This relation shall continue only while they receive appointments as pastors.

5. The general conference may elect general evangelists, who shall travel through the country at large, subject to the direction of the general missionary board (except in those cases where the general conference shall appoint them to special fields), open new fields of labor, organize new societies, and provide and place over them, temporarily, pastors, preparatory to the organization of new conferences where we have none. If they shall form new societies in any of our existing conferences, such societies shall be under the care of the district elder of the adjacent district.

6. The general evangelist shall have the oversight of other evangelists laboring in immediate connection with him.

7. Such evangelist shall be amenable to the annual conference to which he belongs.

8. No evangelist shall appoint or hold meetings where they will interfere with the regular work of any preacher duly appointed to a circuit or station.

9. The examination of evangelists may be conducted orally.

## CHAPTER III

### EXHORTERS

¶ 173. 1. Exhorters are a class of laymen licensed by the official board of a circuit or station to conduct religious services of a more or less informal character, and to exercise their gifts in hortatory discourse, or in laboring otherwise to promote revivals and to advance the interests of the kingdom of God. They are expected to be the pastor's helpers, and hence should make it their special study to qualify themselves for rendering aid in the work of the charge, as also for general efficiency in various departments of Christian work.

2. No person shall be licensed as an exhorter unless he gives evidence of knowing God experimentally, is of good reputation among those by whom he is well known, exhibits the marks of fair intelligence, and shows himself an apt learner in the school of Christ. It is hoped that those who serve God and the church in this relation may grow in knowledge, grace and efficiency, so that the church may feel warranted in calling them into its higher ministries.

3. Nor shall any person be licensed as an exhorter among us until he shall have been duly recommended by the society of which he is a member, after having lived among them a sufficient time to enable them to know that his religious experience, the spirit he manifests, his general deportment, and his gifts, are such as to commend him to Christian people generally.

## CHAPTER IV

### DEACONESSSES

¶ 174. Deaconesses are a class of women who feel divinely called to advance the cause of Christ, but not to become pastors or evangelists. The duties of a deaconess shall be to care for the sick, provide for the orphans, save the erring and fallen, and to alleviate as far as possible the sufferings of those within her reach.

1. Persons to be licensed as deaconesses shall be at least twenty-five years of age and of good report in the church for works of charity and for constancy of faith.

2. No person shall be recommended for deaconess' license who has not proved her Christian character and experience by living a consistent Christian life as a full member of the Free Methodist church for at least two years in succession immediately preceding the application.

3. Candidates for deaconess' license must first be recommended to the quarterly conference by the society of which they are members.

4. The quarterly conference, after examination into the gifts, graces and usefulness of a candidate, may recommend her to the annual conference to receive license as a deaconess.

5. The annual conference, after consideration of the gifts, graces and usefulness of a person thus recommended, may grant her a license as a deaconess,



such license to be good for one year only unless renewed.

6. Having been thus licensed for two years in succession, one year of which at least shall have been spent in practical deaconess' work, and, having passed a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study, such person may receive from the annual conference a license which shall be good until revoked by the annual conference.

7. Each deaconess shall be amenable to the quarterly conference within the bounds of which she holds her church membership, and shall report her work annually to the quarterly conference.

8. The garb of a deaconess shall be a dark gray dress and black bonnet with white ties. This garb however, shall not be worn until she receives a permanent license from the annual conference.

9. The office of deaconess shall not be considered perpetual. A deaconess may at any time relinquish her license and discontinue her work. But while devoting her time to this work she shall be entitled to a suitable support. The method of providing for the support of a deaconess shall be determined by the annual conference within which she holds her license.

10. A deaconess shall be a member of the quarterly conference of the district within the bounds of which she holds her church membership.

11. The examination of deaconesses may be conducted orally.

## CHAPTER V

### BANDS AND BAND WORKERS

¶ 175. 1. District elders, and evangelists appointed by the general or annual conferences or licensed by an annual conference, may organize bands for evangelistic work; but no person shall become a member of such a band without recommendation from the society to which he belongs.

2. The rules and regulations of such bands shall be subject to the approval of the annual conference to which the leader belongs, or within the bounds of which he holds his membership.

3. All bands shall be under the direction of the district elder or evangelist organizing the same, and no band leader shall appoint or hold meetings where they will interfere with the regular work of any preacher duly appointed to a circuit or station or district.

4. Those who labor successfully in a band for one year, may be licensed by the quarterly conference from year to year, as band workers.

## CHAPTER VI

### CLASS LEADERS

¶ 176. 1. Class leaders shall be elected in the last quarter of the conference year. The preacher in charge may nominate and the class shall elect the leader by ballot, and if any person not nominated by the preacher receive a majority of the votes, he shall be declared elected. Any member of the society shall be eligible to election as leader.

2. Each leader should carefully inquire how each soul in his class prospers; not only how each observes the outward rules, but how he grows in the knowledge and love of God.

3. The leaders should consult with those who have the charge of their circuits.

4. Let the preacher in charge see that improper leaders are changed by a new election.

5. The leaders should frequently meet one another's classes.



## CHAPTER VII

### STEWARDS

¶ 177. 1. The stewards should be persons of solid piety, who both know and love the Free Methodist doctrine and Discipline, and of good natural and acquired abilities to transact temporal business.

2. The number of stewards in each circuit shall not be less than three, nor more than nine.

3. The stewards of each society shall be elected by ballot at a regular society meeting to be held subsequent to the annual circuit meeting. Where there is but one society they may be elected by the circuit meeting.

¶ 178. The duties of stewards are: 1. To take an exact account of all the money or other provisions collected for the support of the ministers in the circuit. 2. To make accurate returns of every expenditure of money, whether to the preachers, the sick or the poor. 3. To seek the needy and distressed in order to relieve and comfort them. 4. To inform the preachers of any sick or disorderly persons. 5. To tell the preachers what they think wrong in them. 6. To attend the quarterly meetings of their circuit. 7. To give advice, if asked, in planning the circuit. 8. To attend committees for the application of money to churches. 9. To give counsel in matters of arbitration. 10. To provide elements for the Lord's Supper. 11. To write circular letters to the societies in the circuit to be more liberal if need be; as also to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of the temporal concerns of the circuit at the last quarterly meeting.

**PART VI**  
**JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. CHURCH TRIALS**
  - II. INSOLVENCIES AND SETTLEMENT OF  
DISPUTES**
-



## CHAPTER I

### CHURCH TRIALS

#### I. Object of Church Discipline

¶ 179. The great object of church discipline is to reclaim and restore the erring member. This should be steadily kept in view in every step that is taken. Every effort that love can suggest should be made to bring back to the Lord one who, while under our care, has wandered from him.

¶ 180. In all cases of personal trespass, and in other cases where the circumstances permit, let the duty be lovingly and faithfully performed, which our Lord enjoins in Matthew 18:15-17:

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.”

¶ 181. If the last duty becomes necessary, let it be performed in the following manner:

#### II. General Directions

¶ 182. 1. Every crime forbidden in the word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom

of grace and glory, shall subject a member to expulsion from the church.

2. Both accuser and accused shall be entitled to the assistance of such counsel as they may select from the members or ministers of the church.

3. Both the accused and the accuser shall have the right of challenge for cause, the validity of which shall be determined by the presiding officer at the society meeting where the committee to try the case is elected.

4. In all trials the proceedings shall be taken down by a secretary appointed by the court; and when an appeal is taken, the case shall be decided from the testimony as it appears upon the record.

5. In appeal cases, no person shall be allowed to sit who has previously voted in the decision of the case.

6. In all appeal cases the appellant shall present the counsel for the church a statement in writing of the grounds of his appeal, at least five days before the trial of the appeal.

7. In the trial of appeal cases the court shall either affirm or reverse the verdict rendered in the former trial, or remand the case for a new trial; and in cases of remanding for a new trial no person shall be eligible as a juror in the new trial who voted on the first trial.

8. After such forms of trial and expulsion, such persons shall have no privileges of society or sacraments in our church, without contrition, confession and reformation satisfactory to the conference or society from which they have withdrawn or by which they have been expelled.

¶ 183. In all cases brought to trial in the church, either the plaintiff or the defendant may request a change of venue, and shall present in writing the reasons for such request; and if the presiding officer

shall, after duly considering the grounds upon which such request is made, be convinced that conditions and circumstances are such as to render a fair and impartial trial reasonably doubtful in the conference or other body before which the action has been commenced, he may order the change of venue requested, and decide as to the conference or other body before which the case shall be tried.

### **III. Trial of Preachers in Full Membership**

¶ 184. The neglect of duties required by the word of God or the indulgence of sinful tempers, words or actions, as well as the dissemination of false doctrine, shall subject a preacher so offending to private reproof by the official member of the church having the oversight of the offending brother; and in case of persistence after proper admonition and labor, to trial, suspension from ministerial functions, or expulsion.

¶ 185. Any preacher against whom a charge is brought, shall be furnished by the person preferring the charge, or by the presiding officer of the tribunal to which he is judicially responsible, with a copy of the charges against him, at least ten days before the trial, unless all the parties agree upon an earlier time for trial.

¶ 186. Any traveling preacher who wilfully neglects or refuses to do the work assigned him by his annual conference, except in case of sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, shall be brought, by the district elder, or the bishop, before a committee of three ministers and three laymen, which shall have power to suspend him from all the functions of a preacher until the ensuing session of the annual conference, with which the final determination of the case shall rest, and which shall have power to render the suspension final.



¶ 187. If a charge of immorality or of unchristian conduct is brought against a traveling preacher in the interval of the annual conferences, the district elder shall call a committee of not less than three nor more than six traveling preachers, and an equal number of laymen, which shall have power to suspend until the next session of the annual conference, with which shall rest the decision of the case.

¶ 188. But if the accused be a district elder, then three of the preachers of his district shall call in the district elder of an adjoining district, who shall call the accused before a committee as above provided, and preside. The district making such a call shall pay the traveling expenses of the district elder so called.

¶ 189. Each annual conference shall have original jurisdiction over all the preachers belonging thereto, and shall have power to reprove, suspend, locate for inefficiency or want of usefulness, or expel, according to the nature of the case, and as righteousness may require. This shall not be so construed as to deprive traveling preachers of the ten-days' notice provided in paragraph 185, except in case of a preacher charged with gross immorality who voluntarily absents himself from the session of his annual conference.

¶ 190. All cases brought before an annual conference, either by complaint or by appeal, may be referred to a committee of not less than four from each branch, which, in the presence of the president of the conference, or an elder whom he may appoint (provided that neither party objects to the person so appointed) shall, either during its session or after its adjournment, try the case and decide upon its merits, and its decision shall have the same effect as that of the annual conference, provided, however, that in all cases the defendant shall be allowed to be tried by

the select committee rather than by the conference, if he so prefers.

¶ 191. In all cases of trial and conviction of traveling preachers, an appeal to the ensuing general conference or court of appeals, as the appellant may choose, shall be allowed, if the condemned person signifies his intention to appeal, at the time of condemnation, or within thirty days after he shall have been notified thereof.

¶ 192. All cases brought before the general conference by appeal, may, with the consent of both parties, be referred to a committee of not less than six ministerial and six lay delegates, which, in the presence of one of the bishops, shall hear the case, and decide upon its merits; and its decision shall have the same effect as that of the general conference.

¶ 193. When an appeal has been taken, penalty shall be suspended pending the hearing of the appeal, except that a minister suspended shall not exercise his ministerial office while his appeal is pending.

#### IV. Form of Procedure

##### I. FORM FOR A BILL OF CHARGES

- ¶ 194. 1. Charge. (Name the offense.)  
2. Specifications. (Name the acts, times and places.)

##### II. ORDER OF CONDUCTING CHURCH TRIALS

- ¶ 195. 1. Devotional exercises.  
2. Reading of the action of the society meeting or conference by which the committee to try the case was appointed, and the names of the committee.  
3. The appointment of a secretary.  
4. Reading the charges and specifications by the secretary.  
5. Answer by the accused in person or by counsel.

6. Statement of the case, and line of evidence by the prosecution.

7. Evidence of the prosecution, and cross-examination by the defense.

8. Statement of the case and line of defense, by the defense.

9. Evidence for the defense, and cross-examination by the prosecution.

10. Rebutting evidence for the prosecution.

11. Rebutting evidence for the defense.

12. Summing up the case by the prosecution.

13. Summing up the case by the defense.

14. In case it be deemed proper to allow the prosecution to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.

15. The verdict.

## V. Restoration of Credentials

¶ 196. 1. When a member of an annual conference is deprived of his credentials, by expulsion or otherwise, they shall be filed with the papers of his conference; and should he, at any future time, give satisfactory evidence to the said conference of his amendment, and procure a certificate from the quarterly conference of the charge where he resides or from an annual conference which may have received him on trial, recommending to the annual conference of which he was formerly a member the restoration of his credentials, the said conference may restore them.

2. When a local elder or deacon shall be expelled the district elder shall require of him the credentials of his ordination, to be filed with the papers of the annual conference within the limits of which the expulsion has taken place; and should he, at any future time, produce to the annual conference a certificate of his restoration, signed by the president



and countersigned by the secretary of the quarterly conference, his credentials may be restored to him.

3. If an ordained elder or deacon shall refuse to surrender his credentials of ordination when lawfully required to do so, he thereby forfeits his parchments, and, at its first session thereafter, his annual conference should declare them forfeited.

## **VI. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Trial**

¶ 197. A preacher on trial in an annual conference shall be accountable for his moral and Christian conduct to the quarterly conference of the district within the bounds of which he travels. If charges are brought against him, he shall be tried the same as a local preacher.

## **VII. The Trial of a Local Preacher**

¶ 198. An accused local preacher or evangelist shall be tried by the quarterly conference of which he is a member; or, at the option of the quarterly conference, by a committee of not less than three nor more than nine, chosen for this purpose by the quarterly conference, which shall have power to reprove, suspend or expel, according to the nature of the case and as righteousness may require. The district elder shall preside at the trial.

But if, for any reason, the district elder shall be unable to preside, or, if he shall be personally so related to the case to come before the quarterly conference as to disqualify him for presiding, the bishop who last presided at the annual conference of which the quarterly conference forms a part shall appoint another elder to preside.

¶ 199. If a charge of gross immorality is brought against a local preacher or evangelist in the interval of the sessions of the quarterly conference, the dis-

strict elder shall call a committee of not less than three members of the quarterly conference, which shall have power to suspend until the next session of the quarterly conference.

¶ 200. 1. Whenever a change of venue is granted, the quarterly conference to which it is removed shall take cognizance of the case and proceed to give it a hearing at its first regular session.

2. If in the change of venue the case is removed to a quarterly conference over which another district elder presides, then such district elder shall preside at the trial.

¶ 201. Any local preacher or evangelist feeling aggrieved at the decision of his case, shall be allowed an appeal to the ensuing session of the annual conference.

### VIII. The Trial of An Accused Member

#### 1. GROUND OF COMPLAINT—DISCIPLINARY LABOR

¶ 202. The neglect of duties required by the word of God, or indulgence of sinful tempers, words or actions, shall subject the person so offending to private reproof by the official members of the church having the oversight of the offender; and, in case of persistence after proper admonition and labor, to trial and censure, being placed on probation, or expulsion, as the committee may determine, provided that no charge of the character referred to in this paragraph, including the charge of falsehood, shall be entertained until the party complained of has been labored with as required by paragraph 180.

#### 2. NOTIFICATION OF TIME AND PLACE OF TRIAL

¶ 203. Any member against whom a charge is brought shall be furnished by the persons bringing the charge, or by the presiding officer of the tribunal

to which he is judicially responsible, with a copy of the charges against him, at least fourteen days before the trial, unless the party against whom charges are brought shall demand an earlier trial. He shall also be notified of the place of the election of the committee to try the case at least ten days prior to its election.

### 3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE TO TRY A CASE

¶ 204. When charges are preferred against a member, the preacher who is to preside at the trial shall call a meeting of the society, which shall select a committee of not less than three, nor more than nine, who shall be members of the church, within the bounds of the annual conference, to try the case. No preacher belonging to an annual conference, either on trial or in full membership, shall be eligible to act on this committee.

¶ 205. If the society shall refuse to appoint such committee, the quarterly conference of the district of which the society forms a part shall appoint a committee to try the case, and if after conviction the member tried appeals to the quarterly conference, no member of said committee shall be eligible to sit as a juror in the trial of the case.

### 4. PRESIDING OFFICER

¶ 206. The preacher in charge, when in full membership in the conference, shall preside at the trial of members; but the district elder shall, for sufficient reasons, appoint some other traveling preacher in full membership to preside at any particular trial. The district elder shall not preside at such trial.

