Free Methodist Historical Collection

The historic FREE METHODIST CHURCH of Albion, N. Y.
Dedicated May 18, 1860—now remodeled and still in use

The gift of
Office of the General
Treasurer of the
F. M. Church

mH
8F
m
1943

771

DOCTRINES

AND

DISCIPLINE

OF THE

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

OF

NORTH AMERICA

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock."—ACTS 20: 28.

THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
WINONA LAKE, INDIANA
1943

271

Copyright 1944
By
THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Printed in U. S. A.

The peculiar paragraph numbering in this edition of the Discipline is due to the instructions of the 1939 General Conference that in the editing paragraph numbers remain unchanged. **The Editors.**

CONTENTS

	PAR.
THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH—ORIGIN AND CHARACTER	1-14

PART I

THE CONSTITUTION

DIVISION		
	PREAMBLE	15
I.	ARTICLES OF RELIGION	16-38
II.	GENERAL RULES	39-46
III.	ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT	47-62
	1. Pastoral Charges, Quarterly and Annual Conferences	47-49
	2. The General Conference	50-62

PART II

THE CHURCH

CHAPTER		
I.	SPECIAL ADVICES	63-73½
	1. Temperance	63-65
	2. Marriage and Divorce	66-70
	3. Dress	71
	4. Secret Societies	72, 73
	5. Militarism and War	73½
II.	MEMBERSHIP	74-79
	1. Reception on Probation	74
	2. Admission into Full Membership	75-78
	3. Transfer of Membership by Certificate	79
III.	WORSHIP	80-85
	1. Order of Public Worship	80
	2. Singing	81
	3. Love-Feasts	82
	4. Classes and Class Meetings	83-85

PART III

OFFICIAL BODIES

CHAPTER		PAR.
I.	THE GENERAL CONFERENCE	86–101
II.	THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION	102–104
III.	THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION	105–108
	1. Its Powers	105
	2. Plan for Conference Claimants	106
	3. Church and Parsonage Aid	107, 107½
	4. The Publishing House	108
IV.	THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS	109–116
	1. Object, Membership, Officers, Duties	109
	2. Directors	110
	3. The General Missionary Secretary.	111
	4. The Treasurer	112
	5. Home Missions	113
	6. Title to Land in Foreign Countries	114
	7. Duties of Preachers in Charge	115
	8. Annual Conference Missionary Funds	116
V.	THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	117–129
	1. General Organization and Personnel	117
	2. Sunday-school Department — General Organization	118
	3. Conference Organization	119
	4. District Organization	120
	5. Local Organization	121
	6. Department of Bible Schools and Colleges—General Organization	122
	7. Annual Conference Board	123
	8. Bible Schools and Colleges	124
	9. Endowment Funds	125
	10. Department of Young People—General Organization	126
	11. Constitution of the Y. P. M. S.	127
	12. Department of Service Training—General Organization	128
	13. Conference Organization	129

VI. THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM, CHARITIES, AND CHURCH EXTENSION 130-133
1. Evangelism 131
2. Charities and Charitable Institutions 132
3. Church Extension 133
VII. THE SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE. 134–138
1. Membership 134
2. Native Self-support 135
3. Prerogatives restricted 136
4. The Mission Meeting 137
5. The Executive Committee..... 138
VIII. THE JAPAN CONFERENCE..... 140–149
1. Membership 140
2. Churches 141
3. Stationing Committee 142
4. Board of Administration..... 143
5. Finances 144
6. Church Property 145
7. Financial Educational Board 146
8. Prerogatives Restricted 147
9. The Mission 148
10. Appeals and Amendments..... 149
IX. PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE CONFERENCE..... 149½
X. RELATION OF CANADIAN CONFERENCES 150
XI. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES 151–172
XII. THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE 173–175
XIII. THE OFFICIAL BOARD 176, 177
XIV. THE CIRCUIT MEETING 178, 179
XV. THE SOCIETY MEETING 180, 181

PART IV

THE MINISTRY

I. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK..... 182–197
1. The Call to Preach..... 182
2. Rules for Preacher's Conduct..... 183, 184
3. Spiritual Qualification 185, 186
4. Matter and Manner of Preaching.. 187, 188
5. Where to Preach 189
6. Pastoral Visitation 190–194

7. Employment of Time..... 195
8. Union Among Ourselves 196
9. Union with Others 197
II. Ministers and Annual Conferences..... 198–202
1. Reception on Probation 198
2. Reception into Full Membership... 199
3. Reception from Other Denominations 200
4. Termination of Conference Membership 201, 202
III. Deacons and Elders..... 203–205
IV. Bishops 206, 207
V. District Superintendents 208
VI. Pastors, or Preachers in Charge..... 209, 210
VII. Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers 211, 212

PART V

LOCAL PREACHERS AND LAY HELPERS

I. Local Preachers 213–219½
II. Evangelists 220
III. Exhorters 221
IV. Deaconesses 222, 223
V. Bands and Band Workers..... 224
VI. Class Leaders 225
VII. Stewards 226, 227

PART VI

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

I. Church Trials 228–261
1. Object of Church Discipline..... 228–230
2. General Directions 231, 232
3. Trial of Preachers in Full Membership 233–242
4. Form of Procedure 243, 244
Form for a Bill of Charges..... 243
Order of Conducting Church Trials 244

5. Restoration of Credentials..... 245
6. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Probation 246
7. The Trial of a Local Preacher.... 247–250
8. The Trial of an Accused Member.. 251–259
Ground of Complaint..... 251, 252
Notification of Time and Place of Trial 253
Election of Committee to Try a Case 254, 255
Presiding Officer 256
Right of Appeal 257
Restoration of Membership..... 258, 259
9. Citation of Society, Quarterly Conference, or Annual Conference to Show Cause 260
10. Citation of Preacher to Show Cause 261

II. INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES 262–266

PART VII

TEMPORAL ECONOMY

I. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS..... 267–270
1. Support of Bishops 267
2. Support of District Superintendents 268
3. Support of Preachers in Charge... 269
4. Support of Evangelists 270

II. CHURCH PROPERTY 271–284
1. Trustees—Appointment and Duties 271–276
2. Incorporation and Deeds..... 277–283
3. Erection of Churches..... 284

PART VIII

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

I. CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES 285–328
Conference Boundaries 285-327½
Disputes About, How Settled... 328

PART IX

THE RITUAL

I. BAPTISM 340–342
1. Of Infants 341
2. Of Those of Riper Years 342
II. THE LORD'S SUPPER 343, 344
1. General Directions 343
2. Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper 344
III. THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY 345
IV. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD 346
V. ORDINATION SERVICES 347, 348
1. Ordination of Elders 347
2. Ordination of Deacons 348
VI. FORM FOR DEDICATION OF CHURCHES 349

PART X

COURSES OF STUDY

I. COURSE OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS 350–354½
II. COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS 355–358
1. For Local Preachers who are to be examined by the quarterly conference 355, 356
2. For Local Preachers who Wish to be Ordained Deacons 357
3. For Local Deacons who Wish to be Ordained Elders 358
III. COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES 359, 359½
IV. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS 360
V. CENTRAL BOARD OF CONFERENCE EXAMINERS 382

PART XI

APPENDIX

I. INCORPORATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH 383–383½
II. RESIDENCES, ADDRESSES, ETC..... 384–388

III. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS 389-396½
IV. CONSTRUCTIONS OF LAW AND SPECIAL ORDERS BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE .. 397–539
1. Constructions of Law 397–537
2. Special Orders 538, 539
a. Special Days to be Observed.. 538
b. Duties of Pastors in Relation to Special Occasions 539
V. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY 540
VI. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY 541
VII. CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS 542
VIII. FORMS 543

The Free Methodist Church

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 practice 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 23rd 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 in the days of the apostles. 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. 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 superintendents 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 superintendents, 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 singing by choirs in public worship is 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 said, "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 renting pews, promoting 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 Christianity when 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. Such renting of pews 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

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 co-operation 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:

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: Genesis, 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 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,

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 who 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.

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," first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society

*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.

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 poor.*

II. To meet the minister of the circuit, in order to inform him of any who are sick, or of any who walk disorderly, and will not be reproved.

¶ 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.

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

---

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

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning of 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,

*See Paragraph 406. This rule applies to the wearing of finger rings of any kind. See Paragraph 532.

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 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 conferences

---

*See Paragraph 87.

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 Board of Administration, 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 than the next ensuing session of each of the annual conferences.

---

*See Paragraph 87.

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, an editor of the "Free Methodist," an editor of our Sunday-school literature, a missionary secretary, and such other 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. *Board of Administration*

¶58. 1. The General Conference shall elect two traveling elders and two lay members from each of the General Conference missionary districts, a majority of whom shall be members of the General Conference which elected them, who with the bishops and the

secretary of the General Conference shall constitute the Board of Administration.

2. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Conference Claimants, the General Missionary Board, the Board of Education, the Sunday School Board, the Board of Evangelism, the Board of Charities and Benevolences, the Church Extension Society, the Church and Parsonage Aid Society, and have general supervision of all of the activities of the Church during the intervals of the General Conference.

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.*

ARTICLE XII. *Powers and Restrictions*

¶61. The General Conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for the Free Methodist

---

* The last part of Par. 60, providing that "for changes of the constitution a vote of two-thirds of the General Conference shall be sufficient," applies to all of the constitution except the restrictive rules in Par. 61.

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 representation, 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.*

*Par. 62 refers solely to the amendment of the three restrictive rules in Par. 61.

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 circuit 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 co-operation 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 practice of lawlessness, or any other evil in such organizations. While we prohibit our members from membership in labor unions or other societies demanding a pledge of oath-

bound secrecy as a condition of membership; yet, we recognize the inherent rights of our members to hold membership in labor organizations where such demands are not required. If the privilege of working at one's trade does not involve the enforcement of a policy of coercion, and our members are permitted to work by the labor union by the payment of regular dues, we grant them this right, even though they cannot on account of required pledges of oath-bound secrecy be members of the labor union.

2. The Executive Commission of the Board of Administration shall constitute a Board of Industrial Relations the duty of which is to grant information, and render decisions on all matters of industrial relations. To this Board all questions, communications, and papers should be committed that relate to labor unions or membership in the same. This Board shall also constitute a collective bargaining agency on behalf of the members of our church wherever practicable.

V. Militarism and War

¶73½. Militarism is contrary to the spirit of the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is utterly indefensible and inexcusable from humanitarian principles alone. Because it fosters a spirit of militarism, we therefore disapprove of the requirement in some of our secular schools compelling our young men to enter military training during the years of their attendance, and it is our profound conviction that none of our people should be required to enter military training or to bear arms, except in case of national peril, and that the conscience of our individual members should be respected. Therefore we claim exemption from the bearing of arms for all members of our church who are conscientious objectors.

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 or public meeting of the church:

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

---

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

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, nor pearls, nor 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. 1. The person giving affirmative answers to the above questions shall, with the consent of three fourths of the members present, 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.

2. All members in full connection under sixteen years of age shall be known as Junior members.

¶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 .... 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

*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.

†If a member so transferring be an exhorter, evangelist, local preacher, local ordained deacon or local elder, it shall be so stated on the letter of transfer.

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 contribute to the financial obligations of the society of which they are members, they may at the end of one year, by order of the official board, be recorded on the register as "Removed without a letter." If such persons afterward claim their membership, the official board shall restore it. A member holding a certificate shall be amenable to the circuit from which the certificate was taken and 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 the 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."

6. Children up to sixteen years of age shall be exempt from all claims and apportionments made by the General Conference. The number of such members shall be kept in a separate column in the statistical report, and no society shall be apportioned said claims for such members. Such members shall not be considered eligible to vote in business meetings.

7. Probationers may be transferred to another society by the preacher giving a certificate of transfer in the following words:

"A.B., the bearer, a probationer, having been received on probation on the ..... day of ..... in the year ....., wishing to remove from this society, we hereby certify that ..... is an acceptable probationer 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 ..... membership in this society shall cease. This certificate is good for one year only."

8. No supply in charge of a circuit shall issue a certificate of transfer of his own membership without the consent of his district superintendent.

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 oc-

easion, 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, can not 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.

6. Let the preacher in charge see that the Free Methodist Hymnal is used in the Sunday morning services. *

7. An instrument of music may be used in our public worship when a majority of the annual conference and two thirds of the local society have approved of the same, subject to the following conditions and restrictions. In no case let there be choir singing or more than one instrument of music used in our public worship. It is expressly understood that this one instrument shall be confined to the organ or piano. In no case let there be a person other than a Christian whose character, appearance, and deportment conform to our Discipline play the instrument. When an annual conference shall have approved the use of instrumental music within its bounds, then any quarterly conference or other body may use the same in its public worship, except the local society which cannot use the instrument until it has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the society.

*If found impracticable, this rule shall not apply where shaped notes are in use.

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.

2. To meet the minister of the circuit in order to inform him of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reproved.

3. The class meeting shall be separate and distinct from the usual testimony meeting, and shall be held whenever practicable on the Sabbath day.

¶84. Where there is more than one class in a society there shall be a general class once a 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.

PART III

OFFICIAL BODIES

CHAPTERS

I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
II. THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
III. THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION
IV. THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS
V. THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
VI. THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM, CHARITIES, CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND CHURCH EXTENSION
VII. SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE
VIII. JAPAN CONFERENCE
IX. PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE CONFERENCE
X. RELATION OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCES
XI. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES
XII. THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE
XIII. THE OFFICIAL BOARD
XIV. THE CIRCUIT MEETING
XV. 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. Omitted because of wrong numbering of previous editions.

¶ 90. In electing delegates to the General Conference, the preachers and lay members shall vote sepa-

rately, 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 must 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.

¶ 91. 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.

¶ 92. The General Conference shall be held in June, 1947, or as near that time as may be determined by the Board of Administration.

¶ 93. At all times, when the General Conference is in session, 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.

¶ 94. 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.

¶ 95. Each General Conference shall elect, by ballot, one or more traveling elders as bishops, a secretary, an editor of the Free Methodist, an editor of our Sunday-school literature, a missionary secretary, a general Sunday-school secretary, a superintendent of the Young People's Missionary Society, a general evangelistic secretary. The General

Conference may elect one or more general evangelists. It shall also elect two traveling elders and two lay members from each of the General Conference missionary districts, who, with the bishops, the secretary of the General Conference, shall constitute the Board of Administration. The elders and laymen shall be nominated by the delegates of the General Conference missionary districts, by ballot, at least a majority of whom shall be members of the General Conference electing them. These nominations shall be subject to confirmation by the General Conference. 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.