### 5. RIGHT OF APPEAL

¶ 207. Any member who has been tried and convicted by a committee, shall be entitled to an appeal



to the next quarterly conference, provided he did not voluntarily absent himself from the trial, and provided he gave notice of his intention to appeal at the time of his condemnation, or within thirty days after having been notified thereof.

#### 6. RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

¶ 208. In case a member who has been expelled from the church shall afterward be proven innocent of the charge upon which he was expelled, he may be restored to full membership in the church by vote of the society from which he was expelled.

## CHAPTER II

### INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

¶ 209. In case of disputes between two or more members of the church, concerning the payment of debts, or other matters not involving personal character, which cannot be settled by the parties concerned, the preacher who has charge of the circuit shall inquire into the circumstances of the case; and shall recommend to the contending parties a reference, consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff, and another chosen by the defendant, which two arbiters so chosen shall nominate a third; the three arbiters being members of the church.

¶ 210. But if one of these parties be dissatisfied with the judgment given, such parties may apply to the ensuing quarterly conference for allowance to have a second arbitration appointed; and if the quarterly conference see sufficient reason, they shall grant a second arbitration, in which case each party shall choose two arbiters, and the four arbiters shall choose a fifth, the judgment of the majority of whom shall be final; and any person refusing to abide by such judgment shall be excluded from the church.

¶ 211. If any member of the church shall refuse, in case of debt or other disputes, to refer the matter to arbitration, when recommended by him who has charge of the circuit, or shall enter into a lawsuit with another before such measures are taken, he shall be expelled by a regular trial according to Dis-

cipline, unless the case be of such a nature as to require or justify a process of law.

¶ 212. Whenever a complaint is made against any member of the church for non-payment of debt, when the accounts are adjusted, and the amount is ascertained, the preacher in charge of the circuit shall call the debtor before a committee of at least three, to show the cause why he does not make payment. The committee shall determine what further time shall be granted him for payment; and in case the debtor refuses to comply, he shall be expelled; but in such case he may appeal to the quarterly conference, and its decision shall be final; and in case the creditor complains that justice is not done him, he may lay his grievance before the quarterly conference and its decision shall be final; and if the creditor refuses to comply he shall be expelled. In case the debtor refuses or neglects to comply with the findings of the committee or of the quarterly conference, the creditor may have recourse to the civil courts without affecting his membership in the church.

¶ 213. To prevent scandal, when any member of the church shall fail in business, or contract debts which he is not able to pay, two or three judicious members of the church shall inspect the accounts, contracts and circumstances of the case of the supposed delinquent; and if he has behaved dishonestly, or borrowed money without a probability of paying, he shall be expelled. The official body to which the offending member is amenable shall appoint the committee of inspection.



**PART VII**  
**TEMPORAL ECONOMY**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS**
  - II. SUPPORT OF SUPERANNUATED  
PREACHERS AND OTHER CLAIMANTS**
  - III. CHURCH PROPERTY**
-

## **CHAPTER I**

### **SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS**

#### **I. Support of Bishops**

¶ 214. The salaries of our bishops shall be raised by conference collections; and the executive committee shall make the apportionment to the respective conferences and so arrange the time for taking the collections for the same among said conferences that some shall be taken in each quarter of the year.

#### **II. Support of District Elders**

¶ 215. The district elder shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed, unless he devotes all his time in labors as an evangelist, as provided for in paragraph 160 (18), in which case he shall receive his support from the district, each circuit contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the quarterly conference.

#### **III. Support of Preachers in Charge**

¶ 216. 1. It shall be the duty of a committee appointed by the official board, who shall be members of the church, to make, after consulting with the preacher in charge, an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of the preacher or preachers stationed with them; which estimate shall be subject to the action of the official board.

2. The stewards shall provide by such means as



they may devise to meet such expenses, in money, or otherwise.

3. Every class leader shall, at the commencement of the year, ascertain how much each person in his class is able and willing to pay, per week, for the support of the preachers, and note the same in his class-book, and diligently see to it that the collections are made weekly, duly credited, and paid over to the steward for the benefit of the preachers.

4. If any deficiency shall arise in the preacher's salary, the stewards shall circulate among our friends a subscription to assist in such deficiency.

5. The adoption of the budget system for raising finances is recommended to all the societies of the church. The membership is requested to cooperate heartily with this plan, giving not less than one-tenth of the net annual income for the Lord's work.

#### IV. Support of Evangelists

¶ 217. Evangelists shall depend upon the fields in which they labor for their support, except in case of general evangelists, who may receive appropriations from the general missionary board, on recommendations from the bishops.

## CHAPTER II

### SUPPORT OF SUPERANNUATED PREACHERS AND OTHER CLAIMANTS

¶ 218. 1. The executive committee shall constitute the board of conference claimants.

2. This board shall make a report of all its doings to the general conference.

¶ 219. The funds of this board shall be known as the conference claimants' fund, and shall consist of the proceeds accruing from the endowment fund and collections taken by the annual conferences for said claimants' fund, and fifteen per cent annually of the net profits of the business of the Publishing House.

¶ 220. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually an amount equal to five cents per member in full relation, which money, together with gifts, bequests and legacies which may be received for this purpose, shall constitute a perpetual endowment fund, which shall be invested by the board, the proceeds therefrom to be appropriated to the conference claimants' fund.

¶ 221. 1. The claimants upon this fund shall be superannuated preachers, superannuated missionaries to foreign lands, and the widows and children of deceased preachers and missionaries to foreign lands; and no claimant shall receive annually from said fund an amount greater than the regular disciplinary allowance.

2. In the case of superannuated missionaries who

have served in foreign lands the amount allowed shall be fixed by the missionary board.

¶ 222. 1. The allowance for superannuated preachers shall be seven and one-half dollars a year for the first ten years of effective service after having been received into the conference in full membership, and twelve and one-half dollars a year for the next ten years, making two hundred dollars the full claim—provided the preacher is without so much of worldly goods as shall be necessary for his support. By “effective service” shall be understood the time actually employed by a preacher as directed by his conference.

2. The bishops shall make an effort at each annual conference to increase the superannuated fund. The increase from \$150 to \$200 shall take effect whenever the conference claimants’ board finds that sufficient funds are on hand for the purpose.

3. The allowance granted shall be paid semi-annually if the treasury will warrant.

¶ 223. The above provision shall apply to the widows of traveling and superannuated preachers, so long as they shall remain members of the Free Methodist church, and if the superannuated preacher die, then his full claim shall be paid to his widow at the ensuing annual conference. If a minister should marry after being superannuated, no claim shall be allowed his widow or children, the issue of such marriage.

¶ 224. The board of conference claimants shall be provided with blanks furnished by the Publishing House on which the applicant for a claim on the superannuate fund shall state in full to the committee on conference claimants and claims the circuits or charges in any of the annual conferences on which he has labored since becoming a member of the conference, and shall also make a certified statement of all



his worldly resources and of his actual yearly income, and also a statement of his bodily disabilities.

¶ 225. On the death of a preacher, leaving a child or children without so much of worldly goods as shall be necessary to his, her or their support, the annual conference of which he was a member shall estimate, according to the provision of this chapter, a yearly sum for the subsistence of such orphan child or children, until he, she or they shall have arrived at fourteen years of age, the amount of which yearly sum shall be fixed by a committee of the conference at each session in advance. This sum shall in no case exceed thirty-six dollars for each child.

¶ 226. Each annual conference may, at its discretion, order collections for necessitous cases amongst its claimants or other laborers, and the money so collected shall be divided by the annual conference as in the exercise of its discretion the necessities of each case may demand.

¶ 227. Each annual conference is earnestly recommended to provide houses, so far as practicable, for the use of the superannuated preachers or the widows of preachers. If any of our people who have property will do so, let it be deeded to the trustees of the Free Methodist church for the use of superannuated preachers.

¶ 228. It shall be the duty of the board to estimate the amount necessary to be raised for the claimants in addition to the endowment fund, and apportion the same pro rata upon the entire membership of the church, which apportionment, together with five cents per member for the endowment fund, shall be raised by conference collections not later than the second quarter of the conference year.

¶ 229. We recommend that each annual conference employing men or women, or both, as supplies on circuits make suitable provision for their preservation

from financial embarrassment when worn out or broken down in the work.

¶ 230. It shall be the duty of the board to make a division of its funds based upon the number of claimants, and not to exceed their regular disciplinary allowance, and to forward the amount for each annual conference to the bishop presiding at such annual conference, which body shall divide it according to the appropriation of said conference.

¶ 231. Any annual conference deficient in its collection shall have the amount of its deficiency deducted from the amount of its appropriation by the board.

## CHAPTER III

### CHURCH PROPERTY

#### I. Trustees—Appointment and Duties

232. The board of trustees for church property shall consist of not less than three nor more than nine persons, at least two-thirds of whom shall be members of the Free Methodist church.

¶ 233. In all cases where the law of states or territories requires a specified mode of election, that mode shall be observed; otherwise such trustees shall be elected at the society meeting, except where a society is not incorporated, and is embraced within a circuit and has become extinct, in which case trustees for such property shall be elected by the annual circuit meeting. All trustees shall hold their office until their successors shall be elected.

¶ 234. Boards of trustees shall report all business transacted to the annual circuit meeting, and to the society whenever requested to do so by the preacher in charge, the official board or by the society. They shall also make an annual statement of the financial condition of the property in their care.

¶ 235. If a member of our church holding the office of trustee withdraws from the church, is dismissed by letter or expelled, or removes beyond the bounds of the circuit for which he was elected, the society may declare his place in the board vacant, except in states or territories where the law will not allow this to be done.



¶ 236. No other denomination shall be permitted to hold stated appointments in any of our churches without the consent of both the preacher in charge and a majority of the trustees.

## II. Incorporation and Deeds

¶ 237. Before any real estate is purchased for either church or parsonage property let the society consult some reliable lawyer, provide him with a copy of our Discipline for reference, and wherever the law of the state or territory will permit, proceed legally to incorporate the society. Let the articles of incorporation, where the laws will permit, provide that the society shall be subject to the provisions of the Discipline of the Free Methodist Church of North America, and that the secular affairs of the corporation shall be managed and controlled by trustees elected according to the provisions of said Discipline. When such incorporation is completed, let the deed be made out directly to the society in its corporate name, and not to individual trustees; and in all cases it shall contain the trust clause included in the next paragraph.

¶ 238. In states where the law requires church property to be held by trustees, and in states where incorporation can not be secured as provided for in the preceding paragraph, let all deeds be made to trustees, naming them and their successors in office, and containing the following trust clause: "In trust for the use and benefit of the membership of the Free Methodist Church of North America, incorporated under the name of 'Free Methodist General Conference of North America,' subject to the Discipline, usages and ministerial appointments of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared; and, if sold, the proceeds shall be disposed of and used in accordance with the provisions of said Discipline, and

of the civil law; and in further trust and confidence that in the houses of worship now erected or that may hereafter be erected on said premises hereby conveyed, the seats shall be forever free; and in further trust and confidence that the said trustees and their successors in office shall permit at all times the preachers who may be duly authorized according to the Discipline of the said Free Methodist church, to hold religious services in said houses of worship according to said Discipline."

¶ 239. No deed shall be accepted which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, his heirs or assigns.

¶ 240. All deeds should be immediately recorded, and in all their parts should be made to conform to the laws, usages and forms of the state or territory in which the property may be situated.

¶ 241. In no case shall the church or parsonage property be sold, mortgaged or encumbered for current expenses.

¶ 242. Whenever it may become necessary or advisable to dispose of any church property, the trustees may sell and convey the same by first securing the authority of the society for such sale, the approval of the district elder and the consent of the general conference, or in the intervals of its sessions, of two-thirds of the members of the executive committee; provided that in all cases the proceeds of such sale shall be used either for the purchase or improvement of property for the same uses and deeded to the same corporation or trustees; or if not so used, shall be held subject to the order of the annual conference in whose territory such property may be situated.

¶ 243. Whenever any church property is no longer used for church purposes, and is declared abandoned by the annual conference, it shall be the duty of the trustees, if any remain, to sell such property and turn



over the proceeds of such sale to the annual conference. If no such trustees remain, it shall be the duty of the trustees of the annual conference to take possession of such property by any means lawful in the state or territory in which the property may be situated. The annual conference may sell and convey such property, the proceeds of such sale to be used as said conference may direct, provided that such transaction shall not be contrary to the civil law.

### III. Erection of Churches

¶ 244. 1. All our houses of worship must be built plain and neat, without steeples, and no more expensive than is absolutely required for comfort, convenience and stability, and with all seats free.

2. No step shall be taken involving pecuniary liability in erecting houses of worship, or parsonages, or in purchasing church property of any kind, until two-thirds of the amount necessary to meet the estimated cost be secured in good, reliable subscriptions.

3. No houses of worship, parsonages or other church buildings shall be erected on leased ground, except on reservations or other places where it is impossible to secure a deed in fee, or without the unanimous consent of the conference board of church extension and aid society of the annual conference in whose territory the property is situated.

4. The executive committee is authorized to collect data touching the questions of heating, lighting, ventilating and comfortable seating for churches, also to secure cuts, drawings and working plans of church buildings which conform to Free Methodist standards, and to make such information and plans available for societies desiring to build; and all societies intending to build are urgently requested to secure such information from the executive committee and to make such use of it as local conditions will permit.



**PART VIII**  
**EDUCATIONAL AND**  
**BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. EDUCATION**
- II. SUNDAY-SCHOOLS**
- III. MISSIONARY WORK**
- IV. CHURCH EXTENSION**
- V. CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS**
- VI. THE PUBLISHING HOUSE**

## CHAPTER I

### EDUCATION

#### I. The Board of Education

¶ 245. 1. In order to promote the educational work of the church there shall be a board known as the Board of Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

2. This board shall be composed of the members of the executive committee and the editor of the Free Methodist.

3. The board shall be incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois, with its headquarters at the Publishing House in Chicago.

4. The said board shall manage its own affairs, subject to the provisions of its charter and the rules and regulations of the general conference.

¶ 246. 1. The board of education shall receive, invest and disburse all moneys which shall be contributed, collected or otherwise committed to it for general educational purposes. It shall administer the children's fund and all other funds to assist properly accredited young men and young women, who are members of the Free Methodist church and feel called of God to ministerial or missionary work and are enrolled as students in some of the schools, recognized by the board of education as Free Methodist schools, to procure such educational training as preparation for their work requires; provided, that no part of the children's fund shall be appropriated to any student



except such as shall have been a regular scholar in some Free Methodist Sunday-school for a period of six months or more, and also provided, that none of the educational funds shall be appropriated to any student except such as pursues his studies in some one of the institutions recognized as Free Methodist schools. The aid shall be granted only in the form of loans, but the board may cancel such loans, in part or in whole, for protracted illness, or for five years of actual missionary service.

2. All educational money other than the children's fund shall be reported under the head of "general educational fund."

3. This board shall recognize as auxiliaries such educational societies as may at any time be created by an annual conference, provided such societies prosecute their work in harmony with the principles and methods of the board of education.

4. This board shall appoint a standing committee, from its own body, to investigate the financial and educational standards of our institutions, and report at least every two years to the board regarding the same.

5. The said board shall publish an annual report of all the business transacted, including moneys or other property received, funds invested and funds disbursed. Their report shall also include a classified list of all the educational institutions under the patronage of the Free Methodist church.

## II. Educational Institutions

¶ 247. 1. The board of education shall recognize as under the auspices of the Free Methodist church, and therefore entitled to be mentioned in its classified list of educational institutions and to receive aid from its connectional funds, all those schools of the

church which are now known to have the approval of the conferences in which they are respectively located and of such other conferences as may be associated in their management; and also all such schools as shall hereafter be established in accordance with the foregoing conditions and with the approval of the majority of the members of the board of education expressed by a vote in one of its regular meetings.

2. No educational institution shall be recognized by the board as provided for in the foregoing part of this section unless it is established and operated in accord with the conditions hereinbefore mentioned.

3. In case any institution be hereafter established contrary to the provisions of the foregoing part of this section, the board of education, on formal complaint made to it by any annual conference interested, shall fix a time and place for hearing the authorities of the said institution, and other institutions affected thereby, and shall advise such adjustment of the relations between them as shall seem wise and proper under the circumstances.

4. The schools now recognized as under the auspices of the Free Methodist church are divided into three classes—colleges, junior colleges, and seminaries. The list is as follows:

Greenville College.

The A. M. Chesbrough Seminary.

Spring Arbor Seminary.

Evansville Seminary and Junior College.

Wessington Springs Seminary.

Seattle-Pacific College.

The Central Academy and College.

Los Angeles Free Methodist Seminary.

The Campbell Seminary.

### III. Duties of Pastors

¶ 248. 1. It shall be the duty of every pastor to

preach on Christian education and to take a public collection once a year, in every congregation over which he presides, for general educational purposes.