¶ 96. 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 journals. The General Conference, if it so desires, may elect a secretary who is not a member of that body.

¶ 97. 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.

¶ 98. 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 representation, 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.

¶ 99. 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.

¶ 100. 1. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually such amount per member for each member in full connection, 16 years or over, as shall be determined by the Executive Commission for General Conference expenses, such as entertainment of delegates, traveling expenses of delegates to and from the seat of General Conference and miscellaneous expenses incident to the General Conference. Should any conference be deficient in its assessment during the quadrennium, such deficiency shall be deducted from the expenses payable to its delegates to the General Conference.

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

¶ 101. It is the inalienable right of any annual conference, district quarterly conference, church so-

ciety, or individual member of the Free Methodist Church, to submit protests, petitions, or memorials to the General Conference and to have them fully heard. Such papers must be introduced by a member of the General Conference, and they shall be subject to the rules of that body.

CHAPTER II

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

¶102. The Board of Administration shall consist of the bishops, the secretary of the General Conference, two traveling elders and two lay members from each of the General Conference missionary districts, a majority of whom shall be members of the General Conference electing them, provided, however, that no General Conference officer other than the bishops and the secretary shall be a member of the Board of Administration. The senior bishop shall be president, and the secretary of the General Conference secretary of said board; but in case there is no bishop to serve, then the Board of Administration shall elect an elder from its members to preside.

¶103. 1. The Board of Administration shall have general supervision of all the activities of the church during the intervals of the General Conference. It shall meet annually and whenever the bishops or one-third of the members shall deem it necessary. A majority of the members elected shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. The Board of Administration shall have power to accept resignations, or remove for cause, any of its members or any of the General Conference officers during the interim of the General Conference sessions and 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. The Board of Administration shall fill any vacancy

which may occur in the Board of Bishops during the first two years of the quadrennium.

3. The Board of Administration shall meet immediately at the close of the General Conference and organize itself into four commissions to be called the Executive Commission, the Commission on Missions, the Commission on Christian Education, and the Commission on Evangelism, Charities, Charitable Institutions, and Church Extension.

4. The Executive Commission shall consist of one bishop and six other persons. The Commission on Missions shall consist of one bishop and eight other persons, two of whom shall be the women representing the Woman's Missionary Society. The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of one bishop and six other persons. The Commission on Evangelism, Charities, Charitable Institutions, and Church Extension shall consist of one bishop and six other persons.

5. It shall be the duty of the secretary of the Board of Administration to make a full report of its proceedings during the quadrennium to the General Conference.

6. The Board of Administration shall elect five business men, who shall have charge of the investment of the church funds, including the funds to be invested by the several commissions. No member of said committee shall be eligible to borrow directly or indirectly or participate in the benefits of any moneys borrowed from the funds of the church. The finance committee of the Board of Administration shall not invest the trust funds of the church in any investments except such as are lawful for the investment of trust funds as allowed by the state in which the Free Methodist Church may be incorporated. No treasurer of these church funds shall be a member of this committee.

7. The Board of Administration shall also employ a general church treasurer; a publishing agent, who shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church, and when they deem it necessary, an assistant publishing agent, and such other officers or employes as the General Conference orders.

8. All of the commissions and the Woman's Missionary Society shall make and file annually their financial statements with the secretary of the Board of Administration.

9. The secretaries of the several departments of our church work shall meet with the respective commissions to whom their work is assigned.

10. The Board shall provide rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.

11. If for any cause a member of the Board of Administration shall cease to be a member of the Free Methodist Church his membership on the board shall thereby cease.

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

CHAPTER III

THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

I. Its Powers

¶ 105. 1. The Executive Commission shall be the Executive Committee of the Board of Administration.

2. This commission shall make all apportionments, administer funds for the bishops' salaries, and the Church and Parsonage Aid Society.

3. It shall be the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Publishing House and shall have advisory supervision of all church property.

4. The Executive Commission shall constitute the Court of Appeals, whose decision shall be final. Should any member of this court be absent or disqualified to sit, his place shall be filled pro tem by the Board of Administration from its members, or, if any are disqualified, from a list of members of the church at large approved by counsel for both sides; so that no appeal shall be heard except before a full court. The Court of Appeals shall, if necessary, hold a session once a year, for the purpose of trying all appeals that may be taken thereto by any traveling preacher from the decisions of an annual conference. The bishop who is a member of the Executive Commission shall ordinarily preside over the court; but should he be absent or disqualified, the Board of Administration shall elect one of the other bishops to preside.

5. The Executive Commission shall have the power to decide all questions of law referred to it in the interim of the General Conference. 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 Commission or the General Conference for a writ of review, and it shall be the province of that 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.

6. The Executive Commission shall have power to make such preliminary arrangements for the public services of the General Conference as it may deem necessary.

7. The Executive Commission shall fix the salaries of the General Conference officers.

8. Deficiencies of any conference in the payment of its general assessed claims shall be prorated to the various general funds according to the ratio of the amounts of the assessments. These deficiencies shall be deducted from benefits receivable by such conference as follows:

Deficiencies in Bishop's salaries, General Missions and Evangelistic Fund shall be deducted from the General Missions appropriations.

Deficiencies in the Conference Claimants' assessment shall be deducted pro rata from the amounts due claimants.

Deficiencies in General Conference entertainment and delegates' expenses shall be deducted from the expense allowances to delegates at the next General Conference.

Deficiencies in Church Extension and Church and Parsonage Aid shall be deducted from appropriations from either of such funds.

Such deficiencies as are not deducted or paid shall

be held as a lien against subsequent appropriations. The general treasurer shall keep a record of these deficiencies and report the same to the conferences which are deficient and publish them in his annual report to the Board of Administration.

9. The acts of the Executive Commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration except when it sits as an appellate court.

II. Plan for Conference Claimants

¶ 106. Section 1. *The Conference Claimants' Fund.* The funds to be collected, administered and used for the benefit of superannuated preachers or their widows and orphans, the widows and orphans of ordained traveling preachers, and retired missionaries who have labored under the appointment of the Commission on Missions of the Free Methodist Church, shall be known as the Conference Claimants' Fund and shall be divided into the Permanent Endowment Fund, the Administrative Fund, and the Reserve Fund.

A. The Permanent Endowment Fund shall consist of such funds and investments as are now held and known as the Permanent Endowment Fund, and gifts, bequests, legacies and annuities which may be received for this purpose.

B. The Administrative Fund shall consist of the income accruing from the Permanent Endowment Fund: gifts, bequests and legacies specifically designated for the use of the Administrative Fund; collections received from the several conferences for general assessed claims levied by the Board of Administration for the Conference Claimants' Fund; sixty per cent annually of the net profits of the business of the Publishing House; income from the investment of Publishing House funds; and contributions received from

preachers and missionaries who may become beneficiaries of the Conference Claimants' Fund, according to the provisions of section 2.

Any annual surplus in this fund shall be transferred to the Reserve Fund; but should there be a deficit in the Administrative Fund in any year, an amount sufficient to eliminate such deficit shall be transferred from the Reserve Fund.

C. The Reserve Fund shall consist of such surpluses as may occur in the Administrative Fund from year to year, Sunday-school offerings received on Superannuate Day and any offerings, gifts, bequests, legacies and annuities that may be received for this fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide a reserve to insure the payment of claims to those who become beneficiaries under the Contributive Plan. This Fund shall be invested only in obligations of the United States government, the income from which shall be added to the Reserve Fund.

Section 2. *The Contributive Plan.*

It shall be the duty of every pastor, evangelist, district superintendent, general officer, bishop, educator, missionary, and in fact every one who will be eligible to superannuation, to file, at the time of his annual conference, a certificate with the Executive Secretary of the Annual Conference Board of Claimants, hereinafter called Certificate of Income, stating the amount of his total income for that conference year, namely: all funds received for ministerial support such as salary, special offerings, receipts for evangelistic services and any other income accruing as a result of his position under conference appointment. Evangelists and district superintendents may deduct actual traveling expenses in excess of $150.00 subject to such regulations as may be adopted by the General Board of Conference Claimants. He shall also

give such other information on this certificate as shall be requested by the General Board of Conference Claimants. Those under appointment as evangelists shall give such information relative to time, place of labors, income and expense as the General Board of Conference Claimants may request.

Contributions to the Conference Claimants' Fund shall be 1¾ per cent of the amount of income as shown in the Certificate of Income.

Contributions shall be paid in at the time of filing the Certificate of Income and receipt therefor shall be issued by the Executive Secretary of the Annual Conference Board of Claimants.

Should a preacher fail to make contribution at the time of filing such certificate and then subsequently desire to do so, interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum shall be charged from the time the payment was due, provided such contribution is paid not later than the next ensuing session of his annual conference.

Section 3. *Administrative Organization.*

A. The General Board of Conference Claimants. The Board of Administration, shall constitute the General Board of Conference Claimants. It shall be the duty of this board:

1. To pass upon all claims and make final disposition of the same.

2. To draw up such regulations and prepare such blanks as are necessary to the proper and efficient administration of the work of the board and the operation of the Conference Claimants' Fund.

3. To estimate the amount necessary to be raised in addition to endowment and other income, to pay the claimaints and apportion the same pro rata upon the entire membership of the church. To such apportionment shall be added an amount of not less than

ten cents per member to aid in building up the Endowment Fund.

B. The General Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary of the General Board shall be employed by the Board of Administration. It shall be his duty:

1. To keep a record of all the proceedings of the General Board and make a report of the same to the General Conference.

2. To receive, audit, classify, file, and be custodian of all Claimants' Applications, Annual Claimants' Certificates and Certificates of Income.

3. To receive and pass upon emergency claims in the interim of the meetings of the General Board subject to action by said Board.

4. To adjust amounts due on claims of deceased claimants.

5. To keep a record of all claims allowed and payments made on the same.

6. To direct the activities of the several annual conference executive secretaries, and supply them with such blanks and other record materials as are necessary.

7. To receive and credit to the individual preachers' accounts the contributions forwarded to him and turn such funds over to the general treasurer, keeping a complete record of the same.

8. To travel through the connection and assist in promoting the Conference Claimants' Fund under the direction of the General Board of Conference Claimants.

9. To perform such other duties as shall devolve upon him as executive secretary.

C. The Annual Conference Board of Claimants. Each annual conference shall elect an Annual Conference Board of Claimants of not less than three or more than seven members. The presiding bishop or his

appointee shall be ex officio chairman of this board during the session of the annual conference. It shall be the duty of this Annual Conference Board of Claimants:

1. To elect from its number an executive secretary who shall be the executive officer of the board in the interim of the annual conferences. The annual conference may elect the executive secretary if it so desires.

2. To study and pass upon all claims, recommending to the annual conference the amount of each claim. In no case, however, shall income from insurance or life savings be considered as a reason for reducing any claim in which contributive service constitutes all or part of the service record.

3. To study and pass upon all Certificates of Income and rate them on the basis of activity or service unhampered by secular employment, such ratings to be reported to the annual conference which shall have final jurisdiction.

4. To receive emergency claims in the interim of annual conferences and recommend such claims direct to the General Board of Conference Claimants. Such emergency claims shall be only temporary and must be submitted to the next ensuing session of the annual conference for action and recommendation to the General Board.

5. It shall be the duty of the executive secretary of the annual conference board to assist the general executive secretary in promoting the interests of the Claimants' Plan in his conference. He shall see that the Certificates of Income are properly filled out and turned in by the preachers of his conference and issue receipts for contributions paid in on the same, remitting such funds to the general executive secretary as soon as possible. He shall also receive all Claim-

ants' Applications and Annual Claimants' Certificates, seeing that they are properly filled out and contain all necessary information; transmitting them, together with the Certificates of Income, to the general executive secretary after they have been properly acted upon and certified.

Section 4. *Classification of Claimants.*

Claimants against the Conference Claimants' Fund shall be classified as follows:

A. Superannuated preachers of the traveling connection whose wives are living.

B. Superannuated preachers of the traveling connection who are bachelors, spinsters, unmarried widowers or unmarried widows.

C. Unmarried widows of superannuates or preachers of the traveling connection.

D. Orphans of preachers or superannuates of the traveling connection.

E. Missionaries, or their widows and orphans, who have served under the appointment of the Commission on Missions in foreign fields and who are not full members of an annual conference in the United States or Canada.

Section 5. *Schedules of Benefits to Claimants.*

Benefits to claimants shall be paid according to the following schedules and in no case shall any claim be allowed in excess of or contrary to the regular disciplinary allowance. For those who begin effective service at the time of their annual conferences in 1935 or subsequently, the allowance shall be based upon the number of years of effective and contributive service only.

A. The allowance to claimants who come under Classification A in Section 4 shall be at the rate of $10.00 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of $360.00 per year.

B. The allowance to claimants who come under Classifications B and C in Section 4 shall be at the rate of $7.00 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of $252.00 per year.

C. In the case of those coming under Classification D of Section 4, the Annual Conference Board of Claimants shall estimate an amount, not to exceed $36.00 per annum for each child, for the subsistence of such orphan child or children until same shall have arrived at the age of sixteen years.

D. In the case of those coming under Classification E of Section 4, the amount allowed shall be recommended by the Commission on Missions in accordance with the schedules in this Section.

E. In the case of those who have already had effective service records at the time of their annual conferences in 1935 and who superannuate thereafter, the allowance shall be based upon the number of years of effective service up to the end of the conference year in 1935, provided that not more than 25 such years may be counted for those in Class A, nor more than 28 years for those in Classes B and C, and the number of years of effective and contributive service thereafter, up to the maximum number of years allowed altogether as stated in schedules A and B.

F. The allowance for those who come under Classification C of Section 4 who were married before the General Conference of 1931 shall be computed upon the basis of the husband's effective and/or contributive service as provided in the schedules in this section.

G. In the case of those who are eligible as claimants under any classification in Section 4 at the close of the conference year in 1935, the amount of claim shall be figured at $10.00 per year of effective service for

Classification A and $7.00 per year for Classifications B and C, provided, however, the amount of said claim shall not be less than the amount actually received during the conference year 1934-5 nor more than the maximum allowance under the law in effect prior to the General Conference of 1935; and provided further, that no Class B or C claimant shall be eligible to receive more than $200.00.

Section 6. *General Regulations.*

1. By "effective service" is meant the time actually employed by a preacher as directed by his conference subsequent to the time he was received into full connection in the traveling connection. By "effective and contributive service" is meant the time actually employed as stated under "effective service" and in which he contributed his ratable portion according to the amount shown on his Certificate of Income.

2. If a preacher shall take a certificate of location and subsequently be restored to conference membership, the years of effective, or effective and contributive service, prior to location may be restored by the General Board only upon recommendation of the conference which granted the certificate of location and upon the further condition that such restoration is for the purpose of re-entering effective service; provided said preacher shall have remained a member of the Free Methodist Church during the years of his location and that not more than ten years shall have elapsed since his location.

3. If a preacher withdraws from the church or is expelled, all rights and claims are forfeited; and should he be readmitted to the church and conference, and afterward be superannuated, the years prior to his withdrawal or expulsion shall not be restored to his service record.

4. If a preacher who has had effective service under the Commission on Missions joins an annual conference in full connection after serving on probation, such years of service on probation may be counted in his service record upon the recommendation of his annual conference, provided he has fulfilled other requirements for effective and contributive service.

5. If, subsequent to the General Conference of 1931, a minister shall marry while a member of the conference, and before he is superannuated, the claim allowed his widow shall be based only upon the years she labored with him in effective and contributive service.

6. Claimants shall receive benefits only so long as they remain members of the Free Methodist Church.

7. Widows of preachers and superannuates shall receive benefits from the Conference Claimants' Fund only so long as they remain single.

8. All claimants shall file an original Claimant's Application in duplicate on blanks provided by the General Board of Conference Claimants containing such information as said Board shall deem necessary. Each subsequent year an Annual Claimant's Certificate, to be provided by the same general board and containing information as to the continuation of the same general status of the claimant, shall be filed by all claimants. Both of these blanks shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the Annual Conference Board of Claimants in time for action at the annual conference.

9. In all cases, a claimant shall have the right to appear in person or by counsel before the Annual Conference Board of Claimants to present his case. In case of an irreconcilable difference between the claimant and his Annual Conference Board, said claimant shall have the right of appeal to the General Board

of Conference Claimants where final disposition shall be made.

10. All claims shall be paid from the General Treasury quarterly beginning January 2nd of each year and according to the following schedule: 20% of the claim for each of the first two quarters and 30% each for the third and final quarters. The general treasurer is authorized to withhold payments for the third and fourth quarters to claimants of any conference which is in arrears in the payment of its general assessed claims. Any amounts so withheld shall not be in excess of deficiencies as provided in ¶105, Sec. 2.

11. The Board of Administration is empowered to amend such regulations as may be found necessary.

12. No minister shall be eligible as a claimant until he shall have attained the age of sixty-five years, except in case of mental or physical disability which disqualifies him for service, such exception to be finally determined by the General Board of Conference Claimants.

III. Church and Parsonage Aid

¶ 107. 1. The Board of Administration shall constitute the General Church and Parsonage Aid Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

2. The object of this society shall be to aid churches or societies in rebuilding churches or parsonages which have been destroyed totally or in part. This is to be construed to mean church buildings, parsonages, barns and garages.

3. This society shall publish in the Annual Minutes an annual report of its work and also submit a full report quadrennially to the General Conference.

4. The Annual Conference Church Extension Society shall constitute the Conference Church and Parsonage Aid Society.

5. The Conference Church and Parsonage Aid Society shall be auxiliary to the general society and shall pass upon all applications for aid arising from the loss of, or damage to, church or parsonage property within the conference.

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

7. The provisions of this society shall apply also to the district parsonages, and to homes of superannuated preachers when owned by the annual conference.

8. In case of loss to church or parsonage property it shall be the duty of the official board to appoint three persons who with the district superintendent of the district and the pastor of the church shall constitute a board of appraisers. This board shall send the estimate of loss to the Conference Church and Parsonage Aid Society.

9. The amount of aid given any church or society shall not be more than one-half of the net loss, and in no case shall exceed $1,000. However, in case both church and parsonage are destroyed wholly or in part at one time, and in case the two are in separate buildings, then the above allowance shall be paid for each building.

10. The Church and Parsonage Aid Fund shall protect the household goods of all ministers under appointment by, and in the active service of, the Free Methodist Church, and all superannuated preachers, to the extent of one-half of their net loss, but in no case to exceed $300.00.

11. All applications for aid shall be in accordance with blank forms furnished by the Executive Commission.

12. The adjustment of the claim shall be upon the concurrent action of the Executive Commission and the annual conference society.

13. It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge of a circuit to raise for church and parsonage aid a sum not less than ten cents per annum for each member in full relation and forward the same through the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the general society.

14. In case of emergency, the Executive Commission shall have power to make a special call for funds to meet such special need.

15. Should any conference be deficient in the payment of its assessment for this fund, such deficiency shall constitute a lien against any claim made upon the Fund by a society or beneficiary in the conference and shall be deducted from such claim at the time payment is made by the general treasurer.

In the event that it is impossible to deduct the lien in any one year, it shall be held over for future deduction unless the deficiency in assessment is paid by the conference.

¶ 107½. Any Free Methodist society, Publishing House, school, minister, or benevolent institution, recognized by the Free Methodist Church, desiring additional aid from this fund, other than that allowed in Paragraph 107, Sections 7 to 10, may receive it on the following conditions.

1. Such society, school, benevolent institution, minister, or Publishing House shall contribute to the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund, for each one hundred dollars of special aid desired, an amount equal to 60% of the regular board rates as established for insurance purposes in the several states and communities in which the property is located.

2. Each building shall be aided under separate application to be made by the society or institution desiring the aid.

3. This special aid shall be limited to

a. The actual loss, not exceeding the amount of aid applied for.

b. The net loss after any allowances for insurance or protection has been paid (if any) from other sources.

4. If any society shall take advantage of this "special provision," then that society shall in addition have the benefits provided for under Paragraph 107.

5. In case of loss, the Church and Parsonage Aid Society shall have the option either to replace what is destroyed, or pay the aid in cash, to which the applicant is entitled.

6. No credit shall be extended to any church or institution under the provisions of this chapter. The aid hereby provided for shall automatically cease with the expiration date, unless the contributions herein provided for shall have been paid promptly upon the due date.

7. No application made under the provisions of this chapter shall become effective until approved by the Executive Commission.

8. The Executive Commission shall provide application blanks, agreements for special aid, and shall have power to do any and all things necessary to put into effect the special provisions of this chapter.

9. In the event a loss shall be sustained by an applicant, then the Church and Parsonage Aid Society may send a special representative or employ an adjuster to adjust the claim of any applicant, and the decision of the Church and Parsonage Aid Society shall be final.

10. It shall be expressly agreed and understood between the Church and Parsonage Aid Society and any applicant applying for special aid under the provisions of this chapter, that said agreement for special aid shall in no sense constitute a contract of in-

surance or indemnity, the laws of any state notwithstanding.

IV. The Publishing House

¶ 108. 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 Winona Lake, Indiana.

2. The Executive Commission shall be the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Publishing House and 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 of the Board of Administration who shall be present at a regularly called meeting.

3. The publishing agent shall have authority, under the supervision of the Executive Commission, to regulate the business of the Publishing House in such a manner as in his judgment the interests of the church require.

4. The publishing agent and editors shall make annual reports to the Executive Commission, and shall also report to the General Conference.

5. It shall be the duty of the assistant publishing agent to co-operate 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.

CHAPTER IV

THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

I. Objects, Membership, Officers, Duties

¶ 109. 1. The Board of Administration shall constitute the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an incorporated body. The objects for which this incorporation 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.

2. The Commission on Missions shall consist of a bishop appointed by the Board of Administration who shall be president of the commission, the two women elected by the Woman's Missionary Society and six other persons elected by the Board of Administration from its members.

3. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the Commission on Missions.

4. The commission 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 shall be sent to each member, and a notice, signed by the president and the secretary, shall appear in two issues of the Free Methodist.

5. It shall be the duty of the commission to act in an advisory capacity to its directors.

6. It shall be the duty of the commission to make an appropriation of $10,000.00 each year to meet unforeseen contingencies that may arise in the administration of the foreign and home missionary work. Including this emergency appropriation, the total of all appropriations made, or indirect obligations assumed in behalf of the foreign and home missionary work, shall not exceed the actual receipts for the same during the preceding year.

7. It shall be the duty of the commission to take charge of all moneys raised for foreign and home missionary work, and appropriate the same to the purposes for which they were contributed.

8. The commission shall publish in the Free Methodist and the Annual Conference Minutes annual reports of all its receipts and disbursements. It shall make a full report to the General Conference at its regular session of all moneys received and disbursed by it, and of the results of such appropriations so far as can be ascertained.

9. The president of the commission 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.

10. It shall be the duty of the Commission on Missions to inquire as to the usefulness of each and every missionary, active and on furlough, annually.

No missionary shall remain on furlough more than one and one-half years.

Provided, however, that if conditions beyond the control of either the Commission on Missions or an accepted missionary, or both, arise, furlough or service abroad shall be extended until such contingencies clear away.

The Commission on Missions may, upon the recommendation of four-fifths of the Committee on Candidates and Furloughs leave a missionary without an appointment.

Any missionary so left without an appointment two years in succession shall be discontinued as a missionary and his relation to the Commission on Missions shall cease.

11. The acts of the Commission on Missions shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

11. The Directors of the Commission on Missions

¶ 110. 1. At the first meeting of the Board of Administration, subsequent to each session of the General Conference, the said board, which board constitutes the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an incorporated body, shall elect by ballot from the members of the Commission on Missions, seven persons who shall constitute a Board of Directors. At least one of these directors shall be a member of the Woman's Missionary Society.

2. It shall be the duty of the directors to take charge of all moneys raised for general, foreign and home missionary work, and appropriate the same to the purposes for which they were contributed.

3. The directors 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. They shall have authority to authorize the ordination of a missionary candidate if they judge it expedient.

III. The General Missionary Secretary

¶ 111. 1. The general missionary secretary shall be elected by the General Conference.

2. He shall keep the records of the commission, receive and answer all correspondence relating to the missionary work of the church, and pay over to the treasurer of the commission all moneys received by him, taking his receipt for the same.

3. He shall have charge of the missionary interests of the church, subject to the orders and under direction of the directors, 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.

4. 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.

5. He shall travel at large throughout the church in the interest of missions and shall visit the foreign fields whenever in the judgment of the Commission on Missions or the board of directors it shall be deemed necessary.

6. He shall be empowered to ordain all eligible candidates for the office of deacon or elder when visiting the foreign fields.

7. He shall make yearly a full and detailed report

to the commission of all business pertaining to both the missionaries and the mission stations and also whenever requested by the board of directors to do so.

IV. The Treasurer

¶ 112. The treasurer shall receive all moneys accruing to foreign and home 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 commission, 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.

V. Home Missions

¶ 113. 1. All work carried on by the Commission on Missions on the North American continent among the foreign speaking people and others not cared for by our regular pastors shall be denominated home mission work.

2. Societies that have been organized or may be organized among these peoples shall be termed "Home Mission Societies." Persons being received into such societies shall be received on probation and into full membership on the same conditions as are our regular members.

3. The home mission societies shall have the same general organization and power, both as to districts and circuits and local societies, as obtains in the regular church organization. The manner of election of all officers shall be subject to the approval of the general missionary secretary.

4. The Commission on Missions shall have complete administrative authority over these societies and they shall in no way be subject to the appointment of or control by an annual conference.

5. The title to any church property acquired within the bounds of the United States shall be vested in the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

6. Where two or more societies exist and, where practicable, in the judgment of the general missionary secretary, they may be formed into "home mission districts."

7. All home mission societies which pay their own operating expenses, except the salary of the pastors and other workers, shall be entitled to non-voting lay representation in the annual conference within the bounds of which such societies are located.

8. These societies shall be reported to such conference as "home mission societies," and by a footnote on the statistical report it shall be indicated that conference claims are not apportioned to them.

9. Preachers engaged in this work shall be amenable to their annual conferences for their Christian character and to the Commission on Missions for their official conduct.

VI. Title to Land in Foreign Countries

¶ 114. 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 board, the tenure of whose office shall be subject to said board, subject in all cases to the laws and regulations of the country where the land is located.

VII. Duties of Preachers in Charge

¶ 115. 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 and home missions.

VIII. Annual Conference Missionary Funds

¶ 116. Each annual conference may from time to time, by vote, appropriate of its mission funds such sums to the Commission on Missions 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 V

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

General Organization and Personnel

¶ 117. 1. The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of one bishop appointed by the Board of Administration and six other persons selected by the Board of Administration from its own membership.

2. The members of this Commission shall continue in office until the close of the session of the General Conference next after their election and until others shall be elected in their places.

3. The Commission shall meet annually. Notice of such meeting shall be sent to each member at least one month in advance. The president shall have authority to call a special meeting of the Commission in the event of an emergency or upon the written request of three members of the Commission.

4. The acts of the Commission on Christian Education shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

5. The officers of the Commission shall be president, treasurer, and recording secretary. The bishop appointed to this Commission shall be ex-officio president, the general church treasurer shall be ex-officio treasurer, and the recording secretary shall be selected by the Commission from its own membership.

6. The Commission on Christian Education shall have responsibility for the general direction of the program of the church dealing with (a) the Christian Education and training of its childhood and youth, (b) the

guidance and control of organized youth activities, (c) the education and training of its young people in church-related high schools and colleges, (d) the education and training of ministers for the church through church-related Bible schools and theological seminaries, (e) provision in local churches, and otherwise, for the training of lay leaders in Christian education and evangelism, (f) bringing under the influence of these various activities children, young people, and adults from outside the church membership.

7. The Commission on Christian Education shall operate through four departments as follows:

a. SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Including Sunday schools and all the other activities sponsored by the local Sunday school such as Weekday and Vacation Bible schools, Camp Meeting Bible schools, the publication of literature for workers and students in all such schools and the C. Y. C.

b. BIBLE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES—Including secondary, collegiate, and theological institutions.

c. YOUNG PEOPLE—Including the Y. P. M. S. and any other group activity of a church-wide nature for young people.

d. SERVICE TRAINING—Including the Service Training program and all forms of leadership training for lay leaders and lay teachers in the local church.

8. The responsibility for carrying out the policy of the Commission in each of these departments is vested in a departmental executive secretary. Two of these executive secretaries are elected by the General Conference. These are the general Sunday-school secretary and the general Y. P. M. S. superintendent. The other two executive secretaries shall be elected by the Commission on Christian Education. These are the acting educational secretary and the director of Service Training.

I Sunday School Department (Sunday schools, Daily Vacation Bible schools, etc.)

1. General Organization.

¶ 118. a. Function of the Commission. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Sunday School Board of the Free Methodist Church. The Commission on Christian Education shall promote and have charge of the general Sunday-school interests.

b. The general Sunday-school secretary shall be the executive officer of the Sunday-school department and have general charge of the Sunday-school interests of the church under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education.

c. Finances of the Department of Sunday Schools.