The money so collected shall be paid over to the treasurer of the annual conference auxiliary to the board of education, if such an auxiliary exists; but where there is no such auxiliary, the money shall be forwarded to the treasurer of his annual conference and his receipt taken therefor and brought to the next session of the annual conference. The first Sunday in August is recommended as the time for taking such collections.

2. It shall also be the duty of every pastor to arrange for every Sunday-school under his charge to observe the first Sunday in June, or, if that date is impracticable, the most convenient Sabbath in the month of June, as children's day, in which one of the regular services shall be a religious service for the children.\* As a part of the service a collection shall be taken for the Sunday-school children's fund. He shall forward the amount so collected directly to the treasurer of his conference, taking his receipt therefor and reporting the same to his annual conference under the head of "children's fund."

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\* It shall not be permissible, however, in connection with the "Children's Day" service to introduce anything of a character disapproved by paragraph 252 (6) of the Discipline.



## CHAPTER II

### SUNDAY-SCHOOLS

#### I. General Sunday-school Board

¶ 249. 1. A board, composed of seven members, called the Sunday-school Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, shall be appointed by the general conference.

2. This board shall meet at least once each year. It shall promote, and have general charge of, the Sunday-school work of the church. It shall cooperate with the conference Sunday-school secretaries, giving them directions and advice.

3. This board shall supervise the teacher training work of the church, arranging its courses, deciding upon the necessary text-books, providing for examinations and granting diplomas to those who complete courses of study.

4. The expenses of the board, and any incidental expense which the board may make in carrying on and promoting the Sunday-school work of the church which is not paid by direct offerings from the Sunday-schools, shall be charged to and paid by the Sunday-school department.

5. The members of the Sunday-school Board elected at the general conference of 1915 are as follows: W. B. Olmstead, J. B. Lutz, J. H. Whiteman, E. A. Holtwick, Jacob Moyer, G. W. Griffith, L. G. Lewis. The board organized by electing Jacob Moyer, president; J. B. Lutz, recording secretary;

W. B. Olmstead, general secretary, and the treasurer of the church funds, treasurer.

## **II. Conference Sunday-school Secretaries**

¶ 250. Each conference shall elect annually a conference Sunday-school secretary, or secretaries. It shall be the duty of the conference Sunday-school secretary,

1. To promote the Sunday-school work in the territory under his jurisdiction.

2. To see that a Sunday-school is organized and maintained in each society in his conference, and to establish mission Sunday-schools.

3. To see that a Sunday-school convention is held on each district during the year and to assist in such conventions, if possible.

4. To hold or arrange for the holding of an institute on each circuit, and if possible at each society some time during the year.

5. As often as possible to arrange for the holding of a special service for the promotion of Sunday-school interests at our general gatherings, such as district meetings, camp meetings and conferences.

6. To cooperate with the general Sunday-school board, carrying out its suggestions and making annual reports to the board.

7. To extend the circulation of our Sunday-school literature.

8. To present a report to the annual conference.

## **III. Duties of Pastors**

¶ 251. For the moral and religious instruction of the children it shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits, with the aid of the other preachers:

1. To form Sunday-schools in all our congregations where ten children can be collected for that purpose,

and to engage the cooperation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable; to preach on the subject of Sunday-schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once during the year; to form Bible classes wherever they can for the instruction of the larger children and youth and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose; to establish and maintain mission Sunday-schools wherever there is an opening, and in such schools members of the church shall be employed as officers and teachers so far as practicable.

2. To enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; to preach to the children, and publicly catechise them in the Sunday-schools, and at special meetings appointed for that purpose.

3. To pay special attention to the children, speaking to them personally and kindly upon the subject of experimental and practical godliness, according to their capacity, pray earnestly for them, and diligently instruct and exhort all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord, in baptism, as early as convenient.

4. He shall lay before each session of the quarterly conference, to be entered on its journal, the number and state of the Sunday-schools and Bible classes in his charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and make the required report on Sunday-schools to his annual conference. In reporting to the quarterly and annual conferences the total membership of the Sunday-schools, he shall include, under separate heads, the home and cradle roll departments.

5. He shall arrange for the Sunday-schools under his charge to observe children's day in June.\*

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\* See paragraph 248 (2).



#### IV. Local Sunday-school Board

¶ 252. 1. A Sunday-school board meeting shall be held in each society once a month whenever practicable, composed of the pastors, officers, teachers, and department superintendents of the Sunday-school.

2. The officers of this Sunday-school board shall be a president, vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected at the beginning of each conference year.

3. It shall be the duty of the Sunday-school board to elect one or more assistant superintendents, who also shall be elected at the beginning of each conference year. The teachers shall be elected by the Sunday-school board. The superintendent may nominate.

4. In the organization of new schools, the preacher or preachers in charge and the superintendent shall appoint the teachers, and these with the preacher or preachers in charge and the superintendent shall constitute the Sunday-school board at its beginning.

5. It shall be the duty of this board to decide upon the Sunday-school literature and to attend to all other business connected with the Sunday-school not otherwise provided for in the Discipline.

6. It shall be the duty of the board to provide for a proper Christmas service, but in no case shall Christmas trees be allowed. This board may also provide for proper outings for the Sunday-school, with the distinct understanding that nothing shall be permitted out of harmony with the spirit and principles of the Free Methodist Discipline.

7. At its regular meetings the board shall observe the following:

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling of the roll.
3. Reading the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Election of officers for the year—a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. (This applies to the first meeting of the conference year only.)
5. Report of superintendent.
6. Report of department superintendents.
7. Quarterly report of the secretary of the Sunday-school.
8. Report of the treasurer.
9. Reports of teachers upon the condition of their respective classes.
10. Are the classes properly organized?
11. Election of teachers. (This applies to the first meeting of the conference year only.)
12. Election of teachers to fill vacancies.
13. Consideration of the Sunday-school literature.
14. Reports of committees.
15. Appointment of committees.
16. Unfinished business.
17. New business.
18. Reading of the minutes.
19. Adjournment.

#### V. Sunday-school Superintendent

¶ 253. The superintendent of the Sunday-school shall be elected by ballot at a society meeting. The preacher in charge may nominate. See paragraphs 128 (1), 130 (3) and 132 (3).

#### VI. Offering for Sunday-school Work

¶ 254. It shall be the duty of each Sunday-school to take an annual offering, the same to be forwarded to the treasurer of the General Sunday-school Board, to be used in carrying on the general Sunday-school work.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **MISSIONARY WORK**

#### **GENERAL MISSIONARY BOARD**

##### **I. Name and Objects**

¶ 255. The name of this board is the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America. The objects for which this corporation is formed are:

1. To collect, receive, hold, expend, pay out or dispose of any property, real or personal, or of whatever nature and wherever situate as allowed by law, that may be given, obtained or held in aid of the general missionary work of the Free Methodist church.

2. To acquire by purchase, gifts or devise, real estate or personal property in the United States of North America, or in foreign lands, and to hold or sell or convey the same as in its judgment may be necessary in the prosecution of its missionary work.

##### **II. Membership—Officers—Duties**

¶ 256. 1. The general missionary board shall be composed of the bishops, the president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and three other members of said society elected by the general society at its quadrennial meeting; one traveling elder and one layman from each of the general conference districts, and a secretary to be elected by ballot by



the general conference. The president of the missionary board shall be elected from their own number. The treasurer shall be elected by the board and may be chosen from outside of its members. This board shall continue in office until the close of the next session of the general conference and until others shall be elected in their places. It shall have an annual meeting, a personal notice of which, signed by the president and secretary, shall be sent to each member of the board three weeks previous to the meeting and shall appear in two issues of the Free Methodist.

2. If from any cause a member of this board shall cease to be a member of the Free Methodist church, or shall remove from the bounds of the district that he represents, his place upon the board shall be declared vacant. Vacancies shall be filled by the board from the districts where the vacancy occurs, excepting the office of the secretary, which vacancy shall be filled by the executive committee.

3. It shall be the duty of this board to act as an advisory committee to its directors.

¶ 257. It shall be the duty of the board to take charge of all moneys raised for general and foreign missionary work, and appropriate the same to the extension and support of the general and foreign mission work, provided they shall appropriate all moneys to the purpose for which they were contributed.

¶ 258. Titles to land purchased for missions in foreign lands shall be in the name of the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, and deeded to trustees elected by the general missionary board, the tenure of whose office shall be subject to said board.

¶ 259. 1. The missionary board shall publish in the official organ of the church quarterly reports of all receipts, and make full reports to each annual con-

ference, of receipts for the preceding year; and to the general conference at its regular sessions of all moneys received and disbursed by it, and of the results of such appropriations so far as can be ascertained.

2. The president of the board shall, with the consent of a majority of its members, make a general call from time to time, for special collections, to provide funds for any contingency that may arise in the mission field.

### III. General Conference Missionary Districts

¶ 260. The various annual conferences shall be grouped in six general conference missionary districts, as follows: District No. 1—Genesee, Susquehanna, Oil City. No. 2—New York, Pittsburgh, Georgia and Florida, Ohio, East Ontario, West Ontario. No. 3—East Michigan, North Michigan, Michigan. No. 4—Wabash, Central Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Southern Missouri, Texas, East Texas, Louisiana, West Kansas. No. 5—Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, North Minnesota, Minnesota and Northern Iowa, Iowa, West Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Platte River, Nebraska. No. 6—Columbia River, Washington, Oregon, Southern Oregon, California, Southern California, Colorado, Alberta, Saskatchewan.

### IV. Members of the General Missionary Board

¶ 261. Members of the general missionary board elected at the general conference of 1915 are as follows: Bishops—Burton R. Jones, Walter A. Sellew, Wilson T. Hogue, William Pearce. General secretary—John S. MacGeary. Representing District No. 1—Herbert L. Crockett, Grant C. Woods. No. 2—Wil-

liam B. Olmstead, Alma L. Miller. No. 3—S. H. Porterfield, Peter White. No. 4—John A. Watson, Jacob Moyer. No. 5—G. W. Griffith, Thomas B. Arnold. No. 6—Wilbur N. Coffee, E. A. Holtwick. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society—Mary L. Coleman, president, Adelaide L. Beers, Emma Freeland Shay, Emma L. Hogue.

## V. Directors of the General Missionary Board

¶ 262. 1. At the first meeting of the general missionary board subsequent to each session of the general conference, said board shall elect by ballot from its members seven persons, one at least of whom shall be a member of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society elected to the missionary board, who shall constitute a board of directors.

2. The following named persons were duly elected as directors of the general missionary board at the annual meeting of the said board held in Chicago, Illinois, in June, 1915: Walter A. Sellew, Wilson T. Hogue, William Pearce, John S. MacGeary, William B. Olmstead, Thomas B. Arnold, Mary L. Coleman. The board of directors shall be elected annually.

3. It shall be the duty of the directors of the board to take charge of all moneys raised for general and foreign missionary work, and appropriate the same to the extension and support of the general and foreign missionary work, provided they shall appropriate all the moneys to the purpose for which they were contributed.

4. The directors of the board shall accept and appoint missionaries to their respective fields, order the expenditure of funds upon each field, make appropriations from the contingent fund to meet exigencies as they may arise from time to time, and perform all the duties of the board and such other work as is contemplated in the articles of incorporation.



## VI. Secretary

¶ 263. The secretary of the general missionary board shall keep the records of the board, receive and answer all correspondence relating to the missionary work of the church, and pay over to the treasurer of the board all moneys received by him, taking his receipt for the same. He shall also have charge of the missionary interests of the church, subject to the orders and under direction of the directors of the board, excepting in some sudden emergency, when he may be at liberty to act without waiting for orders from the directors, provided that such action taken shall be subject to the approval or disapproval of the board of directors. He may with the consent of the president of the board of directors and a majority of the directors make general calls from time to time for special collections, or for donations for some particular purpose, in order to provide for contingencies that may arise on the mission fields. He shall make yearly, or whenever requested by the board of directors of the board, a full and detailed report to the board of all business pertaining to both the missionaries and the mission stations.

## VII. Treasurer

¶ 264. The treasurer shall receive all moneys accruing to foreign and general missions by collections, donations, bequests, or otherwise, giving receipts for the same, and shall pay over, upon order of the secretary, whatever sums have been appropriated by the directors of the board. He shall deposit all funds in some national bank or trust company, selected by the board, in the name of the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, to be drawn only upon the order of the secretary and treasurer.

**VIII. Duties of Preachers in Charge**

¶ 265. 1. It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge of a circuit to hold one or more missionary meetings on his circuit during the year, and take a collection and circulate a subscription for the support of foreign missions.

2. It shall also be his duty to raise for general missions, by public collections or otherwise, a sum not less than fifteen cents per annum, for each member in full relation, to be forwarded to the treasurer of the general missionary board.

**IX. Annual Conference Missionary Funds**

¶ 266. Each annual conference may, from time to time, by vote, appropriate of its mission funds such sums to the general missionary board as in its judgment may be deemed proper. Each annual conference may, by such means as it shall judge best, raise funds for the support of missions within its bounds.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CHURCH EXTENSION**

#### **I. The General Church Extension Society**

¶ 267. 1. The missionary board shall constitute The Church Extension Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America.\*

2. The object of this society shall be to aid needy churches or societies by donations or loans for the erection of churches.

3. This society shall publish in the official paper of the church an annual report of its work, and also submit a full report quadrennially to the general conference.

#### **II. Conference Church Extension and Aid Society**

¶ 268. 1. Each annual conference shall appoint a society of five members which shall constitute a conference church extension and aid society, the officers of which shall be a president, secretary and treasurer.

2. The conference church extension and aid society shall be auxiliary to the general society, and shall, under its direction, have charge of all the work of the church extension and aid society within its bounds.

3. The treasurer of the conference society shall,

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\* The corporate name of this board.



at least once in three months, remit all funds in his hands to the treasurer of the general society.

4. It shall be the duty of the conference society to arrange for a collection to be taken at each appointment on every circuit for church extension, to be forwarded to the treasurer of the church extension society. An amount equal to at least ten cents per member is to be raised for this fund.

5. The conference society shall make a full report of its work to the conference at its annual session.

6. All applications for aid shall be first submitted to the conference society, and said society shall certify its action thereon to the general society; and aid shall be granted only by the concurrent action of the general society and the conference society.

7. All such applications for aid shall be in accordance with blank forms furnished by the general society, and shall set forth:

(1) The number of members of the Free Methodist society, and the size of the congregation.

(2) The fact that the board of trustees is legally incorporated.

(3) The size and valuation of the site, the validity of the title, and whether deeded to the Free Methodist church.

(4) A description of the building for which aid is asked.

(5) The estimated cost.

(6) The amount of available and reliable means secured.

(7) Any other information that the general society may require.

## CHAPTER V

### CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

#### Board of Charities and Benevolences

¶ 269. For the encouragement and regulation of works of charity and benevolence within the Free Methodist church, there shall be a board known as The Board of Charities and Benevolences of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

1. This board shall be composed of the members of the general missionary board, and the superintendents of the Gerry Homes and of the Woodstock Homes.

2. It shall be the duty of the board of charities and benevolences to inspect the charitable and benevolent institutions operating in and soliciting financial support from the Free Methodist church to determine their financial standing, their plan of operation, and the character and amount of work done, and to determine whether the institution inspected shall receive the indorsement of the church as an accredited institution.

3. The board of charities and benevolences shall have power to regulate the establishment of charitable and benevolent institutions, not for the purpose of restricting works of charity and benevolence in the church, but to so limit the multiplication of charitable or benevolent institutions as to avoid their becoming so numerous as to jeopardize the perpetuity and success of those already in the field.

4. No charitable or benevolent institution of the same character shall be established in the patronizing territory of any such institution already established without first obtaining consent of the board of charities and benevolences.

5. All accredited institutions shall report annually to the board of charities and benevolences as to their financial condition, the work done, and the general plan and scope of their work.

6. The accredited institutions of the Free Methodist church are: The Gerry Homes, at Gerry, New York; the Chicago Industrial Home for Children, and the Old People's Rest Home, both with headquarters in Chicago, and with farm and buildings at Woodstock, Illinois.

7. It shall be the duty of each pastor to preach a sermon at least once a year at each appointment on his charge where classes are formed, on the subject of practical charity, and take a collection for the poor; the proceeds of this collection to be used for the relief of the poor on the circuit where the collection is taken if there be any needing such help—if not, it shall then be sent to some accredited institution in whose patronizing territory the collection is taken.

8. Each annual conference shall at its annual session appoint among its regular committees, a committee on charities.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

¶ 270. 1. The Free Methodist Publishing House is an institution established by the Free Methodist General Conference of North America for the purpose of producing and circulating wholesome literature. It is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, with its business plant and official headquarters at 1132-1134 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

2. The publishing agent shall have authority, under the supervision of the executive committee, to regulate the business of the publishing house in such a manner as in his judgment the interests of the church require.