(1). The expenses incurred by the meetings of the Commission and the salary of the general Sunday-school secretary and his necessary office help shall be paid by the Sunday-school department of the Publishing House. The Commission shall become responsible for all other expenses which it incurs.

(2). The funds of the Student Loan Fund shall be administered by the Commission and shall be used to aid those young people of the Free Methodist Church who feel called of God to some form of Christian work in the Free Methodist Church and who need financial help to continue their education in one of the church schools. Aid from the fund shall be granted only in the form of loans under conditions prescribed by the Commission. However, the Commission may by a two-thirds vote cancel loans for causes which seem to them sufficient.

2. Conference Organization

¶ 119. a. Personnel

(1.) Each annual conference shall elect annually a conference Sunday-school board composed of not less than five members.

(2). This board shall organize by electing a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer, and, by ballot, shall nominate a conference Sunday-school secretary. The conference Sunday-school secretary shall be elected by the annual conference and shall be a member of the conference Sunday-school board.

b. Functions of the Board

(1). It shall be the duty of this board to supervise the Sunday-school work of the conference in harmony with the direction and advice of the Commission on Christian Education.

(2). It shall be the duty of this board to encourage the organization and maintenance of a Sunday-school in every society in the conference and to establish mission Sunday schools wherever practicable.

(3). The board shall plan for the holding of a Sunday-school institute, if at all possible, in every society some time during the year, with the co-operation of the society where the institute is to be held.

(4). The board shall provide for the holding of a convention on each district during the year co-operating with the district superintendent and the district boards, when such boards exist, in planning these conventions.

(5). The board shall arrange for the holding of special services or conferences in the interest of Sunday-school work in our general gatherings, such as general quarterly meetings, camp meetings, and annual conferences, in co-operation with those having charge of such gatherings.

(6). The board shall make annual report to the Commission on Christian Education and also to the annual conference.

c. Duties of the Conference Sunday-school Secretary

It shall be the duty of the conference Sunday-school secretary to administer the work outlined by the conference board.

d. Finance of the Conference Sunday-school Board

The treasurer of the conference Sunday-school board shall receive the tithe of the regular offerings of the local Sunday schools, and, retaining three fourths of the same for annual conference Sunday-school work, shall forward one fourth to the treasurer of the Commission on Christian Education to be used in general Sunday-school promotion throughout the denomination.

3. District Organization

¶ 120. a. District Sunday-school boards may be organized wherever desirable and practicable. The district board shall be modeled after the conference board and shall be confined to the district, working always in harmony with the conference board.

4. Local Organizations

¶ 121. a. Method of Election

(1). The superintendent of the Sunday school shall be elected by ballot at a society meeting. The preacher in charge may nominate.

(2). A nominating committee consisting of not less than three nor more than nine persons shall be elected by ballot at the society meeting to serve with the pastor and the Sunday-school superintendent as a Sunday-school nominating committee.

(3). This nominating committee shall meet as soon as practicable after the annual conference for the purpose of nominating the officers and teachers for the current year.

(4). These nominations shall be submitted to the society for a vote at a regularly called meeting of the society.

(5). Whenever the society deems it inadvisable to

appoint a nominating committee and to elect the Sunday-school officers and teachers as above, then the Sunday-school board shall proceed to do so. The superintendent in such event may nominate.

(6). 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. All officers and teachers regularly elected shall be members of the board and hold office until their successors are elected. Any vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the Sunday-school board.

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

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

(9). It shall be the duty of this board to decide on the Sunday-school literature and to attend to all other business connected with the Sunday school not provided for in the Discipline.

(10). It shall be the duty of the board to provide for proper services for Easter, Mother's Day, Christmas, and other special days. 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. Christmas trees shall not be allowed.

(11). The regular meeting of the board shall be

regarded as the workers' conference, and shall observe the following order:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling of the roll.
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Quarterly report of the secretary of the Sunday school.
5. Report of treasurer. Reference of treasurer's account to church auditor.
6. Report of superintendent.
7. Report of department superintendents.
8. Report of teachers upon the condition of their respective classes.
9. Is the school properly graded?
10. Consideration of the Sunday-school literature.
11. Reports of committees.
12. Unfinished business.
13. New business, and appointment of committees.
14. Has the tithe been sent to the treasurer of the conference Sunday-school board? (See Paragraph 121, c, 1.)
15. Are the teachers and officers supplied with the Sunday School Worker?
16. Report of directors of the Christian Youth Crusaders.
17. Reading of the minutes.
18. Adjournment.

(12). It shall be the duty of the local Sunday-school board, in conjunction with the pastor, to arrange for special evangelistic services for the purpose of bringing the children of the Sunday school into a definite experience of salvation.

b. Duties of Pastors

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 co-operation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the school 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 the 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 to see that the Church Catechism is taught them either in Sunday school or in special meetings appointed for that purpose.

(3). To pay special attention to the children, speaking to them personally and kindly upon the subject of experiential and practical godliness, according to their capacity; praying earnestly for them; and diligently instructing and exhorting 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 upon 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 catechized 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, observing the first Sunday, or, if that date is impracticable, the most convenient Sunday in the month of June, 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 Student Loan Fund. He shall forward the amount so collected directly to the treasurer of his conference. This fund shall be used to aid those young people in the Free Methodist Church who feel called of God to some form of Christian work in the Free Methodist Church and need financial help to continue their education in one of the church schools. Aid from the fund shall be granted only in the form of loans under conditions prescribed by the Commission. However, the Commission may by a two-thirds vote cancel loans for certain causes which to them seem sufficient.

c. Finances

(1). It shall be the duty of each Sunday school to forward each quarter one tithe of the regular offerings to the treasurer of the conference Sunday-school board, who will retain three fourths of this amount for the annual conference Sunday-school work, and forward one fourth to the general church treasurer of the Commission on Christian Education to be used in general Sunday-school promotion work throughout the denomination.

(2). A certain Sunday, determined by the Board of Administration, shall be known as Superannuate Day. It shall be the duty of the Sunday-school board to ar-

range for a proper service, and the offering of the day shall be turned over to the funds of the Board of Conference Claimants.

II. DEPARTMENT OF BIBLE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

A. THE GENERAL ORGANIZATION

¶ 122. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Education.

1. Functions of the Commission

The Commission on Christian Education through its department of Bible schools and colleges shall be responsible for promoting and maintaining, through church-related schools, adequate opportunity for the secondary and collegiate training of young people and the training of Christian ministers and teachers. To this end the Commission shall:

(1). Adopt standards by which to approve Bible schools and colleges, secondary schools, and theological seminaries as Free Methodist institutions. Prepare blanks to be furnished to each of our schools, said blanks to set forth the position of the Free Methodist Church regarding the doctrine and experience of holiness. No instructors shall be employed in the theological departments of our schools unless they are in harmony with our position and sign the blanks.

(2). Require annual financial reports and provide for inspections from time to time of approved institutions.

(3). Approve suggestive courses of study for the various curricula being offered in recognized institutions.

(4). Investigate from time to time the educational standards, accreditation, and fiscal policies of the various schools. The problems of each school shall be

studied in relation to local needs with a view to improving its total program. Through suggestions and helpful guidance the Commission shall foster and encourage institutional growth in harmony with our denominational standard of Christian education.

(5). Adopt and, with the Bible schools, jointly administer the Standard Theological Course of Study for Free Methodist ministers.

(6). Promote and supervise the observance of a Christian Education Day each year throughout the church to provide funds to aid the Commission in carrying out its program in behalf of the Free Methodist schools and colleges, and especially to provide student ministerial scholarships.

(7). Provide for and administer a program of guidance for prospective ministers during their years of school preparation.

(8). Provide and administer a program of scholarships for approved students while pursuing theological studies who are looking toward full-time ministry in the Free Methodist Church.

(9.) Solicit bequests, money, property, and other securities to be used in building up an endowment fund to be held in trust for the cause of Bible school and college education in recognized Free Methodist schools.

(10). Establish a Placement Bureau for preachers, teachers, and others who are consecrated and prepared for Christian service.

(11). Exercise such supervision of the patronizing territory of each Bible school and college as to give to each institution proper territory for its prosperity in common with the other schools of its class. But it shall not change the relation of any previously assigned territory without the consent of the annual conference holding jurisdiction over the territory in question.

(12). Sustain a veto power in relation to the in-

auguration of a new institution, the change of location or classification of an established institution, the erection of buildings, and financial campaigns for the same, provided, however, that before such veto power is used a full and complete hearing will be given to the school requesting approval and any other schools or persons making objection.

(13). To approve a code of procedure to be followed by the Bible schools and colleges of the church in an effort to prevent unfair competition between them.

(14). Co-operate with the trustee boards and faculties of the various Free Methodist schools in providing an appropriate retirement plan for the faculty and staff members of these schools.

(15). Set up or modify from time to time the conditions under which monies for distribution to the several schools, except income from the permanent educational endowment, shall be distributed.

(16). Promote and administer a student loan fund.

(17). The permanent endowment fund comprises all monies for permanent investment, and shall be invested in securities approved by the finance committee. The interest therefrom shall be paid annually to our educational institutions for their use and benefit.

(18). Before any campaign for raising funds for buildings, the cost of which shall exceed $10,000 is launched, the approval of the Commission shall be secured, and before building operations are begun, financial plans and preliminary plans with the estimated cost of said building, or buildings, must be submitted to the Commission, and its approval secured.

2. Duties of the Executive Secretary of the Department of Bible Schools and Colleges

(1). He shall be the executive officer of the department of Bible Schools and Colleges of the Commission on Christian Education.

(2). He shall promote the interests of the recognized educational institutions of the church.

(3). He shall visit the church-related schools from time to time with a view to improving and strengthening the educational, financial, and spiritual phases of their work.

(4). He shall attempt to keep in close touch with all Free Methodist young people enrolled as advanced students in the various graduate and professional schools throughout the United States and Canada, to the end that he may give helpful and sympathetic attention to their religious problems and interests.

(5). He shall maintain a record of all ministerial students under the guidance of the Commission, and interview ministerial students as far as possible relative to their problems, programs, and progress. This shall also extend to Free Methodist students under the guidance of the church who are attending graduate theological seminaries.

(6). He shall prepare and distribute promotional leaflets and other literature throughout the church in an effort to interest both young people and adults in patronizing and supporting our church schools.

3. The Commission shall be financed from monies received from (a) unrestricted gifts, bequests, etc., (b) receipts from the annual observance throughout the church of Christian Education Day, (c) such other sources as may be approved by the Board of Education.

B. ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOARD

¶ 123. 1. Each annual conference shall organize within its bounds an annual conference board of education. This board shall consist of at least one and not more than three ministers and an equal number of laymen to be elected by the annual conference.

2. This board of education shall report (the acts

and affairs of the conference board) to the annual conference, and shall transmit the instructions and acts of the annual conference relative to education and educational institutions to the Commission on Christian Education.

3. Each annual conference shall elect a conference director for the Living Endowment of the college of which it is a patronizing unit.

4. It shall be the duty of the conference board of education (1) to organize by the election of a president and a secretary-treasurer to serve one year or until their successors are elected, and to appoint such committees as are necessary to accomplish its work, (2) to hold at least one meeting each year for the consideration and promotion within the annual conference of the general and local interests of education, (3) to provide for a visitation each year to the educational institutions with which it is associated, (4) to present the cause of education to the annual conference, and assist as far as possible in raising money to carry out the instructions of the annual conference.

C. BIBLE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

¶ 124. 1. The schools hereby recognized under the auspices of the Free Methodist Church are:

Senior Colleges: Greenville College, Seattle Pacific College.

Junior Colleges: The A. M. Chesbrough Seminary, Spring Arbor Seminary, Wessington Springs College, Los Angeles Pacific College, Central College, Lorne Park College (one year college).

Secondary School: Moose Jaw Free Methodist Holiness Bible School.

2. Guiding Principles

(1). No educational institution shall be recognized by the Commission as provided for in the foregoing

part of this section, unless it is established and operated in accordance with the conditions hereinbefore mentioned, and unless two thirds of the members of the board of trustees and of the members of the faculty shall be members of the Free Methodist Church, and no school shall hereinafter be established which does not contain in its articles of incorporation the following clause: "This corporation shall be subject to the rules, regulations, and Discipline of the Free Methodist Church of North America as from time to time adopted by the General Conference in so far as the same does not contravene the laws of the state of incorporation. And further, in the event of dissolution of this corporation, the property of the same, after having discharged all obligations, shall become the property of the Free Methodist Church of North America."

(2). All organizations and activities shall be in harmony with the general rules, standards, and doctrines of the Free Methodist Church, relating to amusements, campus fraternities, hazing, immodest attire, the use of tobacco, intoxicants, and gambling.

(3). The Bible schools and colleges shall give attention to a wholesome and systematic program of physical education. Inter-scholastic games shall be confined to schools of high moral standards and wholesome influence approved by the president and faculty. Membership in athletic conferences or leagues is forbidden. Football shall be forbidden except the modified forms, such as touch football and soccer.

(4). The rendering of class plays, dramas, and all amateur theatricals in public and private are forbidden. This shall not be construed as forbidding the proper and necessary instruction in education.

(5). The president and faculty shall be charged with the responsibility of insuring that all student pub-

lications and programs shall be in harmony with the rules and standards of the Free Methodist Church.

(6). All instruction in the several departments shall be in positive harmony with and conformity to the teachings of the Scriptures and the standards of the Free Methodist Church as set forth in her statement of doctrine as found in the Discipline.

(7). No presidents, principals, professors, or teachers shall be employed or retained in our colleges or secondary schools who are not in harmony with the above principles, and any, upon evidence of conduct or teaching to the contrary, shall be subject to dismissal.

(8). In case of complaint for the violation of any of these principles, said complaint shall first be presented to the Commission on Christian Education, and in case it shall be found valid, said complaint shall be referred to the Board of Administration, which shall hear all the evidence, and apply the penalty to any school found guilty until such school shall harmonize with the foregoing requirements.

D. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

¶ 125. 1. All endowment monies allotted to our colleges and seminaries shall be held for proper and safe investment by the Finance Committee of the Board of Administration, and the interest accruing therefrom shall be paid annually to the proper representative of each school.

2. The income on the permanent endowment fund now held by the Commission, amounting to $100,000, shall be distributed among the different institutions according to the following percentages:

Greenville College	28.2%
Seattle Pacific College	18.8%
Central Academy and College	10.6%
Wessington Springs Junior College	10.6%

Los Angeles Pacific College	10.6%
A. M. Chesbrough Seminary	10.6%
Spring Arbor Seminary	10.6%

3. The East Ontario, West Ontario, and Saskatchewan conferences are each allowed to retain monies raised in their territories for the Canadian schools.

III. DEPARTMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

A. GENERAL ORGANIZATION

¶ 126. 1. The Y. P. M. S. Council shall be amenable to the Board of Administration and report thereto through the Commission on Christian Education.

2. The Y. P. M. S. Council shall consist of the general superintendent and four regional directors.

3. The Y. P. M. S. general superintendent shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The Y. P. M. S. through its Quadrennial Body may nominate (said nomination shall be made by ballot). The general superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. shall serve under the direction of the Y. P. M. S. Council in its relationship to the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education.

4. For further particulars refer to constitution of the Y. P. M. S., beginning with the following paragraph.

B. CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

NAME

¶ 127 To promote the spiritual welfare of the young people connected with the Free Methodist Church, and to provide direction for their Christian activities, and to help them in their contribution to

the church and the world, there shall be an organization known as the Young People's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this society shall be:

1. To seek and maintain among its members the highest type of Christian experience and life through regeneration and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and to prepare them for efficient membership in the Free Methodist Church.

2. To interest, train, and enlist the young people in the evangelism of the world.

3. To study the needs of the various fields and become intelligent supporters of the full missionary program.

4. To raise money for objects sanctioned by the general authorities of the church in ways in accord with its Discipline.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. Members shall be young people of good moral character between the ages of fourteen and thirty who desire to unite for worship, instruction, and service under the direction of the Free Methodist Church. Persons over thirty years of age may be either alumni or honorary members depending upon their previous relationship with the Y. P. M. S. and upon the payment of one dollar dues yearly.

2. Membership in a local society constitutes membership in the district and conference societies.

3. A certificate of membership shall be given to each member.

4. Anyone within the proper age limit may belong to the W. M. S. and the Y. P. M. S. at the same time.

5. The members of the Y. P. M. S. on our mission fields shall have the right to elect a representative to the Quadrennial Body, or when this is not possible, the Missionary Secretary may appoint a representative to the Quadrennial Body, providing that this shall not obligate the general Y P. M. S. treasurer to pay the traveling expenses.

ARTICLE IV

SCOPE

The Y. P. M. S. shall be evangelistic and missionary in aim and motive, and shall give emphasis to the study and promotion of missions in the various fields served by the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE V

THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. A general superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The Y. P. M. S. through its Quadrennial Body may nominate (said nomination shall be made by ballot) The general superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. shall serve under the authority and direction of the Y. P. M. S. Council.

2. In local, district, and conference Y. P. M. S. the superintendent may be nominated by the Y. P. M. S. and must be a member of the Free Methodist Church. (said nomination shall be made by ballot).

3. Each annual conference shall elect a Y. P. M. S. conference superintendent who shall with the executive committee promote the interests of the organization throughout the conference and shall report to the annual conference. The conference Y. P. M. S. may nominate.

4. Where there is a district organization each district quarterly conference shall elect the district superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. who shall become a member of the quarterly conference, and shall report quarterly to that body, and who, with the executive advisor, shall be responsible for the organization and promotion of the district Y. P. M. S. The district Y. P. M. S. may nominate.

5. It shall be the duty of each church society to elect a person to be known as the superintendent of the Young People's Missionary Society, who with the pastor shall be responsible for the organization and promotion of such society. The superintendent of the local Y. P. M. S. must be a member of the Free Methodist Church, over thirty years of age, and a member of the W. M. S., either active or honorary, and when elected shall be a member of the official board, reporting monthly to that body. The Y. P. M. S. may nominate.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

1. The officers of the society shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, superintendent, and the four directors of departments.

2. The Y. P. M. S. shall elect by ballot all officers except the superintendent. When necessary, honorary members may be elected officers.

3. In the local Y. P. M. S. the president must be a member of the Free Methodist Church, and the other officers when possible. In the district and conference Y. P. M. S. all officers must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

4. It is recommended that the time limit of officers be as follows: Two years in the local, three years in the district, and four years in the conference.

5. It is not advisable, as a rule, to elect pastors as conference presidents of the Y. P. M. S.

6. It is essential that the election of officers at conference be early enough in the session so that the new officers may have time to consider plans for the new year.

7. Each outgoing officer should fully instruct his successor and turn over to him all of the records of the office. By showing a helpful spirit, he may do much to make his successor's path easy.

8. The general treasurer of the Y. P. M. S. shall be elected by the Board of Administration.

9. Each annual conference shall elect from the membership of the Y. P. M. S. one person who is a member of the Free Methodist Church to the conference evangelistic board.

10. There shall be a general statistical secretary, elected by the Quadrennial Body.

11. Four members of the Y. P. M. S. to be known as regional directors shall be elected by the Y. P. M. S. Quadrennial Body. The regional directors shall serve as members of the Y. P. M. S. Council. A regional director shall have had at least two years of pastoral experience and shall be at least twenty-five years of age.

12. Each regional director is responsible for promoting the activities of the four departments in his area.

ARTICLE VII

TEEN-AGE DEPARTMENT

Where deemed advisable and recommended by the local Y. P. M. S. executive committee and approved by the official board, a teen-age department may be instituted which shall have the power of electing its own

officers who shall serve as assistants to the officers composing the local executive committee.

When necessary the local Y. P. M. S. superintendent may appoint an assistant to sponsor the teen-age group. All monies shall pass through the hands of the treasurer of the regularly constituted Y. P. M. S.

ARTICLE VIII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President:
   a. Presides at executive committee meetings and business meetings. (See Art. XII.)
   b. Directs the work of the society.
   c. Sees that the treasurer's book is audited. (See Par. 181. Sec. 6 in Discipline.)
   d. Is ex-officio member of all committees.
   e. Sees that all officers and department heads know their duty and do it. (See Art. VIII, Sec. 5a.)
   f. Promotes the Y. P. M. S. quadrennial goals.
2. The Vice-President:
   a. Is chairman of the program committee. (See Art. XI, Sec. 1a, b, c.)
   b. In the absence of the president, becomes acting president.
3. The Secretary:
   a. Records roll of all active and honorary members separately with up-to-date addresses of each.
   b. Records minutes of business and executive committee meetings. The minutes should include the names of all officers elected and of all committees, the motions made and carried, a statement of all reports made, and the sub-

stance of them in condensed form. The minutes should also present a faithful picture of the meeting reported, including a brief summary of the discussions.

c. Passes on at once any action affecting any absent officer or committee member.

d. Reports fully the activities of the society on the blanks prepared and forwards the same quarterly and annually from the local to the district, from the district to the conference, and from the conference both to the regional director in his area and to the general statistical secretary.

e. Conducts and files correspondence of society.

4. The Treasurer: (See Art. X.)

a. Collects all monies as early as possible.

b. Keeps money in the bank in a separate account as Y. P. M. S. treasurer.

c. Pays out money and reports regularly as directed by the Constitution.

d. Stimulates and directs the society finances.

e. Enters promptly in the Y. P. M. S. treasurer's book every cent received and from what source it came and every cent expended and where it went. Records dates for everything.

f. Protects himself by (1) having a blank receipt book and requiring receipts from all to whom he pays money. He in turn should give receipts for all monies received. (2) By insisting upon the election of an auditor.

5. Department Directors:

a. With the president, superintendent, and pastor assign to each member in their departments a continuous task to which he is adapted, and on which he reports once a

month, in writing, to his department head.

b. Report monthly, in writing, to the executive committee and quarterly to the business meeting.

ARTICLE IX

THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS

1. For efficiency the Y. P. M. S. shall function in four departments of work as follows: Evangelism, Education, Service, and Missions. As soon as the officers are elected, each member of the society is assigned to one of the departments.

2. The Department of Evangelism shall direct the activities of those members who are Christians. It includes every variety of personal and combined evangelistic effort under the direction of the local pastor and shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of Article II, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution. (See Art. XI, Sec. 1c.)

3. The Department of Education shall include the study of the Bible, church history and doctrines, the stewardship of money, talent, and the whole of life, hymnody, Christian citizenship, prohibition, tobacco, narcotics, and other subjects vitally related to Christian life and character, and our church educational institutions. (See Art. II, Sec. 2 and 3; Art. X, Sec. 2; Art. XI, Sec. 1b.)

4. The Department of Service shall include practical assistance to the pastor in the work of the church.

5. The Department of Missions shall promote the study of World Missions giving special attention to those of the Free Methodist Church and be responsible for seeing that the provisions of Article II, Par. 3, of the Constitution are fulfilled. (See Art. VIII, Sec. 5; Art. X, Sec. 1, 4, 7; Art. XI, Sec. 1a.)

ARTICLE X

FUNDS

1. All funds raised for missions and evangelism, including offerings and subscriptions, shall be spent only for objects sanctioned by the Commission on Missions and the Commission on Evangelism, and shall be forwarded through the regular channels to the general treasurer of the Y. P. M. S.. quarterly or more often.

2. a. Funds raised for Bible schools and colleges shall be sent through the regular channels to the general Y. P. M. S. treasurer and forwarded from the general Y. P. M. S. treasurer to the institution designated by the conference Y. P. M. S. treasurer (except in Canada from which an audited report shall be sent).

b. Funds raised on Christian Education Sunday for Christian Education shall be forwarded through the regular Y. P. M. S. channels to the general Y. P. M. S. treasurer who shall remit to the treasurer of the Commission on Christian Education.

3. Each conference shall set its own goal in accordance with the general Y. P. M. S. goal.

4. Each conference is responsible for seeing that the locals as a whole raise an amount equivalent to one dollar per member per year for dues. This is not to be construed as a test of membership in any local society but as a co-operative fund.

5. Money must be raised, not by sales, etc., but by tithes and offerings only.

6. The necessary operating expense of the General Y. P. M. S. Council and the salaries of the regional directors shall be appropriated from the Y. P. M. S. general funds.

7. All funds of teen-age department shall pass through the hands of the regular Y. P. M. S. treasurer.

8. An amount equal to ten cents per member per

year based on the report of the secretary at the end of each year shall be sent yearly by the conference treasurer to, and held in trust by, the general Y. P. M. S. treasurer for delegates' expenses.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

1. The regular weekly meeting shall be held, if possible, each Sunday preceding the evening service, and shall include the following in its yearly schedule:

a. Twelve missionary meetings with offerings for same, of which four shall be home mission meetings; at least one of these shall be a general missionary rally at which subscriptions shall be taken.

b. Six educational meetings one of which shall be on Christian education with an offering for our schools.

c. Six meetings on evangelism, with an offering for evangelism.

2. A local executive committee meeting shall be held monthly.

3. A business meeting of the society shall be held at least once in three months. Each local society shall decide at its first meeting how many shall constitute a quorum.

4. The meetings of the district society shall be held quarterly at the time and place of the district meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

5. The meetings of the conference society shall be held at the time and place of the annual conference or at the annual Y. P. M. S. convention.

6. The meetings of the Quadrennial Y. P. M. S Body shall take place at the seat of the General Conference. Representation to the Quadrennial Body shall be based on the average membership for the first three

years of the quadrennium. (See Art. XVI, Sec. 4.)

7. Nothing shall be allowed in the organization or activities of the Y. P. M. S. which is contrary to the Discipline of the Free Methodist Church, such as pageants, dramatics, socials, or bazaars, as commonly understood, or the engaging of unsaved members as leaders of religious services. But this does not prohibit such young people's gatherings as contribute to the goal of the organization.

ARTICLE XII

ORDER OF BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. Devotions.
2. Calling of the roll.
3. Reading of minutes (for information).
4. Unfinished business.
5. Committee and officers' reports and discussions.
6. New business.
7. Programs, addresses, and other activities.
8. Reading and correcting minutes.
9. Adjournment.

ARTICLE XIII

RULES OF ORDER

"A Compendium of Parliamentary Law" by Lillian Cole Bethel or "Roberts' Rules of Order" shall be the standard of parliamentary usage.

ARTICLE XIV

THE Y. P. M. S. COUNCIL

1. The Y. P. M. S. Council shall consist of five members, as follows: the general Y. P. M. S. superintendent,

and the four Y. P. M. S. regional directors, and this council shall report to and be directly amenable to the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education.

2. The Y. P. M. S. Council shall plan the work of the regional directors. Any vacancies occurring in this Council shall be filled by the Board of Administration. The Y. P. M. S. Council may nominate.

ARTICLE XV

COMMITTEES

1. The executive committee of the conference Y. P. M. S. shall be composed of one or more executive advisors* elected by the annual conference, the conference superintendent of the Y. P. M. S., and the regularly elected officers of the conference Y. P. M. S. This committee shall direct the activities and promote the interests of the Y. P. M. S. throughout the conference, and shall be responsible to the annual conference for the same.

It is the duty of the conference executive committee:

a. To encourage the organization and maintenance of a Y. P. M. S. in every congregation in the conference where there are as many as three young people.

b. To plan for:

(1) A Y. P. M. S. institute in each society during the year.

(2) A Y. P. M. S. convention in each district during the year.

(3) A Y. P. M. S. conference convention.

---

*In order to avoid confusion regarding the district superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. and the district superintendent of the conference (formerly the district elder), the name of the latter has been changed to executive advisor.

(4) Special workers' conferences in all general gatherings.

(5) A regional Christian life-service institute annually in co-operation with the general superintendent and other conference executives in the territory concerned.

(6) A youth camp whenever practicable, provided that no conference youth convention, camp, or life-service institute be held without the approval of the annual conference or a majority of the district superintendents concerned.

2. The executive committee of the district Y. P. M. S. shall be composed of the executive advisor, the district Y. P. M. S. superintendent, and the Y. P. M. S. district officers. This committee shall direct the activities of the district Y. P. M. S., and be responsible to the quarterly conference.

3. The executive committee of the local Y. P. M. S. shall be composed of the pastor, the superintendent of the Y. P. M. S., the president of the local W. M. S., and such regularly elected officers of the Y. P. M. S. as are members of the Free Methodist Church. This committee shall direct the activities of the society and be responsible to the official board for the same.

ARTICLE XVI

DELEGATED BODIES

1. Where deemed advisable, the local Y. P. M. S. may elect, by ballot, delegates to the annual Y. P. M. S. conference or convention. The said delegate must be a member of the Free Methodist Church.

2. Where such delegates are elected, representation shall be determined by the Y. P. M. S. conference

executive committee upon a ratio basis in the conference.

3. The delegates and conference officers shall compose the voting body of the Y. P. M. S. annual conference or convention when such action has been taken by the Y. P. M. S. conference executive committee.