3. The publishing agent and editors shall make annual reports to the executive committee, and shall also report to the general conference.

4. The executive committee may elect by ballot an assistant publishing agent. The publishing agent may nominate.

5. It shall be the duty of the assistant publishing agent to cooperate with the publishing agent in planning and carrying forward the business of the publishing house, and, in the absence of the publishing agent, to assume the ordinary duties of the publishing agent.

**PART IX**  
**CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

**CHAPTERS**  
**CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

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## CHAPTER I

### CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

¶ 271. 1. Genesee (1860).—The Genesee conference shall embrace that portion of the state of New York lying west of the Genesee river including Rochester, Mount Morris, Groveland, Belmont, Scio and Wellsville.

¶ 272. 2. Illinois (1860).—The Illinois conference shall embrace all that part of the state of Illinois north of a line beginning at Fort Madison, Iowa, running east to the Illinois river, thence down the river to a point due west of Fowler, Indiana, thence east to the state line; and thence north to the northwest corner of Benton county, Indiana, thence east to the second principal meridian line, thence due north to the south state line of Michigan, thence west along the state line to Lake Michigan, with the proviso that the Three Oaks Circuit in Michigan shall be administered by the Illinois conference.

¶ 273. 3. Susquehanna (1862).—The Susquehanna conference shall embrace the counties of Tioga, Sullivan and Bradford, in the state of Pennsylvania, all that part of the state of New York east of the Genesee conference, and north of a line beginning at Great Bend, in Pennsylvania, and running due north to the Albany and Susquehanna railroad, thence east along said railroad to Oneonta, and thence due east to the state of Massachusetts; but not including the villages situated immediately upon that portion of the said Albany and Susquehanna railroad. This conference

shall also include Vermont and the province of Quebec.

¶ 274. 4. Michigan (1865).—The Michigan conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Michigan lying south of the base line, and all the state of Indiana not included in either the Illinois or Wabash conferences.

¶ 275. 5. Kansas (1871).—The Kansas conference shall include all that portion of the state of Kansas lying east of a line running due north from the state of Oklahoma, along the west line of McPherson county, Kansas, to the southwest corner of Cloud county, Kansas; thence east to the southeast corner of the said Cloud county; thence due north to the Nebraska state line.

¶ 276. 6. Minnesota and Northern Iowa (1872).—The Minnesota and Northern Iowa conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Minnesota south of a line running due west from Stillwater, Minnesota, to Lac-qui-parle lake and thence up the north and east bank of the Minnesota river, to the 46th parallel of latitude, and thence west across to the east line of Dakota, except Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine and Lac-qui-parle counties in Minnesota, and shall include that portion of Iowa not included in the Iowa, West Iowa and South Dakota conferences.

¶ 277. 7. New York (1873).—The New York conference shall embrace all parts of the states of New York and Pennsylvania not included in the Genesee, Pittsburgh, Oil City and Susquehanna conferences, and the states of New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

¶ 278. 8. Iowa (1875).—The Iowa conference shall include that portion of the state of Iowa lying east and south of the following lines: Beginning at

the southeast corner of Decatur county, thence north to Hamilton county, thence along the east line of Hamilton and Wright counties to the northeast corner of Wright county, thence east to Clayton on the Mississippi river. It shall also include the city of Des Moines according to its present incorporate limits (1898).

¶ 279. 9. Wisconsin (1875).—The Wisconsin conference shall include the state of Wisconsin.

¶ 280. 10. North Michigan (1876).—The North Michigan conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Michigan lying north of the base line from the southeast corner of Eaton county, and southwest corner of Ingham, thence north parallel with the meridian line to Lake Huron. It shall also include the Upper Peninsula and Drummond's Island.

¶ 281. 11. Ohio (1879).—The Ohio conference shall embrace the state of Ohio, except the towns included in the Pittsburgh conference.

¶ 282. 12. Central Illinois (1879).—The Central Illinois conference shall include that portion of the state of Illinois not included in the Illinois and Wabash conferences. It shall also include the city of St. Louis, Missouri.

¶ 283. 13. Texas (1881).—The Texas conference shall include that part of the state of Texas not included in the East Texas conference, and that part of New Mexico lying east of the 106th meridian.

¶ 284. 14. Missouri (1883).—The Missouri conference shall embrace all that portion of the state of Missouri lying north of a line beginning at Carondolet and running directly west through the state, via Warrensburg, to the west line of the state, except the city of St. Louis.

¶ 285. 15. West Kansas (1883).—The West Kansas conference shall include all parts of the state of Kansas not included in the Kansas conference.



¶ 286. 16. South Dakota (1883).—The South Dakota conference shall embrace the state of South Dakota except that portion of the state bounded by a line commencing at the southeast corner of Shannon county; thence north to the White river; thence east along to its junction with the Missouri river; thence along the Missouri river to the south line of the state of South Dakota; thence west along state line to the southeast corner of Shannon county. It shall also include Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien and Sioux counties, in the state of Iowa, and Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine and Lac-qui-parle counties in Minnesota.

¶ 287. 17. Pittsburgh (1883).—The Pittsburgh conference shall include all that part of the state of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running across the state due north and south through the east boundary line of Potter county, not included in the Oil City conference. It shall also include all the towns from the Pennsylvania state line to Bridgeport on the west bank of the Ohio river in which the Pittsburgh conference now has organized societies, and the state of West Virginia.

¶ 288. 18. California (1883).—The California conference shall embrace all the state of California lying north of San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo counties.

¶ 289. 19. East Michigan (1884).—The East Michigan conference shall embrace all that part of Michigan lying north of the base line and east of a line beginning at the southwest corner of Ingham and southeast corner of Eaton counties, thence north running parallel with the meridian line to Lake Huron.

¶ 290. 20. Louisiana (1884).—The Louisiana conference shall include the states of Louisiana and Mississippi.

¶ 291. 21. Oregon (1885).—The Oregon conference shall include all that part of the state of Oregon not embraced in the Columbia River and Southern Oregon conferences.

¶ 292. 22. West Iowa (1885).—The West Iowa conference shall embrace all of the state of Iowa lying west of the Iowa conference, and south of a line running west from the northeast corner of Wright county along the county lines to the Big Sioux river, also including the county of Dakota, in the state of Nebraska.

¶ 293. 23. Wabash (1885).—The Wabash conference shall include all that part of the state of Indiana lying south of a line beginning at the northwest corner of Benton county, thence east through Pleasant Mills, Adams county, to the Ohio state line, and that portion of the state of Illinois bounded by a line running west from Fowler, Indiana, to a point six miles west of the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central railroad, and thence running southwest, parallel with said railroad to the south line of Shelby county, and thence along the line of the Springfield branch of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad to Shawneetown.

¶ 294. 24. Colorado (1886).—The Colorado conference shall embrace the state of Colorado, the state of Utah and the southern part of Wyoming and that part of New Mexico lying west of the 106th meridian.

¶ 295. 25. North Minnesota (1887).—The North Minnesota conference shall embrace all that part of the state of Minnesota not included in the Minnesota and Northern Iowa conference.

¶ 296. 26. Nebraska (1890).—The Nebraska conference shall be bounded by a line commencing at the southwest corner of Thayer county, Nebraska, thence north to the northwest corner of Platte county, thence



west to the southeast corner of Wheeler county, thence north to the northeast corner of Wheeler county, thence west to the northwest corner of Grant county, thence north to the White river in South Dakota, thence east along the White river to its junction with the Missouri river, thence east to the southeast, along the Missouri river to its junction with Dakota county, thence along the county line to the northwest corner, thence to the southwest corner, thence east along southern boundary of said county to the Missouri river, thence along the Missouri river to the southeast corner of state of Nebraska, thence west along the southern boundary of the state of Nebraska to place of beginning.

¶ 297. 27. Southern California (1891).—The Southern California conference shall embrace all of the state of California not embraced in the California conference, together with the state of Arizona.

¶ 298. 28. Arkansas and Southern Missouri (1895).—The Arkansas and Southern Missouri conference shall embrace the state of Arkansas together with that part of Missouri not included in the Missouri conference.

¶ 299. 29. Columbia River (1896).—The Columbia River conference shall include that part of the state of Washington lying east of the Okanogan and Columbia rivers, and that part of Oregon east of Gilliam, Wheeler and Crook counties, and north of the boundaries of the Southern Oregon conference; it shall also include the state of Idaho and that part of the state of Montana lying west of the 110th meridian.

¶ 300. 30. Washington (1896).—The Washington conference shall be bounded by the Columbia river on the south, and on the east by the Columbia river to the intersection of the Okanogan river, thence by the Okanogan river to the northern boundary of the



state, thence west to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, thence along the crest of the Rocky Mountains to and including Alaska, and on the west by the Pacific waters.

¶ 301. 31. Platte River (1896).—The Platte River conference shall include all that part of the state of Nebraska not included in the Nebraska conference.

¶ 302. 32. West Ontario (1896).—The West Ontario conference shall include all that part of the province of Ontario lying west of the following boundary line: The Niagara river, the west bounds of the counties of Peel and Simcoe, and the west bounds of the Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing districts.

¶ 303. 33. East Ontario (1896).—The East Ontario conference shall include all that part of the province of Ontario not included in the West Ontario conference.

¶ 304. 34. Kentucky and Tennessee (1896).—The Kentucky and Tennessee conference shall include the states of Kentucky and Tennessee.

¶ 305. 35. North Dakota (1897).—The North Dakota conference shall include all of the state of North Dakota and that part of Montana lying east of the 110th meridian.

¶ 306. 36. Oil City (1899).—The Oil City conference shall include that part of the state of Pennsylvania lying west of a line beginning at the northeast corner of Potter county in said state and running due south to the south bounds of the state. This line, north and south, is also the east boundary line of the Pittsburgh conference. The southern boundary line of the Oil City conference shall be as follows: Beginning at the Ohio state line and running due east along the south bounds of Lawrence county to the west bounds of Clearfield county, thence south to the southwest corner of Clearfield county, thence east

along the south bounds of Clearfield and Center counties to the eastern boundary line of the Oil City and Pittsburgh conferences above mentioned; also the counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder, Union, Lycoming and Clinton; also that part of Blair county north of the line from east to west of Altoona, all in the state of Pennsylvania.

¶ 307. 37. Oklahoma (1889).—The Oklahoma conference shall include all of Oklahoma and the Indian territory.

¶ 308. 38. South Africa (1907).—The South Africa mission conference shall include the whole of Portuguese East Africa, Natal, Transvaal, Cape Colony and the Orange River Colony.

¶ 309. 39. Southern Oregon (1912).—The Southern Oregon conference shall include that part of the state of Oregon lying south of a line beginning at the Pacific ocean at the northwest corner of Lane county and extending due east across the state.

¶ 310. 40. Georgia and Florida (1913).—The Georgia and Florida conference shall include the states of Georgia and Florida.

¶ 311. 41. Saskatchewan (1914).—The Saskatchewan conference shall include the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

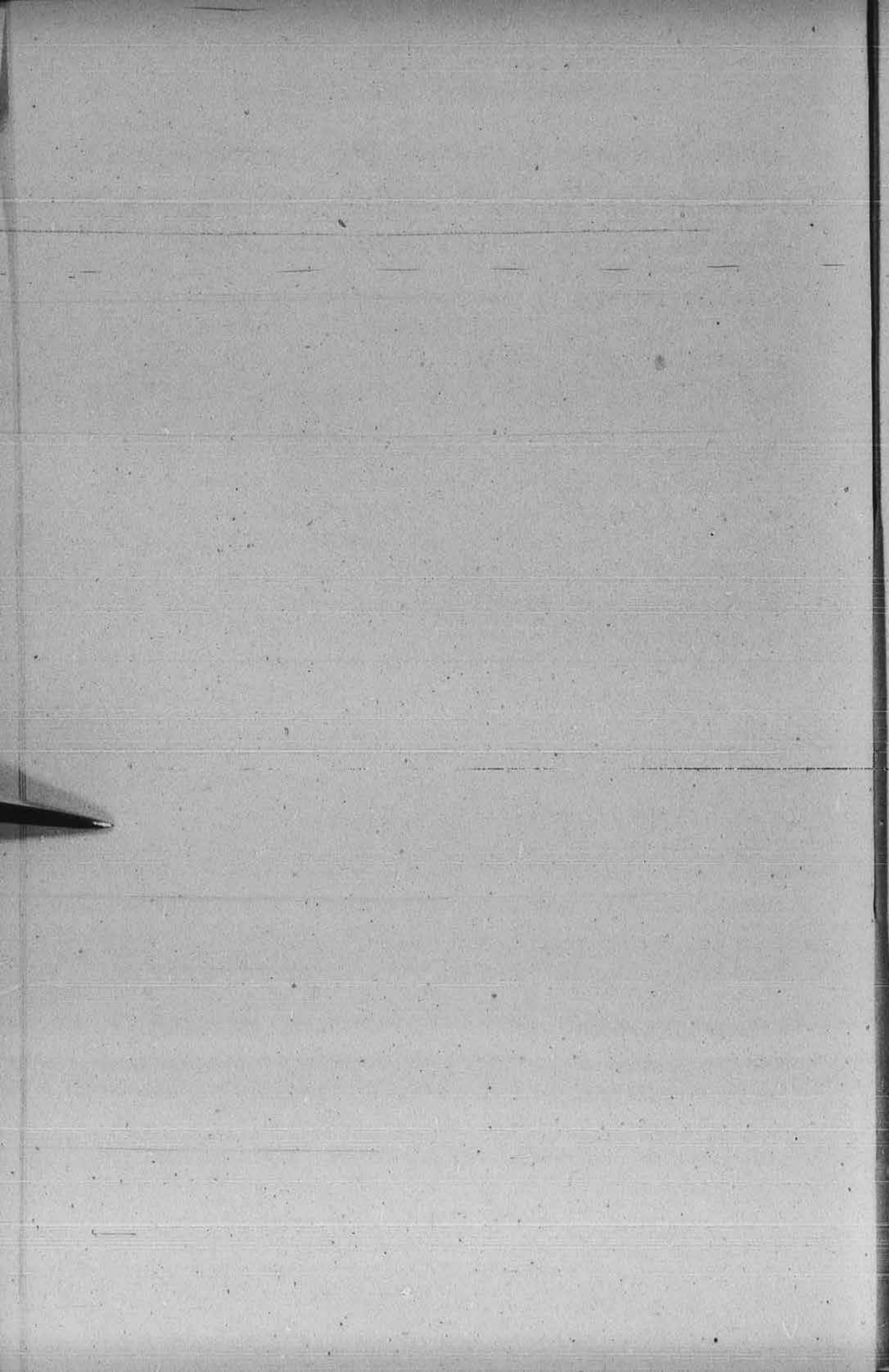
¶ 312. 42. Alberta (1914).—The Alberta conference shall include the province of Alberta and all that portion of the province of British Columbia lying east of the crest of the Rocky Mountains.

¶ 313. 43. East Texas (1915).—The East Texas conference is bounded as follows: Beginning at the Texas and Pacific Railroad, at the boundary line of Texas and Louisiana, on the Shreveport branch, following the same to Big Sandy, thence to the St. Louis and Southwestern Railroad to Waco, thence to San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad to Cuero, thence the Southern Pacific to Port Lavaca, thence along the

Gulf of Mexico to Louisiana, thence up the Louisiana line to the point of beginning.

¶ 314. Any question of boundaries that may arise shall be referred to the executive committee.





**PART X**  
**THE RITUAL**

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. BAPTISM**
- II. THE LORD'S SUPPER**
- III. THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY**
- IV. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD**
- V. ORDINATION SERVICES**
- VI. FORM FOR DEDICATION OF  
CHURCHES**



## CHAPTER I

### BAPTISM

¶ 315. 1. Adult persons and the parents of each child to be baptized, shall have the choice of immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

2. We will on no account whatever make a charge for administering baptism.

#### I. Of Infants

[The minister coming to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following:]

¶ 316. Dearly beloved, forasmuch as our Savior, Christ, saith, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God;" and as the holy apostle St. Peter declares that, "The promise is unto you and to your children," therefore this child has been brought hither that he may be consecrated by this solemn ordinance to the service of his Creator, and that he may receive the sign and seal of the covenant of grace into which God is mercifully pleased to enter with all his children;

I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant unto this child, that he being made partaker of the divine nature may grow up into Christ our living head in all things, till he comes in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the

stature of the fulness of Christ; and unto these parents the needed grace that they may properly discharge all the duties they owe to this child which God has given them

[Then shall the minister say:]

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succor, the covenant-keeping God, we thank thee that thou hast made it our privilege to dedicate our children to thy service, that they may live to thy glory, and gain everlasting life. We call upon thee for this child that he may be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, and be sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, and enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing. We pray thee for these parents, that they may realize how great is the responsibility resting upon them touching the proper training of those entrusted to their care; we beseech thee to grant unto them the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that both by precept and example they may so lead this child in the narrow way of life, that both parent and child may come to the everlasting kingdom, which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the people stand up and the minister shall say:]

Hear the words of the gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth chapter, commencing with the thirteenth verse:

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them. And his disciples rebuked those that brought them; but when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto

you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he cannot enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

[Then shall the minister demand of the parents severally, as follows:]

Ques. Dost thou, in the presence of God, and of these witnesses, solemnly dedicate this child to the Lord, that he may live in his service all his days?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in his behalf, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that, in the training of this child, thou wilt not follow nor be led by them; and so that, as far as in thee lies, thou wilt prevent him from following the same?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Dost thou believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Wilt thou, out of the same, diligently teach this child the statutes and commandments of the Most High; and wilt thou train him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Ans. I will.