4. The basis of representation at quadrennial gatherings is to be one delegate from each conference for each five hundred members or fraction thereof. (i.e. 1—500, one delegate; 501—1000, two delegates; etc.) Representation in the Quadrennial Body shall be based on the average membership for the first three years of the quadrennium.

ARTICLE XVII

SLOGAN: "UNITED TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN"

ARTICLE XVIII

AMENDMENTS

The constitution and by-laws may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Y. P. M. S. Quadrennial Body, subject to the approval of the General Conference.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE TRAINING

A. GENERAL ORGANIZATION

¶ 128. 1. Functions of the Commission

The leadership education work of the church shall be under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education. Through its Department of Service Training, the Commission shall provide a plan for the education of workers in all departments of the church which can be administered in each local society.

The Commission may also establish and conduct, through the Department of Service Training, in collaboration with the Committee on Curriculum, correspondence study units of a more advanced character, including subjects in the course of study for deacons and elders.

The Commission may from time to time initiate and administer through this department other educational projects to assist ministers and other workers in the church and to qualify them for more effective Christian service.

2. Duties of the Director

The Director of the Department of Service Training shall be chosen by the Commission on Christian Education and shall be the executive officer for the leadership education work of the Commission.

The director shall promote the use of Service Training throughout the church and shall establish and maintain a system of permanent records for leadership education credits earned. He shall recommend to the Committee on Curriculum for approval suitable study material for Service Training courses. He may supervise the initiation and operation of correspondence study plans and such other educational projects as the Commission may authorize or direct.

3. Finances of the Department of Service Training

The Department of Service Training shall be financed by an annual appropriation from the funds of the Commission on Christian Education, and by offerings taken in connection with Service Training activities.

B. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

¶ 129 Each annual conference shall select a conference director of Service Training whose duty it shall be to promote the use of Service Training in every local church and at general gatherings throughout the conference.

The conference director of Service Training shall work under the direction of a conference Sunday-school Board* which will appropriate annually from its funds a suitable amount for the promotion of Service Training within the conference.

*If desired, the educational work of the conference may be unified by the selection of a conference board of Christian Education to direct Sunday school, C. Y. C., Young People's work, and Service Training.

CHAPTER VI

THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM, CHARITIES, CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND CHURCH EXTENSION

¶ 130. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Evangelism, the Board of Charities and Charitable Institutions, and the Church Extension Society. It shall elect seven of its members to be known as the Commission on Evangelism, Charities and Charitable Institutions, and Church Extension, one of whom shall be a bishop. The acts of this commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

I. Evangelism

¶ 131. 1. The commission shall meet at least once each year to plan for the evangelistic work of the church and to do such other business as may be necessary to carry on the work successfully.

2. The commission shall work in conjunction with the annual conference evangelistic boards in holding evangelistic conventions, raising funds for evangelistic work, employing evangelists and organizing bands for evangelistic work.

3. The commission shall have authority to raise funds, employ evangelists, band workers, and helpers and to carry on aggressive evangelism throughout the church.

4. The first Wednesday in January shall be observed as a day of fasting and prayer for general evangelism.

5. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the Commission on Evangelism.

6. 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 superintendents, 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.

7. In connection with conference evangelism, through the Conference Evangelistic Board, on annual conference Sunday a collection and subscription are to be taken, and 90% of the fund taken is to be retained in the conference for annual conference evangelism, and 10% is to be sent to the general church treasurer for general evangelism through the Commission on Evangelism in the weaker conferences in need of help.

8. It shall be the duty of the pastor to raise for general missions by public collections or otherwise a sum of not less than eight cents per annum for each member in full relation, sixteen years of age and over, to be forwarded to the conference treasurer and by him to the treasurer of the Commission on Evangelism. (This section refers to moneys to be raised in Conference Claims and is not to be confused with Sec. 7.)

9. The general missions fund raised according to Section 8, shall be administered by the Commission on Evangelism.

10. The eight cents per member allocated to this fund shall be used only in those conferences having a

membership of not over five hundred members paying conference claims.

11. There shall be a general evangelistic secretary who shall be elected by the General Conference, and shall be an ex officio member of the Commission on Evangelism. He shall keep the records of the commission, receive and answer all correspondence relative to the evangelistic work of the church; and together with the bishop who is president of the commission shall have general supervision of the entire evangelistic work, subject to the direction and approval of the Commission on Evangelism. He shall travel at large throughout the church and raise money for evangelism, inspire the spirit of aggressive evangelism, plan for and supervise the extension of work into new fields, and discover and utilize available evangelistic talent such as may be found in our schools, pastors, Y. P. M. S., and elsewhere, to promote, in harmony with the conference evangelistic boards and district superintendents, a general forward, aggressive program.

The general evangelistic secretary shall receive a salary, the amount to be determined by the Executive Commission.

II. Charities and Charitable Institutions

¶ 132. 1. It shall be the duty of the Commission on Evangelism, Charities and Charitable Institutions, and Church Extension, to inspect the charitable institutions operating in and receiving support from the Free Methodist Church.

2. The Commission shall determine the financial standing of these institutions, their plan of operation, and the character and amount of work done, and shall determine whether or not the institution qualifies as an accredited institution of the Free Methodist Church.

3. The Commission shall have power to regulate

the establishment of new charitable institutions so as to avoid the jeopardizing of those already operating as accredited institutions.

4. The Commission shall receive and examine the annual reports of these accredited institutions as to their financial status, the work being done, and the general plan and scope of their work.

5. The accredited institutions of the Free Methodist Church are:

The Gerry Homes, Gerry, New York. Founded in 1880.

Chicago Industrial Home for Children, Woodstock, Illinois. Founded in 1888.

Old People's Rest Home, Woodstock, Illinois. Founded in 1903.

Life Line Orphan Home, 4322 Mission Road, Kansas City, Kansas. Founded in 1917.

Home of Redeeming Love, and Wesley-Roberts Deaconess School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Founded in 1900.

And all others established by the Commission.

6. We recommend that each pastor preach a sermon at least once a year at each appointment on his circuit where classes are formed, on the subject of practical charity, and present an opportunity for charity offerings, this offering to be used for the relief of the poor on the circuit where the offering was received or sent to some accredited charitable institution in whose patronizing territory the collection is taken.

7. The pastor shall co-operate with the Sunday school in the Easter offering for charitable institutions.

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

III. Church Extension

¶ 133. 1. The object of the Church Extension Society shall be to aid needy churches or societies by donations or loans for the erection of churches.

2. 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.

3. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the Church Extension Society.

4. 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.

5. The Conference Church Extension and Aid Society shall be auxiliary to the commission, and shall, under its direction, have charge of all the work of the Church Extension and Aid Society within its bounds.

6. The treasurer of the conference society shall, at least once in three months, remit all funds in his hands to the treasurer of the commission.

7. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually an amount equal to at least twelve cents per member for this fund. Should any conference be deficient in its assessment for this fund, such deficiency shall be deducted from any appropriation made from this fund or from the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund to any circuit in such conference at the time payment on appropriation is made by the general treasurer. Such deficiencies as are not deducted in any one year shall be held for future deduction unless paid by the conference.

The Board of Administration should be careful not to make appropriations beyond available funds.

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

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

10. 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) What provisions have been made for suitable accommodations for the Sunday school.

(8) Any other information that the commission may require.

11. In case a church which has received aid from the funds of the Church Extension and Aid Society shall be sold, it shall pay back to this society an amount equal to that received as aid, unless it be used on the same circuit and for the same purpose.

CHAPTER VII

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE

I. Membership

¶ 134. There shall be the following classes of members:

1. All missionaries who hold credentials from the Commission on Missions.

2. Native preachers who are ordained or who have been in the regular ministerial work for at least four consecutive years and have passed the course of study prescribed by the conference may be received by vote into the conference as members in full.

3. Each circuit or station shall be entitled to one lay delegate and whenever a circuit is not supplied with a native preacher, who is a member of the conference, his circuit meeting may also elect one evangelist or local preacher who is a resident on such charge to act as a member.

II. Native Self-Support

¶ 135. It is the desire of the church in America that the native church should rapidly become self-supporting in order that the church in America may do for other needy peoples what it has done for this country. It may, therefore, be expected that the home church will gradually withdraw its support and the native church must prepare to carry forward the work begun. The church in America will provide for the missionaries and the church in Africa must learn to provide for its preachers and also to pay all inci-

dental expenses including the erection of its own church buildings. The conference shall have full authority to raise money for the development of the work within its bounds.

III. Prerogatives Restricted

¶ 136. 1. This conference may elect one missionary who may be in the homeland as a delegate to the General Conference.

2. The three classes of members above specified shall sit and vote as one body on all matters coming up before the conference, according to the Discipline, with the exception of the reserved subjects which shall be considered in the missionary meeting according to Paragraph 137.

IV. The Mission Meeting

¶ 137. 1. The South Africa Conference shall be under the control of the Commission on Missions of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

2. All missionaries within the bounds of the conference, who hold credentials from the Commission on Missions and who have been on the field the two years required by the rules shall be members of the Mission Meeting.

Any missionary, however, who shall have been regularly appointed to the charge of a mission station, or, of a mission school, or who is a member of the annual conference in full relation, before the expiration of the two years above referred to, shall be a member of the mission after having been one year on the field, and after having passed the first-year examination in the study of the language.

3. The Mission shall consider the following subjects.

(1) The Mission Meeting shall appoint all missionaries laboring within the bounds of the confer-

ence, including those in school, farm and medical work, to their respective fields.

(2) It shall pass the character of ministerial or acting missionary members of the conference, and shall investigate any questions or complaints affecting the character of ministerial or acting missionary members of the conference, according to the rules.

(3) It shall make all requests for appropriations from the Commission on Missions, according to the rules, and, with the approval of the missionary secretary, it shall apply on the field moneys appropriated by the commission.

4. With the exception of Paragraph 136, these articles may be amended by the Commission on Missions after consultation with the South Africa Conference.

V. The Executive Committee

¶ 138. 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the chairman and secretary of the mission, and one missionary elected by the mission. The chairman and secretary of the mission shall be chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall have power during the interim of the annual meeting of the mission to transact any business that would ordinarily come before the Mission. When in the judgment of the majority of the Committee it is deemed advisable, a special meeting of the Mission may be called. Timely notice of such special meeting shall be given and members should endeavor to be present. (See Paragraph 434.)

¶ 139. Omitted because of wrong numbering in previous editions.

CHAPTER VIII

JAPAN CONFERENCE*

I. Membership

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

1. Ministerial Members:

(1) Missionaries and Japanese preachers holding membership in good standing in conferences in America, and those holding credentials as elders and deacons in Japan, shall on presentation of their certificates of standing or parchments become charter members of the conference.

(2) Subsequent to organization, Japanese ministerial members shall be received into conference membership in the manner prescribed by the Discipline. (See Paragraphs 198-200.)

(3) Subsequent to organization, foreign missionaries eligible to membership in this conference, shall have been on the field two years and shall have completed the required course of language study as prescribed by the mission.

2. Lay Members:

Lay members shall be elected according to the Discipline. (See Par. 152).

3. Special Honorary Members:

All missionaries in Japan who are members of the mission in full relation and who are not eligible to

*On account of the dissolution of the Free Methodist Conference in Japan by action of the Japanese government, the provisions of this chapter are suspended for the duration of the war. However, this chapter shall become effective, if and when conditions permit.

conference membership shall be known as special honorary members.

II. Churches

¶ 141. 1. Organization of Churches.

(1) When a church is to be organized it should receive the recognition of the annual conference through the recommendation of the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located.

2. Classification of Churches.

(1) Self-supporting Church. A self-supporting church is one which pays all of its current expenses and both the salary of its pastor and any other worker.

(2) Aided Church. An Aided Church is an organized church which has not yet reached the status of a self-supporting church.

(3) Mission Church. A Mission Church is a society which has been founded by the Mission and may be either organized or unorganized.

(4) Evangelistic Hall. An Evangelistic Hall is a society which has not yet reached the status of organization.

3. Relation of Churches to the Conference.

(1) Self-supporting Churches. Self-supporting churches shall be under the control of the conference and shall enjoy all the privileges of full relationship therein. (See Paragraph 152).

(2) Aided Churches. Aided Churches shall be under the control of the conference and shall have equal privilege with the self-supporting churches. An aided church should endeavor to become self-supporting within a period of three years.

(3) Evangelistic Halls. These shall be under the control of the conference and shall have the right of

non-voting lay representation in the annual conference.

(4) Mission Churches. Mission Churches shall be under the control of the Mission, and shall have non-voting lay representation in the annual conference. When such a church desires to become an organized society it must receive the recognition of the annual conference through the recommendation of both the Mission and the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located, and it shall have the same voting privilege as an aided church.

III. Stationing Committee

¶ 142. 1. The district superintendents, those who have served during the past year, 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 and the executive committee of the mission, shall constitute a stationing committee, of which the president shall be chairman, and have a casting vote. In case there is only one district superintendent in active service during the year, additional elders and lay members may be elected according to the number of districts.

2. This committee shall appoint pastors, workers, district superintendents (when elected by the conference), and missionaries in charge of circuits, each year to their fields of labor, who may be returned to the same circuit or district whenever in the judgment of the stationing committee the needs of the work require it.

IV. Board of Administration

¶ 143. 1. There shall be a Board of Administration composed of three Japanese elders elected by the annual conference, and the Executive Commit-

tee of the Mission. When there is only one acting district superintendent he shall be a member of this Board without a vote of the conference.

2. During the interim of the annual conference, this board shall manage all matters of business within the jurisdiction of said conference.

3. The Board shall elect one of its members chairman, but in case of only one acting district superintendent, he shall be chairman by virtue of his office as district superintendent.

4. This Board shall choose its own secretary and treasurer.

5. In case of necessity this Board shall have one or more advisers.

V. Finances

¶ 144. 1. Funds shall be classified under two heads as follows:

(1) Funds appropriated by the Commission on Missions for the missionaries and their work, which shall be controlled by the mission.

(2) Funds raised by the conference and by the churches for their work, which shall be under their respective control.

2. Salaries of pastors and workers:

(1) Salaries of pastors and workers serving self-supporting churches shall be determined by the local church.

(2) Pastors and workers shall, in case of special financial need, present their request to the Board of Administration after said request has been approved by the official board of the circuit or society which they are serving.

(3) All requests for funds from the Commission on Missions shall be made through the Mission.

(4) Expenses of pastors, workers and delegates

to the annual conference shall be defrayed by the local societies which they represent, but in case of necessity, the expenses of pastors and workers only may be met by a fund created by the conference.

VI. Church Property

¶ 145. 1. All church and parsonage property in which the missionary board has funds invested shall be held in the name of the Shadan (Association of Missionaries) of the Japan Free Methodist Mission, and may be transferred or disposed of only by the permission of said board and on such terms as it may see fit to require.

2. Church and parsonage property toward which the Commission on Missions and the Japanese churches together or the Japanese churches only have contributed funds, though held in trust by the Shadan, shall not be disposed of without duly consulting said churches, and upon terms to which they give their consent.

3. All expenses for repairs on church and parsonage property and all insurance on such property, whether purchased by mission funds wholly or in part, shall be paid by the local church having the use of the property; and it shall be the duty of the official board to notify the directors of the Shadan of all repairs made and the cost of the same.

VII. Financial Educational Board

¶ 146. 1. This board shall consist of the executive committee of the mission, two Japanese preachers and two laymen to be elected by the conference.

2. It shall be the duty of this board to raise and disburse funds for the education of the children of the workers. The payment of funds shall be according to the rules of this board.

3. The funds of this board shall consist of: (1) Funds contributed by the mission. (2) Funds contributed by the Japanese churches. (3) Funds contributed from other sources.

VIII. Prerogatives Restricted

¶ 147. 1. This conference may elect delegates to the General Conference, provided it becomes responsible for the transportation expenses thus incurred.

2. This conference shall not vote on constitutional changes. (See Paragraph 98).

IX. The Mission

¶ 148. 1. The mission shall be composed of foreign missionaries who hold credentials from the Commission on Missions, the right of membership being subject to the conditions stated in the "Rules for Missionaries."

2. The work of the mission shall be administered by an executive committee composed of three of its members who may be nominated by the mission and who shall be elected by the Commission on Missions.

3. The theological school shall be under the control of the mission and shall be administered by the mission in co-operation with the conference.

4. The mission shall be under the control of the Commission on Missions and all its doings shall be subject to the approval of the Commission on Missions.

X. Appeals and Amendments

¶ 149. 1. All appeals made from the decisions and rulings of the president of the conference shall be presented to the Commission on Missions for final action.

2. With the exception of Paragraph 148 these ar-

ticles may be amended by the conference, subject to the sanction of the mission and the Commission on Missions.

3. Paragraph 148 may be amended by the mission, with the sanction of the Commission on Missions, provided such amendment or amendments do not in any way conflict with the rights or privileges of the conference, in which case the consent of the conference must also be obtained.

CHAPTER IX

PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE CONFERENCE

¶ 149½. The Pacific Coast Japanese Conference shall consist of all work carried on among the Japanese of North America by the Free Methodist Church.

I. Membership

There are two classes of membership as follows:

1. Ministerial Members.

(1). Missionaries and Japanese preachers holding membership in good standing in conferences shall on presentation of their certificates of standing or parchments become charter members of the conference. Subsequent to organization, ministerial members shall be received into conference membership in the manner prescribed by the Discipline. (See Paragraphs 198-200).

(2) Unordained charter members.

2. Lay Members.

(1) Lay members shall be elected according to the Discipline. (See Paragraph 152).

(2) Special Honorary Members: All missionaries who are members of the mission in full relation and who are not eligible to conference membership shall be known as special honorary members.

II. Churches

1. Organization of Churches:

When a church is organized it shall receive the recognition of the annual conference through the

recommendation of the mission and the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located.

2. Classification of Churches:

(1) Self-supporting Church. A self-supporting church is one which pays all its current expenses and both the salary of its pastor and any other worker.

(2) Aided Church. An aided church is an organized church which has not yet reached the status of a self-supporting church.

(3) Mission Church. A mission church is a group which has been founded by the mission.

3. Relation of Churches to the Conference:

(1) Self-supporting Churches. Self-supporting churches shall be under the control of the conference and shall enjoy all the privileges of full relationship therein. (See Par. 152).

(2) Aided Churches. Aided churches shall be under the control of the conference and shall have equal privilege with the self-supporting churches. An aided church shall endeavor to become self-supporting within a period of three years.

(3) Mission Churches. Mission churches shall be under the control of the mission and shall have non-voting lay representation in the annual conference. When such a church desires to become an organized society it shall receive the recognition of the annual conference through the recommendation of both the mission and the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located, and it shall have the same voting privilege as an aided church.

III. Stationing Committee

1. Those who have served as district superintendents during the past year, 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 and

superintendent of the mission, shall constitute a stationing committee, of which the president shall be chairman, and have a casting vote. If there is only one district superintendent in active service during the year, additional elders and lay members may be elected according to the number of districts. In case the superintendent is serving as district superintendent, an additional elder shall be elected from the body of the conference to serve on the stationing committee.

2. This committee shall appoint pastors, workers, district superintendents (when elected by the conference) each year to their fields of labor, who may be returned to the same circuit or district whenever in the judgment of the stationing committee the needs of the work so require.

IV. Board of Administration

1. There shall be a Board of Administration composed of three Japanese elders and two laymen, elected by the annual conference, and the superintendent of the mission. When there is only one acting district superintendent he shall be a member of the board without a vote of the conference. The conference treasurer shall be a member ex officio.

2. During the interim of the annual conference, the board shall manage all matters of business within the jurisdiction of said conference.

3. The board shall elect one of its members chairman, but in case of only one acting district superintendent, he shall be chairman by virtue of his office as district superintendent.

4. This board shall choose its own secretary and treasurer.

5. In case of necessity this board shall have one or more advisors.

V. Finances

1. Funds shall be classified under two heads as follows:

(1) Funds appropriated by the Commission on Missions for the missionaries and their work, which shall be controlled by the mission.

(2) Funds raised by the conference and by the churches for their work, which shall be under their respective control.

2. Salaries of pastors and workers:

(1) Salaries of pastors and workers serving self-supporting churches shall be determined by the local church.

(2) Workers and pastors shall, in case of special financial need, present their request to the Board of Administration after said request has been approved by the official board of the circuit or society, which they are serving.

(3) All request for funds from the Commission on Missions shall be made through the mission.

(4) Expenses of pastors, workers and delegates to the annual conference shall be defrayed by the local societies which they represent, but in case of necessity, the expenses of pastors and workers only may be met by a fund created by the conference.

VI. Church Property

1. All church and parsonage property in which the Missionary Board only has funds invested shall be held by the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America subject at all times to rules and regulations made or to be made by said board.

2. Church and parsonage property toward which the Missionary Board and the Japanese churches

together or the Japanese churches only have contributed funds, shall be held by the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America subject at all times to rules and regulations made or to be made by said board and shall not be disposed of without consent of the conference.

3. All expenses such as taxes and repairs on church and parsonage property and all insurance on such property, whether purchased by mission funds wholly or in part, shall be paid by the local church having the use of the property.

VII. Prerogatives Restricted

1. This conference may elect delegates to the General Conference, provided it becomes responsible for the transportation expenses thus incurred.

2. This Constitution shall not be changed by the vote of the conference alone. (See Article IX, Sec. 2.)

VIII. The Mission

1. The mission shall be composed of missionaries who hold credentials from the Commission on Missions, the right of membership being subject to the conditions stated in the "Rules for Missionaries."

2. The work of the mission shall be administered by an executive committee composed of a superintendent and two of its members who may be nominated by the mission and who shall be elected by the commission.

3. The mission shall be under the control of the Commission on Missions and all its doings shall be subject to the approval of the Commission on Missions.

IX. Appeals and Amendments

1. All appeals made from the decisions and rulings

of the president of the conference shall be presented to the Commission on Missions for final action.

2. With the exception of Article IX Division 3 these articles may be amended by the conference, subject to the sanction of the mission, the Commission on Missions, and the General Conference.

3. Article VIII, Section 1 may be amended by the mission, with the sanction of the Commission on Missions and the General Conference, provided such amendment or amendments do not in any way conflict with the rights or privileges of the conference, in which case the consent of the conference must also be obtained.

CHAPTER X

RELATION OF CANADIAN CONFERENCES

¶ 150. 1. There shall be a Canadian Executive Board to be elected by the Canadian conferences on the following basis, namely, at the session ensuing next after this General Conference, and, once each four years thereafter, each annual conference shall elect one elder and one lay member to represent the conference on said board, provided that when a conference shall reach an aggregate of one thousand full members said conference shall be entitled to one additional ministerial representative and one additional lay representative.

For method of election, see Dominion Act of Incorporation, Schedule A, page 8.

2. The Canadian Executive Board shall be permitted to retain and to administer all apportioned claims ordered by the General Conference except bishops' salaries and the delegates' expenses and entertainment fund connected with the General Conference.

3. The Free Methodist Church in the United States shall assume payment for all claimants now receiving appropriations from the superannuate fund in the East Ontario, West Ontario and Saskatchewan Conferences, and they shall also assume and pay the claims for the first two preachers who may hereafter be made claimants by either of the conferences above mentioned, and the Canadian Executive Board shall assume the responsibility for all claimants there-

after. The legislation in this section dates from the General Conference of 1923.

4. Preachers who may from this date transfer from either the East Ontario, the West Ontario or Saskatchewan Conferences to any of the conferences in the United States, or vice versa, shall when they become claimants receive their apportionments from the claimants' fund of the respective treasuries according to the years of service in each country.

5. The Canadian Executive Board shall receive annually according to the business furnished from within the bounds of the East Ontario, West Ontario and Saskatchewan Conferences, an appropriate amount of the profits accruing from the business of the Free Methodist Publishing House.

6. The Canadian Executive Board shall relinquish any further claim on the funds raised in the United States for conference claimants, general missions, church extension, permanent fund and church and parsonage aid.

7. The East Ontario, West Ontario and Saskatchewan Conferences shall be permitted to retain all moneys raised within the bounds of these respective conferences for educational purposes, and for the special stewardship fund, to be administered as each conference shall direct.

8. The Alberta Conference, by vote of said conference, is not subject to the provisions of any of the above, except Nos. 1 and 2.

CHAPTER XI

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES*

¶ 151. 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 178(2), and women evangelists as provided for in Paragraph 220(4).

¶ 152. 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.

¶ 153. 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 Ozark, the Columbia River, the Washington, the West Ontario, the East Ontario, the Kentucky and Tennessee, the North Dakota, the Oil City, the Oklahoma, the South Africa, the Georgia and Florida, the Maryland-Virginia, the

* See Paragraph 86.

Saskatchewan, the Alberta, the North Indiana, the Japan, and such others as may be organized as hereinafter provided.

¶ 154. 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.

¶ 155. 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 superintendents and the secretary of the last conference.

¶ 156. 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 may be elected by ballot, 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 who shall be bonded and in case of a vacancy in said office the district superintendents of the conference may appoint a treasurer to act until the next session. He shall remit all funds due the general church treasurer quarterly. In case of deficit, the general church treasurer shall notify the

secretary of said conference immediately following the annual conference.

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

5. It shall elect a secretary of tithing who shall direct attention to this subject by:

a. Setting a date when each pastor shall preach on this subject, informing him of the same.

b. Arranging for the distribution of literature by the pastors on their charges.

c. Providing cards to be used by each pastor to secure pledgers to the tithing system, each pastor to tabulate these results and forward to the tithing secretary to be used as a part of his annual report.

d. Making such other provisions to create interest in this subject as he may judge best.

¶ 157. 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, and if there are no such decisions rendered to file a statement with the records to that effect.

¶ 158. The ministers and lay members composing the annual conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; but at the call of one third 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.

¶ 159. 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 superintendent.

¶ 160. 1. The district superintendents 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. When an annual conference has but one district superintendent, and so desires, it may increase the number of members on the stationing committee by electing one additional elder and an additional layman. If for any reason a district superintendent is not able to serve on the stationing committee, the conference shall elect one of its elders to take his place. No person who is recommended to the annual conference to be received on probation, nor a supply, though acting as a delegate, shall be eligible to serve on the stationing committee.

2. 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 four years in succession, except by the unanimous consent of the stationing committee, and then for five years only, except in the case of foreign speaking or colored people.

No minister who refuses to serve a charge or circuit when appointed by his conference shall be appointed to any work by another conference or district superintendent without the consent of the district superintendent of the circuit which he refused to serve.

¶ 161. Each annual conference shall elect an annual conference Board of Claimants of not less than three nor more than seven members. The presiding

bishop or his appointee shall be ex officio chairman of this board during the session of the annual conference. The duties of this board are outlined in the plan for conference claimants (Par. 106). (See page 55, Par. 106. Also, see page 59, sec. 1-5, and page 63, sec. 7-9, for duties of the annual conference, relating to care of superannuate preachers.)

¶ 162. 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.

¶ 163. 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 probation 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.

¶ 164. 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 superintendent and the official board. (See Par. 447.)

¶ 165. 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 superintendents, shall be authorized to establish new societies where the interests of the cause of God require, pro-

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

¶ 166. Whenever a woman holding an evangelist's or a local preacher's license is recommended by the quarterly conference as a suitable person to be received into the annual conference, she may be received on probation 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 probation or in full relation shall be eligible to be received into the conference.

¶ 167. 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 220(8). No preacher however, shall be granted an evangelist's relation to the conference who does not intend to devote three-fifths of his time to the work of an evangelist and if he shall fail to report to his conference the required number of weeks so devoted he shall not be granted such relation the following year.

¶ 168. Each annual conference shall elect a person to be known as a conference superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. The conference Y. P. M. S. may nominate. Each annual conference shall elect a member of the Y. P. M. S. on the board of conference evangelism.

¶ 169. 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 probation?
4. Who remain on probation?
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 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. Have any been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints?
15. Have any been expelled?
16. 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 183 to 186 and 190†.)
17. Who have died this year?
18. What is the number of church members?
19. What is the number of ministers on probation and in full membership in this conference?
20. Amount collected for conference claimants? For the bishops? For general missions? For the annual conference missionary fund? For foreign missions? For educational fund?

---

*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.

21. 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?

22. 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?

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

24. What amounts are recommended for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?

25. 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 defraying the expenses of delegates to the General Conference and the entertainment of the General Conference?

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

27. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

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

¶ 170. The conference year of each annual conference shall close automatically with the adjournment of that conference.

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

¶ 172. It shall be the duty of the general officers, district superintendents, pastors, and evangelists to make a financial report of their receipts from the field to their annual conferences; and the financial report shall be published in the statistical tables of their respective conferences.

CHAPTER XII

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

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

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 superintendent may call a special session.* For exception, see Paragraph 208(4).

3. The district superintendent shall be president of the quarterly conference, and in his absence, or in the absence of an elder whom he may appoint, the quarterly conference shall elect one of its members amenable to the annual conference 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 have the right

* It shall not be considered a violation of Par. 173, sec. 2, of the Discipline for a quarterly conference to order a session to be held outside its geographical limits when two or more districts are uniting to hold joint district or annual conference camp meetings or conventions.

to review the records of the official boards of the district at its discretion or on demand of the quarterly conference or the district superintendent and pass upon whatever is not in harmony with the Discipline or violates parliamentary law.