[Then the minister shall take the child into his hands and say to the friends of the child:]

Name this child.

[And then, naming it after them, he shall sprinkle or pour water upon it, or, if desired, immerse it in water, saying:]

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.



[Then he shall say, all kneeling:]

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

[Then shall the minister conclude with extemporary prayer.]

## II. Of Those of Riper Years

¶ 317. Dearly beloved, since all men are by nature sinners, and have nothing in themselves by which they can be delivered from the guilt and pollution of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man can see the Lord, we invite you to join with us in fervent prayer for these persons, that they may have grace always to keep their covenant with God, and that they may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

[Then shall the minister say:]

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succor, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon thee for these persons; that they, coming to thy holy baptism, may by this rite truthfully testify to that inner washing through faith in the precious blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and that they may enjoy the everlasting benediction of this heavenly washing and come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord.

[Then shall the people stand up, and the minister shall say:]

Hear the words of the Savior as recorded in the gospel written by St. Matthew, in the twenty-eighth

chapter, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo! I am with you alway even unto the end of the world." Amen.

[Then the minister shall speak to the person to be baptized in this wise:]

Well beloved, who here present yourselves for holy baptism, you have heard how the congregation hath prayed that God would continue his loving favor toward you and bring you unto his eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping God, hath promised by his only begotten Son whom he yielded up for our redemption that he would grant these gracious favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the presence of this congregation that you, renouncing the devil and all his works, will implicitly believe God's holy word and obediently keep his commandments.

[Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized severally:]

Ques. Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Ques. Dost thou believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord? and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary? that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried? that he arose again on the third day? that he ascended into heaven, and

sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the communion of saints; the remission of sins; the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Ans. All this I steadfastly believe.

Ques. Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Ans. This is my desire.

Ques. Wilt thou obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

[Then shall the minister say:]

Almighty and everlasting God, author of life eternal, grant that the regenerating grace which thou hast so mercifully vouchsafed to these persons may not have been bestowed in vain. Grant also that they may enjoy that greater baptism of the Holy Ghost to the end that all carnal affections may be destroyed in them and that every Christian grace and virtue may freely live and grow in them. Amen. Almighty God, Father of all mankind, Eternal Son, Deliverer of thine Israel, Holy Spirit, Guide of thy people, grant that these persons may have constant victory over the world, the flesh and the devil, and that they may enjoy the fulness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the minister take by the right hand each person to be baptized, and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name and then sprinkle or pour water upon him (or if he shall desire it, shall immerse him in water), saying:]



N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling, concluding with extemporary prayer and the benediction.]

## CHAPTER II

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The use of individual communion cups is recommended, wherever practicable.)

#### I. General Directions

¶ 318. 1. Let all our ministers exercise due care to see that no person known to be living an immoral life, or to be guilty of any disreputable practise be admitted to the Lord's table among us until he shall have given satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment of life.

2. All persons properly included in the general invitation may be allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper among us.

#### II. Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper

[The elder may say:]

¶ 319. Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

[Then may this general confession be made:]

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowl-

edge and bewail the manifold sins and wickedness of our past lives, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our past misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Or in place of it the elder may say the Lord's Prayer, the people repeating it with him.]

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee; have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly



love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may live and grow thereby, and that being washed through his most precious blood, we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

[Then may the elder say the prayer of consecration, as follows:]

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who made there by his oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that his precious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful

Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these, thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;

[Here the elder may take the plate of bread into his hand.]

and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the cup;

[Here he may take the cup in his hand.]

and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this

[And here he may lay his hand upon all the vessels which contain the wine.]

is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

[Then may the minister first receive the communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner (if any there be present), and after that to the people also, in order, into their hands. And when he delivers the bread he shall say:]

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

[And the minister that delivers the cup may say:]

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting

life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

[If the consecrated bread or wine shall be all spent before all have communicated, the elder may consecrate more, by repeating the prayer of consecration.

When all have communed the minister shall return to the Lord's table and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Here the elder may offer extemporary prayer, concluding with this blessing:]

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



## CHAPTER III

### THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

¶ 320. [At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:]

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of St. Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be taken in hand unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

[And also speaking unto the persons that are to be married, he may say:]

I require and charge you both (as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed) that if either of you know any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it,

for be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow, are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful.

[If no impediment be alleged, then shall the minister say unto the man:]

M., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

[Then the man shall answer:]

I will.

[Then the minister shall say unto the woman:]

N., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

[Then the woman shall answer:]

I will.

[Then shall the minister join their right hands together, and say:]

Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

Forasmuch as M. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[And the minister shall add this blessing:]

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully

with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

[Then let prayer be offered.]



## CHAPTER IV.

### THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

¶ 321. We will on no account make a charge for burying the dead.

[The minister, meeting the corpse, and going before it shall say:]

I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die (John 11: 25, 26).

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another (Job 19: 25-27).

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (1 Tim. 6: 7; Job 1: 21).

[At the grave, while the corpse is being laid in the earth, the minister shall say:]

Man that is born of woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up and is cut down like a flower: he fleeth as it were a shadow and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord, God most holy, O Lord most mighty,

O holy and most merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.

[Then while the earth shall be cast upon the body, the minister shall say:]

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write: from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### THE COLLECT

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom

whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally; we meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him; and at the general resurrection, on the last day, may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.



## CHAPTER V

### ORDINATION SERVICES

#### I. Ordination of Elders

¶ 322. [When the time appointed for the ordination shall have come one of the elders shall present unto the president those who are to be ordained, saying:

I present unto you these persons (reading their names aloud) to be ordained elders. Then the president shall say unto the people:]

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain elders. For after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if any of you know any impediment or crime in any of them, for which he ought not to be received into this holy ministry, come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If no crime nor impediment be alleged, then shall be said the collect, epistle, and gospel, as follows:]

#### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy church, mercifully behold these, thy servants, now called to the office of elder, and replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name and the edification of thy

church, through the mercies of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE—EPHESIANS 4:7-13

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL—ST. JOHN 10:7-16

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth,

because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

[And that done, the president shall say unto them as follows:]

You have heard, brethren, in the lessons taken out of the gospel and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this office is whereunto ye are called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you have in remembrance, into how high a dignity and to how weighty an office ye are called; that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord, to teach and to premonish, to feed and to provide for the Lord's family, to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children that are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time; and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you; so that as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the mediation of our only Savior, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that ye may so endeavor yourselves from time to time to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doc-



trine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples, and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ, here assembled, may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this, your promise, may the more move you to do your duties, ye shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the gospel ministry, and to perform the duties of an elder?

Ans. I think so.

President: Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

A. I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

P. Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrines and sacraments and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?

A. I will do so by the help of the Lord.

P. Will you be ready with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, within your charge, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

A. I will, the Lord being my helper.

P. Will you be diligent in prayers, and in reading

the Holy Scriptures, and such studies as help to a knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

A. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

P. Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourself and your family according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourself and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

A. I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

P. Will you maintain and set forward as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among those who are or may be committed to your charge?

A. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

[That done, the president shall pray in this wise, and say:]

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thine infinite love and goodness toward us hast given to us thine only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy name; for these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call these thy servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks; we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee by the same, thy blessed Son, to grant unto all who



either here or elsewhere call upon thy name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee, for these, and all other, thy benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these thy ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed thy ministers, thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through the same, thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

[When this prayer is done, those to be ordained should remain kneeling, and the president, and the elders present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each of them, and the president shall say:]

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the word of God, and of his holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[They shall continue to kneel, and the president shall deliver to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:]

Take thou authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation.

[Then the president shall say:]

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessings, that they may be clothed with righteousness and that thy word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant us also that we may have grace to hear and receive, what they shall deliver out of thy most holy word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salva-



tion; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the increase of thy kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

## II. Ordination of Deacons

¶ 323. [When the day appointed for the ordination is come, there shall be a sermon or exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted deacons.

After this one of the elders shall present to the president the persons to be ordained deacons, and their names being read aloud, the president shall say to the people:]

Brethren, if any of you know any crime or impediment in any of these persons presented to be ordained deacon, for which he ought not to be admitted to that office, come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If any crime or impediment be alleged, the president shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as he shall be found clear of the crime. Then shall be read the following collect and epistle:]

### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hath appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church, and who didst inspire thy apostles to choose into the order of deacons thy first martyr, St. Stephen,

with others; mercifully behold these thy servants, now called to the like office and administrations; replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocence of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE—1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

Deacons in like manner must be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons if they be blameless. Women in like manner must be grave, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have served well as deacons gain to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[Then shall the president examine each one of those who are to be ordained, in the presence of the people, after the manner following:]

President. Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edification of his people?

Ans. I trust so.

P. Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

A. I do believe them.

P. Will you diligently read or expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

A. I will.

P. It appertaineth to the office of a deacon to assist the elder in divine service. And especially when he ministereth the holy communion, and to help him in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth, and in the absence of the elder to baptize. And, furthermore, it is his office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

A. I will do so by the help of God.

P. Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives (and the lives of your families) according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make (both) yourselves (and them) as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

A. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

P. Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

A. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

[The president, laying his hands severally upon the head of each one of them, shall say:]

Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Then shall the president deliver to each one of them the Holy Bible, saying:]

Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, and to preach in the same.

[Then one of them, appointed by the president, shall read the gospel.]

Luke 12:35-38. Let your loins be girded about and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return



from the wedding, that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

[Then shall the president proceed in the communion, and all that are ordained shall receive the holy communion. The communion ended, immediately before the benediction, shall be said the collects following:]

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to accept and take these thy servants into the office of deacon of thy church; make them, we beseech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble and constant in their ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that they having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son, Christ Jesus, may so well behave themselves in this inferior office, that they may be found worthy to be called into the higher ministries in thy church, through the same, thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ; to whom be glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

## CHAPTER VI

### FORM FOR DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

¶ 324. [The congregation being assembled, let an appropriate hymn be sung. Afterward, let extemporary prayer be offered. Then shall the minister, or some one appointed, read:]

The first lesson, Psalm 84:

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.



The second lesson, Hebrews 10: 19-26:

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

[Then let an appropriate hymn be sung; after which the minister shall deliver a sermon suitable to the occasion. Contributions shall then be received from the people.]

[Then let the trustees stand before the altar, and one of them, or some one in their behalf, say unto the minister:]

We present unto you this building, to be dedicated as a church for the service and worship of Almighty God.

[Then shall the minister request the congregation to stand, while he repeats the following declaration:]

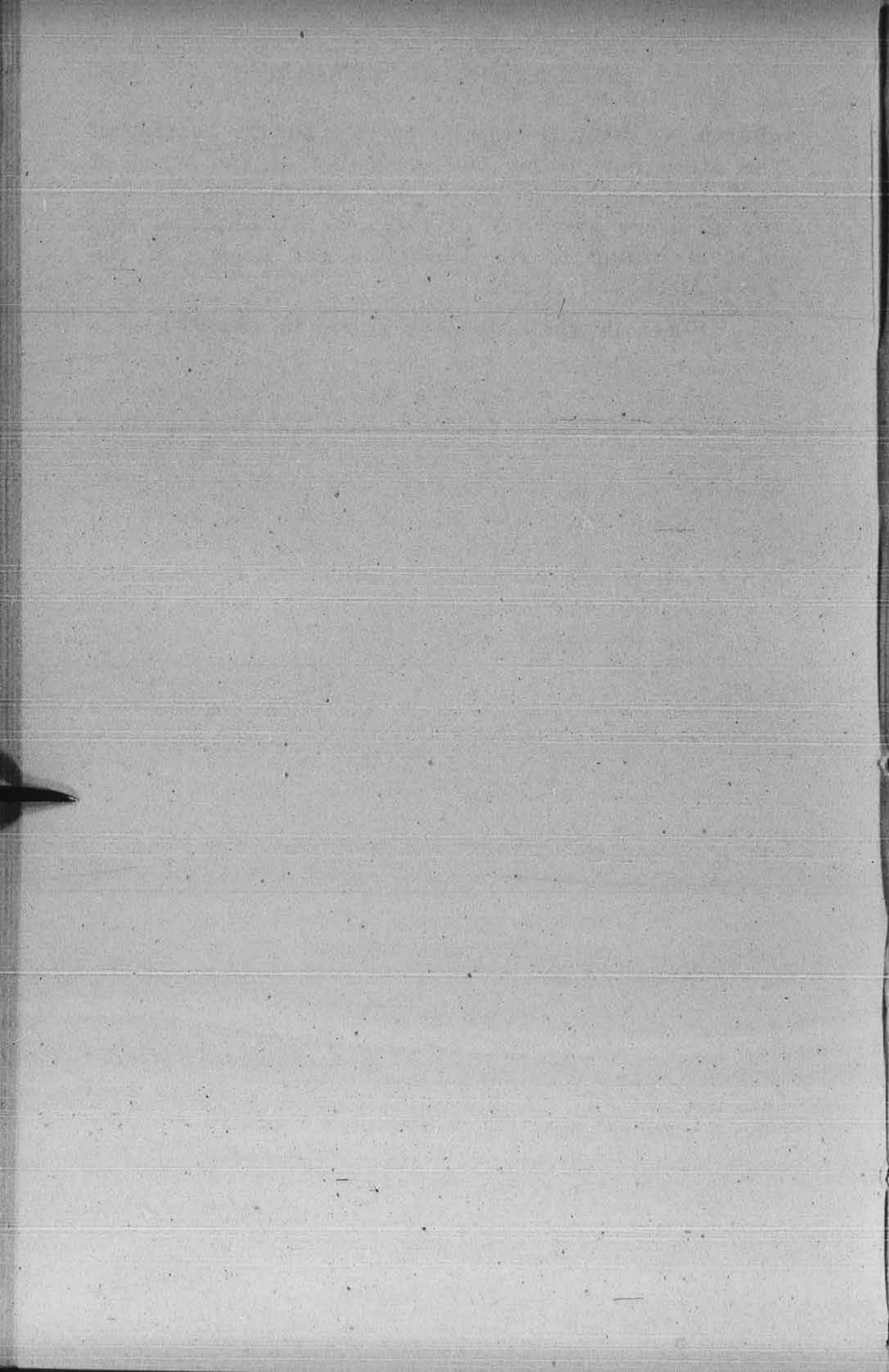
### DECLARATION

Dearly beloved, it is meet and right, as we learn from the Holy Scriptures, that houses erected for the public worship of God should be specially set apart and dedicated to religious uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. With gratitude, therefore, to Almighty God, who has signally blessed his servants in their holy enterprise of erecting this



church, we dedicate it to his service, for the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of the word of God, the administration of the holy sacraments, and for all other exercises of religious worship and service, according to the Discipline and usages of the Free Methodist church.

[Then let the dedicatory prayer be offered.]



**PART XI**  
**COURSES OF STUDY**



## **CHAPTERS**

- I. FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS**
- II. FOR LOCAL PREACHERS**
- III. FOR DEACONESSES**
- IV. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS  
LEADERS**
- V. FOR MISSIONARIES IN AFRICA**
- VI. FOR MISSIONARIES IN INDIA**
- VII. BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

## CHAPTER I

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS

#### PRELIMINARY

- ¶ 325. 1. English Grammar  
2. Arithmetic  
3. Modern Geography  
4. Spelling  
5. Composition  
6. United States History (Candidates in Canada,  
Canadian History)  
7. Binney's Theological Compend  
8. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection  
9. MacGeary's Outline History of the Free Meth-  
odist Church  
10. Free Methodist Discipline

#### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 326. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 1, 2  
and 3  
2. Hogue's Homiletics and Pastoral Theology,  
Part I  
3. Hill's Foundation of Rhetoric, Part I  
4. Morey's Outlines of Ancient History  
5. Present written sermon  
Books to be read:  
1. Hogue's History of the Free Methodist Church,  
Volume I  
2. Roberts' Fishers of Men

3. Briggs on the Sabbath; or, Gamble's Sunday, the True Sabbath
4. Hogue's The Class Meeting as a Means of Grace
5. Schaff's Person of Christ
6. Wesley's Sermons, Volume I, sermons 1 to 30 inclusive

## SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 327. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 4 and 5, and Part II
2. Hill's Foundations of Rhetoric, Part II
  3. Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, Part II
  4. Hopkins' Outline Study of Man
  5. Myers' Medieval History
  6. Present written sermon

Books to be read:

1. Hogue's History of the Free Methodist Church, Volume II
2. Wood's Perfect Love
3. Orr's The Bible Under Trial
4. Fitchett's Wesley and His Century
5. Wesley's Sermons, Volume I, sermons 31 to 58 inclusive

## THIRD YEAR

- ¶ 328. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Parts III and IV
2. Smith's Old Testament History
  3. Hopkins' Law of Love and Love as a Law
  4. Myers' Modern History
  5. Fisher's Church History, first half
  6. Present written sermon

Books to be read:

1. Stevens' History of Methodism
2. Life of Redfield
3. Hogue's Hymns That Are Immortal
4. Roberts' Holiness Teachings



## FOURTH YEAR

- ¶ 329. 1. Orr's The Faith of a Modern Christian  
2. Smith's New Testament History  
3. Coleman's Social Ethics  
4. Jevon's Logic (primer edition)  
5. Fisher's Church History, second half  
6. Present written sermon

Books to be read:

1. D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation
2. Esenwein's How to Attract and Hold an Audience
3. The Indwelling Christ, by Baldwin
4. Digest of Free Methodist Law

## CHAPTER II

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS

#### I. For Local Preachers Who are to be Examined by the Quarterly Conference

##### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 330. 1. Binney's Theological Compend  
2. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection  
3. Articles of Religion and General Rules of the Free Methodist Discipline

Books to be read:

1. Roberts' Fishers' of Men
2. MacGeary's Outline History of the Free Methodist Church
3. Wesley's Sermons, Volume I, sermons 1 to 15 inclusive

##### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 331. 1. Sims' Helps to Bible Study (revised edition)  
2. Hogue's Handbook of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, Part I

Books to be read:

1. Wood's Perfect Love
2. Schaff's Person of Christ
3. Wesley's Sermons, Volume I, sermons 16 to 30 inclusive

The examination of local preachers and evangelists may be conducted orally.

## **II. For Local Preachers Who Wish to be Ordained Deacons**

- ¶ 332. 1. Field's Handbook of Theology, first half  
2. Smith's Old Testament History

Books to be read:

1. Hogue's History of the Free Methodist Church, Volume I
2. Orr's The Faith of a Modern Christian
3. The Indwelling Christ, by Baldwin

## **III. For Local Deacons Who Wish to be Ordained Elders**

- ¶ 333. 1. Field's Handbook of Theology, second half  
2. Smith's New Testament History

Books to be read:

1. Hogue's History of the Free Methodist Church, Volume II
2. Walker's Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation
3. Fitchett's Wesley and His Century

N. B.—The examination of local preachers who wish to be ordained shall be conducted by the annual conference. Let the examining committees and candidates to be examined be present at the seat of conference for examinations not later than the first day of the conference session. Candidates not present at such time forfeit their right to examination for that year. In conducting examinations, examiners shall report the standing of each candidate in each book according to a scale of ten, six being satisfactory.



## CHAPTER III

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSSES

#### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 334. 1. Free Methodist Discipline  
2. Hurst's Outline of Bible History (Normal Edition)  
3. Manual of Nursing, by Weeks

Books to be read:

1. All About the Bible, by Collett
2. Clara Leffingwell, a Missionary, by Sellew
3. Deaconess, Ancient and Modern, by Wheeler

#### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 335. 1. Binney's Theological Compend  
2. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection  
3. Deaconesses in Europe, by Mrs. J. B. Robinson

Books to be read:

1. Arthur's Tongue of Fire
2. The Heart of Asbury's Journal, by Tipple
3. The Indwelling Christ, by Baldwin

The examination of deaconesses shall be conducted by the annual conference board of examiners, and may be conducted orally. See paragraph 174 (11). A deaconess having completed the foregoing studies of the first and second years is eligible to be licensed by the annual conference, according to paragraph 174 (6).

## CHAPTER IV

### COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS

¶ 336. The following course of reading for class leaders is recommended by the general conference in the belief that it will meet a general need throughout our work, and that the few inexpensive volumes therein named are of such a character as cannot fail to benefit all class leaders who will carefully read them, not only in the way of personal edification, but also in the way of increasing their efficiency in dealing with those under their care in this responsible office.

Discipline of the Free Methodist Church

Binney's Theological Compend

The Class Meeting as a Means of Grace (Hogue)

The Class Leader (Atkinson)

Memoir of Carvosso (By his son)

Life of William Bramwell (Thompson)

Life of J. W. Redfield (Terrill)

Christian Perfection (Wesley)

Perfect Love (Wood)

Fishers of Men (Roberts)

Hymns That Are Immortal (Hogue)

History of Methodism (Stevens, Abridged)

Daniel Quorm and His Religious Notions (Pearse)

The King's Son. A Memoir of Billy Bray

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life

Outline History of the Free Methodist Church

In Christ (Pierson)

The Person of Christ (Schaff)

Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation (Walker)

Digest of Free Methodist Law

## CHAPTER V

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR MISSIONARIES IN AFRICA\*

#### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 337. 1. Grammar, in native language  
2. Translate St. John's Gospel from vernacular  
3. Composition work in native language  
4. Discipline  
5. Steele's Bible Study. New Testament Studies in Missions

Books to be read:

1. "Essential Kaffir." At Inhambane, "The Life of a South African Tribe"
2. Redemption of Africa, Volume I
3. "The Foreign Missionary," by Brown
4. Roberts' Fishers of Men

#### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 338. 1. Papers in vernacular on "Paul's Missionary Journeys," and "Life of Joseph"
2. Translate from vernacular first fifteen chapters of Genesis and three of Paul's shorter epistles
  3. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 1, 2 and 3
  4. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection
  5. Hogue's Homiletics

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\* This course of study to apply to all missionaries in Africa who are candidates for ordination. Others to take the course of reading and to pass examination in the vernacular language.



Books to be read:

1. Redemption of Africa, Volume II
2. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume I
3. Theal's History, and Whitman's Geography of South Africa
4. G. Harry Agnew, a Pioneer Missionary

#### THIRD YEAR

¶ 339. 1. Translate first fifty Psalms from vernacular

2. Translate into the vernacular a "First Reader"
3. Read in vernacular, "Journey to the King"
4. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 4 and 5, and Part II
5. Hopkins' Outline Study of Man

Books to be read:

1. Healing of the Nations
2. Clara Leffingwell, a Missionary, by Selley
3. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume II

#### FOURTH YEAR

¶ 340. 1. Translate into the vernacular a small book. "The Dairyman's Daughter," suggested or some other book as selected by board of examiners

2. Ralston's Divinity, Parts III and IV
3. Hurlbut's Biblical Geography
4. Fisher's Church History

Books to be read:

1. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume III
2. Digest of Free Methodist Law
3. New Acts of the Apostles
4. Pilgrims' Progress in vernacular

## CHAPTER VI

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR MISSIONARIES IN INDIA

#### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 341. 1. Free Methodist Discipline  
2. Sims' Helps to Bible Study  
3. New Testament Study in Missions

Books to be read—in English:

1. Thoburn's Missionary Apprenticeship
2. Murdock's Indian Missionary Manual
3. Roberts' Fishers of Men

Books to be read—in Marathi:

1. The First Three Gospels
2. Genesis and Deuteronomy
3. Christianity and Hinduism Compared, by Padmanji

#### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 342. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 1, 2 and 3  
2. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection  
3. First Half of History of India for High Schools and Colleges, published by the C. L. S. of Madras

Books to be read—in English:

1. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume I
2. Modern Apostles in Missionary By-ways
3. Arsenal, Part I

Books to be read—in Marathi:

1. The Gospel of John, Acts of the Apostles, and Paul's Epistle to the Romans
2. Joshua to Esther
3. Arunodaya, by Padmanji

### THIRD YEAR

¶ 343. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Part I, Books 4 and 5, and Part II

2. History of India, last half

Books to be read—in English:

1. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume II
2. Wood's Perfect Love
3. Arsenal, Part II
4. Hinduism and Christianity Compared, by Rob-  
son
5. Geography of India, by George Patterson

Books to be read—in Marathi:

1. I Corinthians to Hebrews
2. Job to Song of Solomon

### FOURTH YEAR

¶ 344. 1. Ralston's Divinity, Parts III and IV

2. Hurlbut's Biblical Geography

Books to be read—in English:

1. Stevens' History of Methodism, Volume III
2. Digest of Free Methodist Law
3. New Acts of the Apostles
4. Arsenal, Part III

Books to be read—in Marathi:

1. James to Revelation
2. Isaiah to Malachi
3. "Pan Lakshat Kon Ghetto"



## CHAPTER VII

### CENTRAL BOARD OF CONFERENCE EXAMINERS

¶ 345. 1. There shall be a central board, consisting of five members, on the uniform examinations in the conference courses of study.

2. This board shall formulate rules and prepare questions for examinations, and during the interim of the general conference sessions shall have power to settle all questions concerning the same, which are not already settled by action of the general conference or rulings of the bishops.

3. The board shall answer all questions concerning the course of study, through its secretary, whose name and address shall be published in the combined minutes for that purpose.

4. This board shall also be authorized in case any book in the course of study shall go out of print to supply its place with a book of similar character.

5. The general conference of 1915 elected the following board: David S. Warner, president; J. LaDue. W. B. Olmstead, F. E. Bennett, G. W. Griffith. The board organized by electing W. B. Olmstead, secretary.

## **PART XII**

### **APPENDIX**

The matter contained in this appendix is deemed of sufficient importance to warrant its publication in this form. Some of it is taken from the general conference journals, and is therefore the action of the general conference, although not ordained as a part of the Discipline. Other matters are inserted because suggestive and convenient for reference, as postoffice addresses, administrative boards, forms of procedure, etc.

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. INCORPORATION**
- II. RESIDENCES, ADDRESSES, ETC.**
- III. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS**
- IV. CONSTRUCTIONS OF LAW BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**
- V. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY**
- VI. FORMS**



# CHAPTER I

## INCORPORATION

### INCORPORATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

¶ 346. "An act to incorporate the Free Methodist General Conference of North America, passed April 30, 1873."

The people of the state of New York, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1. The General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America shall be, and is hereby declared to be, a corporate and politic body, by the name and style of the "Free Methodist General Conference of North America," and by that name it shall have perpetual succession; shall be capable of suing and being sued in any court whatever; and shall have and use a common seal, which they may alter and change at pleasure.

2. It shall be lawful for the regular members of said general conference, at its regular constitutional meetings, to appoint such officers, and to make and ordain such by-laws and regulations in relation to the management and disposition of their real and personal estate, the duties of their officers, and the management of the corporate offices, as they shall think proper; provided they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States.

3. The said corporation shall have power to hold in trust church property, and deeds of other beneficent, educational or publishing institutions; and of

## CHAPTER II

### RESIDENCES, ADDRESSES, ETC.

#### ¶ 347. Bishops

BURTON R. JONES, 1117 Park Ave., Alameda, California  
WALTER A. SELLEW,  
68 Falconer Street, Jamestown, New York  
WILSON T. HOGUE, R. R. No. 2, Michigan City, Indiana  
WILLIAM PEARCE, Titusville, Pa.

#### ¶ 348. Publishing Agent

WILLIAM B. ROSE,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

#### ¶ 349. Editors

JACOB T. LOGAN, The Free Methodist,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois  
DAVID S. WARNER, Sunday School Periodicals,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

#### ¶ 350. Corresponding Secretaries

JOHN S. MACGEARY, General Missionary Board,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois  
WILLIAM B. OLMSTEAD,  
General Sunday School Secretary, Secretary Central  
Board of Conference Examiners,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois  
MENDAL B. MILLER, Board of Education; Board of Con-  
ference Claimants.  
1119 Elk Street, Franklin, Pennsylvania

#### ¶ 351. Treasurers

GEORGE W. SAUNDERS, General Missionary Board, Church  
Extension Society, Board of Conference Claimants,  
Bishops' Fund, Sunday-school Board, Board of Edu-  
cation, 1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois  
LILLIAN CAMP JENSEN, General Woman's Foreign Mis-  
sionary Society,  
1132 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

#### ¶ 352. General Conference Evangelists

E. BALLENGER, Shenandoah, Iowa  
S. K. WHEATLAKE, Urbana, Illinois  
A. D. ZAHNISER, 24 Secane St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
W. B. OLMSTEAD, 1132 Washington Boul., Chicago, Illinois

## CHAPTER III

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS

#### ¶ 353. Trustees of the Free Methodist General Conference of North America

OFFICE: 215 MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

*President*, Walter A. Sellew

*Secretary*, Mendal B. Miller

*Treasurer*, George W. Saunders

1. Term expires 1919

Burton R. Jones,      Wilson T. Hogue,      William Pearce

2. Term expires in 1923

Walter A. Sellew,      Mendal B. Miller,      David S. Warner

#### ¶ 354. Executive Committee

*President*, Burton R. Jones

*Secretary*, Mendal B. Miller

District	Name and Class	Conference
	Burton R. Jones, Bishop.....	Michigan
	Walter A. Sellew, Bishop.....	Pittsburgh
	Wilson T. Hogue, Bishop.....	Genesee
	William Pearce, Bishop.....	Genesee
I.	Mendal B. Miller, Minister.....	Oil City
	B. L. Perkins, Lay Member.....	Genesee
II.	Albert Sims, Minister.....	East Ontario
	George B. Lambert, Lay Member.....	Pittsburgh
III.	David S. Warner, Minister.....	Michigan
	D. P. Morse, Lay Member.....	East Michigan
IV.	C. E. Harroun, Minister.....	Oklahoma
	J. M. Daniels, Lay Member.....	Central Illinois
V.	L. G. Lewis, Minister.....	Kansas
	C. I. Tenney, Lay Member.....	Iowa
VI.	Alexander Beers, Minister.....	Washington
	A. Verkuyl, Lay Member.....	California

¶ 355. 1. The foregoing members of the executive committee and J. T. Logan, editor of the Free Methodist and a member of the New York conference, constitute the board of education. President of the board, Wilson T. Hogue, Michigan City, Indiana.

2. The executive committee also constitutes the board of conference claimants.



## ¶ 356. General Missionary Board

<i>President</i> , Walter A. Sellew		
<i>Secretary</i> , John S. MacGeary		
<i>Treasurer</i> , George W. Saunders		
District	Name and Class	Conference
	Burton R. Jones, Bishop.....	Michigan
	Walter A. Sellew, Bishop.....	Pittsburgh
	Wilson T. Hogue, Bishop.....	Genesee
	William Pearce, Bishop.....	Genesee
I.	H. L. Crockett, Minister.....	Susquehanna
	Grant C. Woods, Lay Member.....	Genesee
II.	William B. Olmstead, Minister.....	Ohio
	Alma L. Miller, Lay Member.....	Pittsburgh
III.	S. H. Porterfield, minister.....	East Michigan
	Peter White, Lay Member.....	North Michigan
IV.	John A. Watson, Minister.....	Wabash
	Jacob Moyer, Lay Member.....	Central Illinois
V.	G. W. Griffith, Minister.....	South Dakota
	Thomas B. Arnold, Lay Member.....	Illinois
VI.	Wilbur N. Coffee, Minister.....	Oregon
	E. A. Holtwick, Lay Member...	Southern California
	Mary L. Coleman, President	
	Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	
	Adelaide L. Beers	
	Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	
	Emma Freeland Shay	
	Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	
	Emma L. Hogue	
	Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	

¶ 357. 1. The members of the general missionary board constitute the church extension society.

2. The general missionary board and the superintendents of the Gerry and Woodstock Homes constitute the board of charities and benevolences.

## ¶ 358. General Sunday-School Board

Jacob Moyer, President  
 J. B. Lutz, Recording Secretary  
 W. B. Olmstead, General Secretary  
 E. A. Holtwick  
 J. H. Whiteman  
 G. W. Griffith  
 L. G. Lewis

## ¶ 359. Central Board of Conference Examiners

David S. Warner, President  
 William B. Olmstead, Secretary  
 John LaDue  
 Fred E. Bennett  
 George W. Griffith

## CHAPTER IV

### CONSTRUCTIONS OF LAW BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

#### DECISIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS

Approved by general conferences, and general conference resolutions having the force of law.

#### From Journal of 1866

¶ 360. On Hop-Growing.—Resolved, That in our opinion, the raising of hops for the general market is a violation of the rule of Discipline prohibiting “evil of every kind;” and also of the rule prohibiting the “doing of what we know is not for the glory of God.”

¶ 361. On Missions.—Resolved, That the general superintendents have charge of all missions outside of the recognized bounds of the annual conferences.

¶ 362. Disapproval of Conference Action.—Resolved, 1. That the action of the Susquehanna conference in passing a certain resolution on the use of tobacco, be disapproved; the said conference having transcended its powers in attempting to enact laws. (The resolution referred to was passed by the Susquehanna conference of 1886, and read as follows: “Resolved, That if any of the preachers of this conference are known to indulge in the use of tobacco, either by chewing or smoking, during the coming year, they shall, at the next session of the conference, be discontinued from the traveling connection.”)

2. That the action of the Susquehanna conference,

in receiving a preacher into full connection after but one year's trial, be disapproved.

¶ 363. Law Question: "Has an annual conference authority under the Discipline to try a probationer upon charges of immoral conduct?"

Conference voted nay, 12 to 5.

### From Journal of 1870

¶ 364. On the Admission of Ministers.—It was decided by the president that as all the disciplinary questions may be acted on at any time during the session of an annual conference it is right to report ministers received into full connection as having a seat in the conference. On motion, conference sustained the decision.

¶ 365. On Conference Resolutions.—No annual conference shall pass resolutions or adopt reports interpreting Discipline, and then hold any minister or member to trial for violating such resolutions or reports.

¶ 366. If complaints are made against a member, involving immorality or a violation of our rules, he is entitled to a speedy trial, unless said complaints are otherwise disposed of.

¶ 367. No secretary of any annual conference has a right to insert anything in the conference records other than actual conference business.

¶ 368. Resolved, That we disapprove of the practise of calling a quarterly conference together in any other way than that prescribed by the Discipline.

### From Journal of 1874

¶ 369. Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that the rule of our Discipline, forbidding the wearing of gold, applies to those who wear gold wedding rings.



## From Journal of 1878

¶ 370. In the case of a layman, who was refused admission as delegate to the New York conference; it being claimed that he was not a member of the church which elected him:

The president held that in the admission of a delegate to which objection is made, an annual conference may inquire,

1. If the society meeting was held and the election fairly conducted according to Discipline.
2. If the returns were correctly made.
3. If the person elected was eligible.

But the chair decided that each society has the right to determine who are its members; that an annual conference has no right to decide who are or who are not members of any particular society.

This decision was appealed from, and the conference voted not to sustain the chair—by 11 nays, 5 yeas.

This action was reported by the committee on conference records, of the general conference of 1878, as a violation of Discipline. The report was adopted, thus sustaining the decision of the president.

¶ 371. On Past Enactments, Resolutions, etc.—Resolved, That all enactments, decisions and resolutions of the various general conferences, that are inconsistent with our Discipline, as revised by this general conference, are hereby repealed.

¶ 372. On the Membership of Probationers in Annual Conferences.—The following questions were answered by B. T. Roberts at the Genesee conference, 1882:

1. Are preachers on probation in an annual conference still members of a society? Answer, No.
2. Should they be reported from the circuit as local preachers? Answer, No.

3. Should their licenses be renewed by the quarterly conference, as others? Answer, No.

### From Journal of 1882

¶373. Women Eligible as Delegates.—B. T. Roberts decided at the New York conference that women are eligible to election as delegates to the annual conference. Approved.

¶374. The following questions were asked and answered:

1. If a preacher believes the Bible to be opposed to women taking a part in the governmental affairs of the church, and has not hitherto regarded the language of the Discipline as admitting of the election of women as delegates to the annual conference is he bound by the action of this conference to rule that the Discipline does now admit of it?

Answer—By President B. T. Roberts: It is my opinion that he is.

2. Would it be maladministration of Discipline to rule that it is not disciplinary to elect women as delegates?

Answer—In my opinion it would.

The general conference approved these answers as correct.

¶375. Absent Delegates.—Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference, that a delegate is not a member of an annual or a general conference until he is present, and has presented his credentials.

¶376. Preserving Original Minutes.—Resolved, That the secretaries of the several conferences be required to keep the original or so-called rough minutes, as approved by the conference, in a book to be preserved with the journal.

## From Journal of 1886

¶ 377. The following questions were asked and answered:

1. If a certificate of membership be given a member of one of our churches, and that member shall, at a subsequent time, present his certificate of membership to one of our churches in some other place, he having, since the reception of the certificate, been guilty of unchristian conduct, is the church to which the certificate shall be presented obliged to receive the certificate?

Answer—By President B. T. Roberts: It is.

2. When an annual conference organizes a circuit and appoints a preacher to it, but the preacher declines to travel it, and the chairman being unable to supply it with another preacher, may he unite the unsupplied circuit with an adjacent circuit without the consent of the official board of the unsupplied circuit?

Answer—By President B. T. Roberts: I think he could not.

3. When a preacher has been appointed to a circuit, has the chairman a right to appoint said preacher to the charge of another circuit while he retains charge of the first?

Answer—By President B. T. Roberts: No. He may add to the circuit, but cannot appoint a preacher to two circuits at the same time.

¶ 378. The following question was asked at the sixteenth session of the Kansas annual conference, and was answered by President B. T. Roberts; from whose decision an appeal was taken to the general conference of 1886, by which the decision of the president was unanimously sustained:

If a man in his sinful state be divorced from his wife, but not on scriptural grounds, and she be married to another man, after which the divorced man



becomes converted and joins the church, do the facts in the case as afore stated clear him in the eyes of the law, the eyes of God and the eyes of our Discipline, so that he has the right to marry again? The president decided that in the case stated, the legal divorce separates the man from his wife in the eyes of the law, and that the subsequent marriage of the woman separates the man from the woman in a scriptural sense; he is therefore entitled to a divorce on scriptural grounds; but as he cannot obtain it, he is in the sense of the scripture entitled to marry again.

¶ 379. Resolved, That the reports adopted by the annual conference should be kept on file and not recorded in the journal, except the financial reports, and such as may be recorded by order of the annual conference.

#### From Journal of 1890

¶ 380. Whereas, Conflicting decisions by the general superintendents in the intervals of the general conference are liable to make divisions, and tend to annoy and confuse the spirit of harmony among us, therefore,

Resolved, That when one of the general superintendents has rendered a decision on any point of law in any annual conference, in a case which grows out of the conference proceedings, said decision shall be the rule in the case until the decision is reversed by the general conference. See paragraph 403.

#### From Journal of 1894

¶ 381. An elder of the North Michigan conference, having withdrawn from the church, was given a letter by Superintendent Hart, stating that he had been an ordained elder in the North Michigan conference, and recommending him "to all Christian people." He

afterwards presented the letter to the same conference, and Superintendent Coleman decided that he could not be received on the letter—that he was out of the church. The committee on general superintendency recommended that the decision be approved. The recommendation was adopted by the conference.

¶ 382. Law Question.—“Can the appellate court go outside of the grounds of appeal as submitted to it by the appellant?”

Answer by the Chair.—“In the decision, I would say, It must confine itself to the grounds of the appeal in the case. It is entitled, however, to all that will throw light upon the appeal as presented.”

¶ 383. “Does the Discipline make final the decision of the committee on appeals without approval by the general conference when such committee renders its verdict while the general conference that appointed it is in session?”

Answer—“The Discipline makes the decision of a committee on appeals final. There can be no appeal therefrom.”

¶ 384. At the close of the election of the general superintendents, E. P. Hart moved, That it is the sense of the conference that W. T. Hogue is entitled to his seat and office as general superintendent until the close of this session. Superintendent Coleman in the chair decided that it would be proper to place the newly-elected superintendent in the chair if the conference saw fit to do so. An appeal was taken from the decision, and the conference refused to sustain the chair. W. T. Hogue was thus authorized to act as superintendent until the final adjournment of the conference.

¶ 385. Resolution.—In response to a memorial from the Southern California conference in regard to the wearing of neckties, the conference adopted the following:

"It is the sense of the conference that this matter is one concerning which 'every man should be fully persuaded in his own mind,' and guided by his personal convictions."

### From Journal of 1898

¶ 386. The following question was asked at the Susquehanna conference of 1897, and was answered by President E. P. Hart, from whose decision an appeal was taken to the general conference of 1898:

"Is previous labor necessary before bringing charges against a preacher belonging to an annual conference?"

The president decided that no previous labor is necessary in case of charges at the annual conference, as that body has original jurisdiction over the preachers composing it.

The decision of the president was sustained by the general conference.

¶ 387. The following questions were asked at the Kansas conference of 1895, and were answered by the president, B. R. Jones. An appeal was taken from his decisions to the general conference of 1898:

1. "If a man obtains a divorce from his wife on other than scriptural grounds and afterward marries a woman who had obtained a divorce from her husband without scriptural reason, would the parties thus divorced and remarried be entitled to membership in the church?"

Answer—I think they would not.

2. "Is it a violation of Discipline for a minister to receive a person into the church who has obtained a divorce on other than scriptural grounds?"

Answer—In my opinion it is.

3. "Would the preacher receiving into the church persons thus divorced be liable to the charge of maladministration?"



Answer—I think he would.

These decisions were approved by the general conference.

¶ 388. Resolved, That in no case shall the report of the committee on ministerial relations be expunged from the records of an annual conference without the consent of the minister whose case had been under consideration.

### From the Journal of 1907

¶ 389. Quarterly Conference Relation of Preacher Supplying in Conference Other Than His Own.—The committee on examining quarterly conference records presented the following appeal found on page 365 of the Chicago district records, Illinois conference, reading as follows:

A question was raised as to whether C. B. Ebey was a member of this quarterly conference. The district elder ruled that he was, by virtue of his being pastor at Melrose Park. An appeal was taken from this ruling by W. P. Ferries.

The president, Wilson T. Hogue, decided "that no preacher in the Free Methodist church can be a member of two quarterly conferences at the same time. As C. B. Ebey is a member of the Southern California conference, and, as such, has his quarterly conference relation fixed within that body, it follows that he cannot be a member of any quarterly conference of the Free Methodist church except his own." Decision sustained.

¶ 390. Surrender of Parchments.—At the forty-fourth session of the Genesee conference, an elder requested a certificate of withdrawal from the conference. The president, B. R. Jones, ruled "that he was entitled to a certificate of withdrawal only upon condition that he surrender his ordination parchments."

Approved by committee and adopted by the conference.

¶ 391. Only Annual Conference Empowered to Render a Superannuate Effective.—At the annual session of the Genesee conference held in Buffalo, N. Y., September 5-9, 1906, in the case of Rev. William Manning, the president, W. A. Sellew, in answer to a question raised, decided "that the appointment of a superannuated preacher to a circuit on a charge by the district elder, according to the Discipline, and with the consent and cooperation of the preacher, made him effective. He cannot be superannuated and effective at the same time. I decide that he has been effective during the past year, and cannot draw his superannuated allowance." Decision disapproved.

¶ 392. Ruling on a Question of Jurisdiction.—At the Oil City conference in 1906 the committee on claimants and claims submitted the following resolution in case of Mrs. H. D. W. Showers to the president for a decision:

Whereas, The application of Mrs. H. D. W. Showers, widow of the late Rev. A. C. Showers, has been presented to the committee on claimants and claims; and,

Whereas, At the time of his death Brother Showers was a member of the Pittsburgh conference, and the Oil City conference did not exist; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that the said application does not legally come before this conference, and that we respectfully ask the chair to render a decision upon this point.

General Superintendent Walter A. Sellew ruled "that the application should not be presented to this conference, but to the Pittsburgh conference." Decision sustained.

¶ 393. As to Right of Preacher in Charge to Vote in Business Meetings of the Circuit.—At the session



of the West Iowa conference held in 1903 a question was raised as to whether a preacher in charge has a right to vote in the business meetings of his circuit. The president, E. P. Hart, ruled that "he has a right to vote in the official meetings, but not in the circuit or society meetings." Decision sustained.

¶ 394. *Forfeiting Conference Relation by Withdrawal.*—The Journal of the Texas Conference, page 236, shows that the name of M. M. Lowerys was called, and he was reported to have joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Since doing so, however, he had again united with the Free Methodist church, by letter.

The chair ruled that in uniting with another church he had forfeited his relation to this conference, and that it would be necessary for him to come up by regular process, if desirous of renewing his relation with the conference. Decision sustained.

¶ 395. *An Elder Withdrawn from Church and Conference May Not Be Received Back into the Conference on His Ordination Parchments.*—An elder in the Illinois conference, who had withdrawn from the church and conference and united with an organization not giving letters of dismissal, and who had since united with the Free Methodist church on probation and was recommended for restoration to his former conference relation on his ordination parchments, the question was asked of the chair, "Can he be legally received on the parchments aforesaid?"

The president, W. A. Sellew, rendered the following decision in the case: "If this elder had come to us with a regular certificate of his standing as a Christian minister from the church organization to which he has belonged since he left us, we would be warranted in receiving him into full membership in the conference, as he holds our ordination papers as an elder. Now, as he cannot obtain such a certificate,



because of the refusal of this organization to give such certificates, and not because of any fault or failure of conduct on his part, I decide he may be received into full membership in the conference on his ordination papers, and by vote of this conference adopting the resolution now before the conference." Decision disapproved.

¶ 396. On Use of Instrumental Music in Sunday-schools.—At the session of the New York conference of 1903 the question was asked of the president, B. R. Jones: "Is it a violation of the Discipline of the Free Methodist church to use instrumental music in the Sunday-schools of the church?" The president decided that it is. Decision sustained.

### **Recommendations, Resolutions, Etc.**

¶ 397. South Africa Mission Conference.—At the twenty-second sitting the committee on missions reported the following recommendations:

1. That the South Africa conference be continued as a mission conference.

2. That this conference shall exercise all the powers and prerogatives of an annual conference, except electing delegates to the general conference and voting on constitutional changes.

3. That the conference shall not consider the requests made for appropriations from the funds of the board. These shall be considered by the missionaries in separate meetings.

4. The stationing committee of the conference shall consist of the president of the conference, the district elders, and as many missionary laymen as there are district elders.

5. That this conference for the present shall be under the control of the general missionary board.

On motion the report was adopted.

¶ 398. Transfer of Membership by Missionaries to Africa.—The committee on missions recommends the

following: "That we require all missionaries now on the African field, or who may go to that field in the future, to transfer their church membership to some society on that field." Adopted.

¶ 399. On Reading Reports in Annual Conference:

Resolved, That in the presentation of the reports from the circuits at the annual conferences only the items classified under the headings "Numerical," "Statistical" and "Church Property," need be read, unless other items are ordered read by the conference. Resolution adopted.

¶ 400. On referring cases to the committee on ministerial relations it was resolved as follows: It is the sense of this general conference that the character of ministers shall not be referred to the committee on ministerial relations, except in case of reported unsoundness in doctrine or irregularities of life; and that in all instances where the case is noticed in the permanent records, such records shall show the nature of the offense, and the final disposition of the case.

¶ 401. Regarding the Excusing of Preachers from Passing in the Courses of Study in Full.—The following resolution originated in committee on superintendency, and was adopted by the conference:

"Whereas, We find numerous instances recorded in various conference journals where persons have been received on trial into the traveling connection without having passed examination in the preliminary course of study, and admitted to full membership and elected to deacon's orders without having passed examination in the second year's course of study, and in some instances of persons elected to elder's orders who have not completed the fourth year's course of study; and,

"Whereas, The practise referred to is a plain vio-



lation of the Discipline, paragraphs 150, 151, 155, 156; therefore,

“Resolved, First, that this committee recommend the general conference to express its disapproval of such action on the part of the conferences involved, and call upon them to discontinue such action in the future. Second, that the honored bishops be, and that they hereby are, instructed to inform all conferences where such action may be proposed in the future that the contemplated action is illegal.”

¶ 402. Right of an Elder Presiding in Conference by Appointment of a Bishop to Transfer a Preacher.—A question regarding this matter arose, and on motion it was decided “that an elder acting as president of an annual conference by appointment of a bishop, has authority to transfer a preacher into that conference while so acting.”

¶ 403. On Decisions of Bishops:

Resolved, That whenever a bishop shall decide upon a point of law in an annual conference, which does not grow out of the conference proceedings, he shall immediately report the same to the other bishops, and secure their approval or disapproval in writing. His decision shall not be binding upon the other bishops unless they are notified that at least two of them have approved it in writing. The resolution was adopted. See paragraph 380.

¶ 404. On Inserting Certain Items in an Appendix to the Discipline.—The following was adopted:

“Resolved, That the editor, or editors, of the Discipline be instructed to place as an Appendix to the Discipline the following items: Names and addresses of all of the general conference officers, the general conference districts, the executive committee, the general missionary board, the board of conference claimants, the board of education, the board of church extension, construction of law by the general confer-



ence, and the constitution of the woman's foreign missionary society."

¶ 405. On Woman's Auxiliary Missionary Board.—The general woman's foreign missionary society petitioned the general conference to give consideration to the following:

"Resolved, First, that it is the sense of this body that there should be a woman's auxiliary missionary board; second, that the executive board of the woman's foreign missionary society should be such auxiliary board, before whom women candidates for the foreign field shall pass first examination."

This was referred to the committee on missions, which reported as follows: "Your committee recommends that we grant the foregoing request, and that this auxiliary board shall consist of the three women members of the general conference missionary board and such others of the general officers of the woman's foreign missionary society as may be present at their annual meeting." The recommendation was adopted.

#### From the Journal of 1911

¶ 406. At the session of the New York conference, September 14, 1910, Bishop W. A. Sellew made the following ruling:

"The committee on credentials asked the chair to rule on the following question:

"If a majority of a society vote to move to a new locality, and a minority part does not wish to remove to that locality, which is the original society, the one removing to the new locality or the part remaining in the original place?

"The chair ruled that the majority part, moving to the new location, constituted the original society."

Decision approved.

¶ 407. At the Ohio conference of 1908, the following ruling was rendered by Bishop B. R. Jones:

"A lady evangelist having been recommended by the Toledo district quarterly conference as being eligible to a seat in the annual conference, her case was considered; but she being only a supply on the circuit of which her husband was preacher in charge, the president of the conference decided that she was not entitled to a seat in the conference."

Decision approved.

¶ 408. At the Central Illinois conference, Bishop Sellew presiding, a communication was received from an elder stating: "I have returned to my old conference, i. e., the Wisconsin. The Greenville district sent me a certificate of good standing about a year ago. Upon that certificate I have been received and given work by the Wisconsin conference."

The secretary of the Greenville district stated that the above certificate was issued before the last annual conference.

The president of the conference ruled that the above certificate expired at the time of the last session of the conference and is null and void.

Decision approved.

¶ 409. At the forty-ninth annual session of the Genesee conference held at Ransomville, N. Y., Sept. 9-13, 1908, Bishop Walter A. Sellew rendered the following decision:

Genesee Conference, a Decision of Law by Bishop W. A. Sellew.—The committee on claimants and claims reported through the president that the question had arisen as to how many years should be counted as "active service," according to the Discipline, in the case of a claimant in the conference. The president was asked whether the six years that he served the Orphanage and Home at Gerry, N. Y., as manager, and the four years that he served the same institution as financial agent, ten years in all, should

be counted as years of "active service" in estimating such claim.

The president, W. A. Sellew, decided that they were not to be counted, for the reason that they were years in which he served the said institution by a business contract made and entered into each year in advance of the annual sitting of the Genesee conference. That the Genesee annual conference had nothing to do with that contract, either in making of it or in fixing the nature of service required, or in fixing the compensation; neither did the conference in any way examine into or inquire about that service, as to whether it was satisfactory or not. The whole matter was a business proposition entered into by a conference preacher and a corporation.

The fact that the name of the claimant appears in the appointments of said conference as occupying such a position only shows that the conference permitted him to retain his standing in the conference after the contract was made, but such permission does not constitute sufficient authority for counting those years so spent as years of "active service," according to Discipline.

Decision disapproved.

¶ 410. Regarding the President of an Annual Conference Acting on the Committee on Ministerial Relations:

Whereas, It has occurred in some instances that an annual conference has elected its presiding officer to act on the committee on ministerial relations; and,

Whereas, The findings of such a committee may call for the appointment of a trial court, at which the president must preside; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that the election of a bishop on the committee on ministerial relations in an annual conference is ex-



ceedingly irregular, and for the bishop to act in such capacity is highly improper.

Adopted.

¶ 411. The following question was asked F. D. Brooke while presiding at the Elgin district quarterly conference in 1907:

"Is a person appointed by an annual conference as a supply on a circuit the preacher in charge of that circuit?"

Answer. "He may be. Page 37, paragraph 87 of our book of Discipline, 1903, reads: 'A preacher may be appointed to a circuit without having charge of the same; in such cases the administration of the circuit shall devolve upon the district elder and the official board.' But there may be preachers who are members of other conferences, and who are fully fitted to administer circuits to which they may be appointed as supplies. It is my opinion, therefore, that a preacher appointed by an annual conference to a circuit, as supply, is preacher in charge of that circuit, unless the annual conference appointing him shall specify in making such appointment that the administration of the circuit shall be fixed as provided for in the paragraph above referred to.

"Freeborn D. Brooke, District Elder,

"Elgin district, Illinois conference."

"From the above opinion W. C. Willing appealed,

"George H. Behner, Secretary."

The president of the Illinois annual conference rendered the following decision:

"I approve of the above decision.

"Walter A. Sellew.

"September 13, 1907."

Decision approved.

¶ 412. At the Kansas conference, August 27, 1909, an appeal from the Iola district was taken up. Upon the records of the quarterly conference of the Iola

district the following appears under question 5, pages 115 and 116:

The name of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ was called and it was reported that he had been working with the Salvation Army, there being no Free Methodist society where he lived (Parsons, Kan.); also that he had joined the Salvation Army, and that at present he wished his church relation to remain in the Free Methodist church.

When he retired the district elder ruled that his joining the Salvation Army severed his connection with the Free Methodist church, and accordingly decided that his case need not go on record.

The brother appealed from said decision to the annual conference to be held at Solomon, Kan., August 25, 1909.

The bishop (W. A. Sellew), upon hearing the appeal, made the following decision:

(1) "The president of the Kansas annual conference hereby decides that the Salvation Army is a regular church organization and that a member of our church who joins the Salvation Army severs his connection with the Free Methodist church. The decision of the district elder is therefore approved."

Decision approved.

(2) "But as the brother joined the Army under a misapprehension, and now expresses a desire to remain a member of the Free Methodist church, he should be given a reasonable time in which to sever his connection with the Army. If he does so he may retain his membership in the Free Methodist church."

Decision disapproved.

## CHAPTER V

### ¶ 413. THE GENERAL WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

#### Constitution

##### ARTICLE I

This organization shall be known as the General Society of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America, auxiliary to the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist church.

##### ARTICLE II

The object of this organization shall be to secure systematic contributions for foreign missions, to disseminate missionary intelligence and to encourage missionary effort in the Free Methodist church.

##### ARTICLE III

1. The general society shall be composed of the general officers, its representatives on the general missionary board, and one delegate from each conference.

2. The president of this society shall be an ex-officio member of the general missionary board.

3. The delegates are to be elected by their respective conference societies at their annual session, immediately preceding the session of this society.

4. No person shall be elected as delegate to this



society who is not a member of the Free Methodist church, and an active member of the woman's foreign missionary society.

5. No person shall be eligible to election as a delegate to this society who is a delegate or reserve delegate to the general conference of the Free Methodist church.

#### ARTICLE IV

The meetings of this society shall be held quadrennially at the time and place of the general conference of the church, when a report of its operations, conditions and prospects shall be presented. An election by ballot of general officers and representatives on the general missionary board shall be held at that time.

#### ARTICLE V

The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, editor of Missionary Tidings, and superintendent of young people's and junior work.

#### ARTICLE VI

No person shall be eligible to office in this society who is not a member of the Free Methodist church, and an active member of the woman's foreign missionary society.

#### ARTICLE VII

The general officers together with the representatives on the general missionary board shall constitute a general executive committee who shall administer the affairs of the organization and have full power to transact business in the intervals of the quadrennial meeting. Five of these officers shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE VIII

The general executive committee shall meet annually at the time and place of the meeting of the general missionary board.

## ARTICLE IX

The president shall appoint one member of the executive committee as home missionary secretary, who shall labor in the interest of home missions and report annually to the executive committee.

## ARTICLE X

There shall be an advisory board of three members, elected by this society.

## ARTICLE XI

No methods of raising money or of conducting meetings shall be adopted by this society which are not in harmony with the Discipline of the Free Methodist church.

## ARTICLE XII

Five per cent. of the funds of this society shall be reserved as a contingent fund and deposited in a savings bank.

## ARTICLE XIII

1. There shall be a home department of the woman's foreign missionary society under the supervision of the officers of the woman's foreign missionary society.

2. A meeting shall be held quarterly in each local society, and a collection taken for home missions, and forwarded through the regular channels to the general treasurer of the woman's foreign missionary society.

3. All such money, sent to the treasurer, shall

be kept as a separate fund to be appropriated at the discretion of the general society in cooperation with the general missionary board.

4. Any local woman's foreign missionary society desiring to do other home missionary work may do so by using money raised for that purpose, such work to be reported to the corresponding secretary.

#### ARTICLE XIV

This constitution may be altered or amended at any quadrennial meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.



## CHAPTER VI

### ¶ 414. FORMS

#### APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO SELL OR MORTGAGE CHURCH PROPERTY OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Name of Circuit.....  
.....  
..... District  
..... Conference

#### Questions to Be Answered

1. Has the society given authority to the trustees to sell or mortgage the property?.....
2. What are the reasons for selling or mortgaging? .....  
.....
3. What disposition of the proceeds of the sale or mortgage is intended?.....  
.....
4. Is the title a warranty deed?..... If not, what is the character of the title?.....  
.....
5. Is the property deeded "to the society in its corporate name," or to individual trustees? (See paragraph 237.) .....
6. Does the deed contain the following trust clause: "In trust for the use and benefit of the membership of the Free Methodist Church of North America, etc."? See paragraph 238.....

7. Is there a reverting clause in the title?.....

8. Give the names of the trustees and their addresses .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

9. Give description of the property to be sold or mortgaged. Number of lots or acres of ground; character of buildings, frame, stone or brick; size; condition, good or bad.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

10. Give legal description of property to be sold or mortgaged .....

11. Estimated value .....

12. What amount is expected to be realized by the sale or mortgage?.....

.....

\*13. I approve of the sale, mortgage as proposed.

.....Preacher in Charge

Address .....

..... District Elder

Address .....

.....Sec. of Official Board

Address .....

.....

---

\* Cross off "sale" or "mortgage" as the case may require.

### CONSENT TO SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

The Executive Committee of the Free Methodist General Conference of North America, incorporated in New York state, being the legal representative body of the Free Methodist Church (denomination), for a valuable consideration received from....., the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby release all right, title, interest or claim that they may have in or to the property described below by reason of any trust clause that may be in the deed of said property.

Description:

.....

They also hereby give their consent to the trustees selling said property and giving proper deed for same.

In witness whereof the said corporation has caused this instrument to be signed by the secretary of its executive committee, and sealed with its corporate seal this.....day of....., 19....

.....  
 .....  
 .....

State of.....

ss.

County of.....

On the.....day of....., in the year one thousand nine hundred and....., before me personally came....., to me known, who, being duly sworn, did depose and say that he is the secretary of the Executive Committee of the Free Methodist General Conference of North America, the corporation described in and which executed the above instrument; that he knew the corporate seal of



said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument was such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the executive committee of said corporation, and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

---

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXHORTER'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that ..... is hereby recommended by the Free Methodist Society at ....., of which he is a member, as a suitable person to receive **Exhorter's License** in the **Free Methodist Church**.

Done at a Society Meeting held at ....., on the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

---

#### EXHORTER'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that ..... is authorized to officiate as an **Exhorter** in the **Free Methodist Church** for one year, provided his spirit and practise are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and his teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

Done by order of the Official Board of the ..... Circuit, ..... Conference.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

---

#### RENEWAL OF AN EXHORTER'S LICENSE

The license of ..... as an **Exhorter** in the **Free Methodist Church** is hereby renewed for one year, subject to the requirements of the Discipline.

Signed by order of the Official Board of .....

charge, of the ..... District, of the .....  
Annual Conference, this ..... day of .....,  
19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

---

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE TO PREACH

We, the members of the Official Board of .....  
charge; ..... District, hereby recommend  
..... as a suitable person to be licensed as a  
**Local Preacher** in the **Free Methodist Church**.

Done at an Official Board meeting held at .....  
this ..... day of ....., 19...., and by order  
and on behalf of said Official Board.

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

---

#### LOCAL PREACHER'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that ..... is authorized to officiate  
as a **Local Preacher** in the **Free Methodist Church**  
for one year, provided his spirit and practise are such  
as become the Gospel of Christ, and his teachings cor-  
respond with the established doctrines of the Holy  
Scriptures as held by said Church.

By order of the Quarterly Conference of the .....  
District, ..... Conference.

Done at ....., this ..... day of .....,  
19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

---

#### RENEWAL OF LOCAL PREACHER'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that the license of ..... as a  
**Local Preacher** in the **Free Methodist Church** is

hereby renewed for one year, subject to the requirements of the Discipline.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of ..... District, ..... Annual Conference, in session at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDERS

**This certifies** that ..... is hereby recommended by the Quarterly Conference of ..... District to the ..... Annual Conference as a proper person to be ordained ..... according to the provisions of the Discipline, he having served for four consecutive years as a local preacher (or deacon).

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of ..... District, this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**This certifies** that ....., a local preacher, and member of the Quarterly Conference of ..... District, is hereby recommended as a suitable person to be admitted on probation in the traveling connection of the **Free Methodist Church**.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of ..... District, ..... Annual Conference, in session at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE—ADMISSION ON TRIAL

**This is to certify** that Rev. ...., the bearer, a regularly licensed local preacher, has this day been received into the ..... Annual Conference of the **Free Methodist Church** as a traveling preacher on trial, and he is hereby authorized to act in that capacity according to the Discipline of said Church, provided his spirit and practise are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and his teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said Church.

Done at its annual session, held at ....., the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE—ADMISSION ON TRIAL

**This is to certify** that ....., the bearer, a regularly licensed evangelist, has this day been received into the ..... Annual Conference of the **Free Methodist Church** as a traveling preacher on trial, and .... is hereby authorized to act in that capacity according to the Discipline of said church, provided .... spirit and practise are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and .... teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

Done at its annual session, held at ....., the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President,*

.....*Secretary,*

## CERTIFICATE OF STANDING

**This certifies** that ....., an ordained ....., is in good standing and of general acceptability in the ..... Conference of the **Free Methodist Church**, and is granted this certificate with a view of being transferred to the ..... Conference.

Done by the said ..... Conference at ....., the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

[The following must be filled out by one of the General Superintendents before it is received.]

I hereby transfer ..... to the ..... Conference. When .... shall have been received by vote of said ..... Conference, or by consent of the District Elders of the same, .... relation to the ..... Conference shall cease.

.....*Bishop.*

A certificate granted by an annual or quarterly conference expires at the following session of the annual conference.

## CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION

**This certifies** that ....., an Elder (or Deacon) in good standing in the ..... Annual Conference of the **Free Methodist Church**, is given this Certificate of Location at .... own request (or having been left without appointment by vote of said Annual Conference two years in succession).

Done in annual session at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE EVANGELIST'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that ..... is authorized to officiate as an **Evangelist** in the **Free Methodist Church** for one year, provided h... spirit and practise are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and h... teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

By order of the Quarterly Conference of the ..... District, ..... Conference.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVANGELIST'S LICENSE

**This certifies** that ..... is authorized to officiate as an **Evangelist** in the **Free Methodist Church** of North America, so long as h... spirit and practise are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and h... teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

By order of the ..... Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19 ...

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

## LAY DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

**This certifies** that ..... was duly elected as a **Lay Delegate** to represent the ..... Circuit at



the session of the ..... Annual Conference to be held at ....., commencing on the ..... day of ....., 19....; and that ..... was duly elected as **Reserve Lay Delegate** for the same.

Done at the Annual Circuit Meeting held at ....., on the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF PARCHMENTS

*To the President and members of the.....  
Annual Conference, to be held at.....  
commencing on the.....day of....., 19....*

We, the members of the (Quarterly or Annual) Conference, hereby recommend the restoration of the parchments of ....., he having been received as a local preacher on the ..... Circuit (or admitted on trial in the said ..... Annual Conference).

Done in the regular session at ....., this day of ....., 19...., and signed by order and in behalf of the said ..... Conference.

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

[NOTE.—The foregoing recommendation should be presented to the conference having the custody of the forfeited parchments, or to which the candidate belonged when the parchments were forfeited.]

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE DEACONESS' LICENSE

This certifies that ....., of ....., is hereby duly authorized to officiate as a **Deaconess** in the **Free Methodist Church of North America**. This license is good for one year from date hereof.

By order of the ..... Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

Done at ..... this .... day of ....., 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

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