6. 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) Elect a district superintendent of the Y. P. M. S. The district W. M. S. may nominate the superintendent and so also may the district Y. P. M. S.

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

¶ 174. 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 superintendent, 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 182 of the Discipline: "Of the Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach."

CHAPTER XIII

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

¶ 176. 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, the superintendent of the local Y. P. M. S., the president of the local W. M. S., 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 on 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 208(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.

5. It is recommended that a budget or finance committee be elected by the official board, who shall be members of the church, of whom the treasurer and pastor shall be members, to make an estimate of all moneys needed for the support of the preacher and

the running expenses of the church, which estimate shall be subject to the approval of the official board.

6. The members of the finance committee shall see that each member of the society is solicited for the support of the local work and recommend that each individual give according to his means for its support regularly, either weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Order of Business for Official Meeting

¶ 177. 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. Election of an auditor.
7. Election of a committee on charities.
8. Inquire (1) Are there any sick?
(2) What is the status of membership?
   a. Have any been received on probation?
   b. Are there any whose probation has expired?
   c. Have any been received into full connection?
   d. Have any died?
   e. Have any been otherwise removed?

(3) Are there any violating our rules of church membership and who will not be reproved?

(4) Are there any recommendations from the society for exhorter's license? (No person should be licensed to exhort without a recommendation from the society of which he is a member.)

(5) Are there any exhorters' licenses to be renewed?

(6) Are there any exhorters to be recommended for local preachers' license?

(7) Have any been married or baptized?

(8) Treasurer's Report:

a. Amount raised as ordered by the conference.

b. Amount raised for pastoral support.

c. Amount raised for district superintendent's claim.

d. Report of other money received and disbursed.

e. Balance in the treasury.

(9) Are there any claims to be presented?

(10) Is there any unfinished business, or are there any committees to report?

(11) Is there any new business, or are there any committees to be appointed?

(12) Reports of department heads:

a. Report of the Sunday-school superintendent.

b. Report of the president of the W. M. S.

c. Report of the superintendent of the Y. P. M. S.

(13) Are there any vacancies in the board of trustees?

(14) Is the title of the church property secure?

(15) Are the legal documents for this circuit deposited for safekeeping; and, if so, where? Are the official records of this society being kept, and are the past records in safekeeping?

(16) Is the church property insured?

(17) Are the advices and requirements regarding the cultivation of vocal music found in Paragraph 81 being observed?

9. Reading the minutes.

10. Adjournment.

This order of business is suggestive but not mandatory.

CHAPTER XIV

THE CIRCUIT MEETING

¶ 178. 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, but cannot vote, 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 152. No person on probation 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.

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

5. The preacher in charge of a circuit, or in his

---

* Members under 16 years of age not eligible to vote. (See Par. 79, Sec. 6.)

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.

6. It is improper for the society to take a vote as to the return of their pastor.

Order of Business for Circuit Meeting

¶ 179. 1. Devotional exercises.

(Secretary of the official board acts as secretary.)

2. Calling of the roll.

3. Report of treasurer of official board, Paragraph 176(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 for each society on the circuit.

8. Receive the report of the trustees.

9. Miscellaneous business.

10. Approval of the minutes.

11. Adjournment.

This order is suggestive but not mandatory.

CHAPTER XV

THE SOCIETY MEETING

¶ 180. 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; to elect a local superintendent of the Young People's Missionary Society. The local Y. P. M. S., if already organized, may nominate.*

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

¶ 181. 1. Devotional exercises.

2. Calling of the roll.

---

*Members under 16 years of age are not eligible to vote. (See Par. 79, Sec. 6.)

3. Election of a secretary.

4. Recommendations: (1) For exhorter's license (to the official board). (No person should be licensed to exhort without a recommendation from the society of which he is a member.) (2) For evangelist's license (to the district quarterly conference). (3) For deaconess' license (to the district quarterly conference). (4) For band worker's license (to the district quarterly conference).

5. Election of tellers.

6. (1). Election of a treasurer. (2) Election of an auditor. (To audit accounts of church treasurer, Sunday-school treasurer, Y. P. M. S. treasurer and other funds.)

7. Election of Sunday-school superintendent. (The preacher in charge may nominate. See Paragraph 121.)

8. Election of Sunday-school board. (See Paragraph 121, Sec. 2-5.)

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

10. Election of local superintendent of Y. P. M. S.

11. Election of a C. Y. C. director.

12. Election of trial committee (if necessary).

13. Decision regarding incorporation (if necessary).

14. Annual report of workers.

15. Election of trustees (if the state law allows).

16. Miscellaneous business.

17. Approval of minutes.

18. Adjournment.

Each class elects its own class leader. The preacher in charge may nominate. See Paragraph 225 (1). At this meeting the preacher in charge cannot vote.

This order of business is suggestive but not mandatory.

PART IV
THE MINISTRY

CHAPTERS

I. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK
II. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES
III. DEACONS AND ELDERS
IV. BISHOPS
V. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
VI. PASTORS, OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE
VII. SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS

CHAPTER I

QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK

I. The Call to Preach

¶ 182. 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 what is the will of God? Do you believe that entire sanctification is the work of God wrought instantaneously upon the heart of the consecrated, believing soul subsequent to justification? 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

¶ 183. 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 repentence, 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.

¶ 184. 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 Qualifications

¶ 185. 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.

¶ 186. 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 na-

ture, 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

¶ 187. 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.

¶ 188. 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

¶ 189. 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

¶ 190. We should endeavor to assist those under our care, and to aid in the salvation of souls by in-

structing 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 dullness 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 long-suffering."

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 busy in speaking of the Word and works of God, surely God would dwell in our habitations and make us his delight.

¶ 191. 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 teaching, 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.

¶ 192. 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.

¶ 193. 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 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.

¶ 194. 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

¶ 195. 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

¶ 196. 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

¶ 197. 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 Probation

¶ 198. 1. A preacher may be received on probation 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 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 recommendation of two-thirds of the stationing committee.

2. A preacher on probation in the annual conference shall hold his church membership in the annual conference and be counted with the preachers, but shall not be entitled to vote.

3. No candidate for the ministry who has been divorced, though on scriptural grounds, and married to a second wife, shall, while the former wife lives, be admitted to the conference on probation, or in full connection until such person shall have been approved by the Board of Bishops. This shall be construed to apply likewise to a candidate (divorced or undivorced) whose wife has been divorced from a husband still living when the question of admission comes before the conference.

II. Reception into Full Membership

¶ 199. 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 probation 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

¶ 200. 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. We do not recognize the credentials of a minister from another denomination if he has remarried and has a divorced wife still living.

3. 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

¶ 201. 1. By voluntary location.

2. By location through action of the conference, under the provisions of Paragraph 162.

3. By ceasing to travel or do the work assigned, without the proper consent. (See Paragraph 205.)

4. By withdrawal with consent of the conference. See Paragraphs 169(12), 427.

¶ 202. 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.*

*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 so to deposit them, the conference shall by official action declare them forfeited.

CHAPTER III

I. DEACONS AND ELDERS

¶ 203. Traveling Deacons: 1. A minister who has been employed in the regular itinerant work for two successive years after his reception on probation, who has completed the first two years of a theological course or who has passed a satisfactory examination in the required home study course, 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. In the case of foreign missions the conference shall have authority to elect him to the deacon's office sooner if they judge it expedient.

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.

¶ 204. 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 completed the required four year theological course or after having passed a satisfactory examination in the required home 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.

¶ 205. 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

¶ 206. 1. The General Conference shall elect by ballot two or more traveling elders as bishops to be known as the Board of Bishops who shall remain in office during the quadrennium and until others shall be elected in their places.

2. It shall be the duty of the Board of Bishops:

a. To meet at least once a year.

b. To exchange experiences, to counsel and formulate plans for the progress of the work of the church.

c. To group the conferences and arrange the conference schedules, so that as far as practicable no substitute other than a Bishop will be assigned to any one conference for two successive years.

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

1. To visit each conference in their respective groups during the year, and as far as possible, call the pastors and conference leaders together for the purpose of counseling and advising them in the promotion of the spiritual and temporal interests of the church in accordance with the plan of the Board of Bishops.

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 superintendents, with the consent of the preacher to be removed and of the district superintendents, 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; 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 commission; 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 Board of Administration, 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. To receive from anyone whom they may appoint to hold an annual conference a comprehensive written report of all the proceedings of administration which may have arisen in said annual 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.

11. A bishop shall have power to cite a preacher for trial for insubordination or maladministration, according to Paragraph 261.

12. A bishop may elect to retire when he reaches the age of seventy years or any time thereafter. Any bishop so retiring, having served two quadrenniums, shall receive a claim equal to one half the salary he was receiving when he retired. He shall retire with the title of Bishop Emeritus. The difference between the regular superannuate claim due at the time to the retiring bishop and the amount called for in this provision shall be made up from the bishop's salary fund.

CHAPTER V

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

¶ 208. It shall be the duty of the district superintendent:

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 superintendent 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. It shall be the duty of the district superintendent to hold four district meetings on his district during the year and a quarterly meeting on each circuit once in three months, except where the conditions are such that the annual conference shall by a two-thirds majority decide that the work can be better conserved by two or three such meetings during the year. He shall also make a statement of the growth and progress of the work on the district at each general quarterly meeting.

5. It shall be the duty of the district superintendent

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.

6. When a district has a traveling district superintendent 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; provided also that a preacher shall not be appointed to a circuit without the concurrence of the official board of that 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 superintendent shall not have power to employ a preacher who has been rejected by the annual conference, without permission of said conference.

11. The district superintendent 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 interests of the work require it.

12. No district superintendent shall preside over the same district in the same conference more than four years in succession, except that in conferences having

only one district superintendent he may serve eight years in succession; nor shall any minister serve in the office of district superintendent in any conference for a term exceeding eight consecutive years.

13. Both traveling and stationed district superintendents 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. In case there should be a vacancy in the office of district superintendent during the interval of the sessions of any annual conference, the bishop who presided (or who was to have presided) 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.

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

16. The district superintendent shall be a member of the quarterly conference on the district which he serves; and in case he be appointed to two or more dis-

---

* Interpretation adopted by the General Conference of 1943: Whenever a conference has a single conference superintendent and a second superintendent is elected in the same conference, it shall not be a bar to the first superintendent in serving the full term of eight years.

tricts, the stationing committee shall fix his quarterly conference relation.

17. The district superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is elected, each circuit contributing its proportion as agreed upon by the annual or quarterly conference. In case he is elected stationed district superintendent he shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed. The district shall assist, when necessary. We recommend a conference or district budget for the traveling district superintendent's support.

CHAPTER VI

PASTORS, OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

¶ 209. 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 225(4).

4. To hold watch-night services 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 form a class for probationers, wherever practicable, which shall meet at least once a month during the period of their probation for instruction in the Catechism, Discipline, and history of the Free Methodist Church and such encouragement as will help probationers to go on into a definite experience of entire sanctification; 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 make their contributions toward the conference claims 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.

22. Preachers in charge of circuits who are not members of a conference shall not employ evangelists who are not members of our church, without first consulting with and securing the consent of the district superintendent in charge and of the official board.

23. For further duties of preachers see Paragraphs 534 and 535.

¶ 210. During the sittings of the conferences all appointments should stand according to the plar 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

¶ 211. 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. In no case shall he have any claim on the superannuated fund. His quarterly conference relation shall be determined by the stationing committee.

¶ 212. 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.

If, in the interval of conference, a supernumerary or a superannuated preacher moves where attendance at the quarterly conference in which his relation was fixed is inconvenient, upon his request he may be transferred to any convenient quarterly conference by its district superintendent, with the consent of that quarterly conference.

PART V

LOCAL PREACHERS AND LAY HELPERS

CHAPTERS

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

CHAPTER I

LOCAL PREACHERS

¶ 213. 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.

¶ 214. 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.

¶ 215. 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.

¶ 216. 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.

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

¶ 218. 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.

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

¶ 219½. Among our unordained preachers only those in charge of circuits by the appointment of a stationing committee may solemnize marriage. This rule shall apply only in those states whose laws permit unordained preachers to perform such ceremony. He shall also have the right to administer the ordinance of baptism.

CHAPTER II

EVANGELISTS

¶ 220. 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 182 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 166 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 superintendent of the adjacent district.

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

7. Such evangelists shall be amenable to the annual conference to which they belong.

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, without the consent of the pastor and district superintendent.

9. The examination of evangelists may be conducted orally.

CHAPTER III

EXHORTERS

¶ 221. 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 experientially, 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

DEACONESSES

¶ 222. 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-one 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 or black 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.

¶ 223. The Wesley-Roberts Deaconess School of the Home of Redeeming Love, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a recognized deaconess training school for Christian young women desiring to take the course as outlined in the Discipline, Paragraphs 359-359½ in connection with a practical course in nursing and city mission work.

CHAPTER V

BANDS AND BAND WORKERS

¶ 224. 1. District superintendents and evangelists appointed by the general or annual conferences or licensed by an annual conference, or pastors, may organize bands of young people who are members of our church, for evangelistic or charitable work.

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 district superintendents, evangelists or pastors by whom organized. 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 district, without his consent.

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

¶ 225. 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

¶ 226. 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.

¶ 227. The duties of stewards are: 1. To seek the needy and distressed in order to relieve and comfort them. 2. To inform the preachers of any sick or disorderly persons. 3. To tell their preacher what they think wrong in him. 4. To attend the quarterly meetings of their circuit. 5. To give advice, if asked, in planning the circuit. 6. To attend committees for the application of money to churches. 7. To give counsel in matters of arbitration. 8. To provide elements for the Lord's Supper. 9. To write circular letters to the societies in the circuit to be more liberal if need be, 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

¶ 228. 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.

¶ 229. 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."

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

II. General Directions

¶ 231. 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. In the trial of a traveling preacher the conference may appoint such further counsel as it may deem proper. The accusers shall be responsible for the expense of their own counsel, unless such counsel also represents the conference. The body to which the accused is amenable shall pay the costs of prosecution.

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.

¶ 232. 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

¶ 233. 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.

¶ 234. 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.

¶ 235. 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 superintendent, 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.

¶ 236. If a charge of immorality or of unchristian conduct is brought against a traveling preacher in the interval of the annual conferences, the district superintendent 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.

¶ 237. But if the accused be a district superintendent, then three of the preachers of his district shall call in the district superintendent 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 superintendent so called.

¶ 238. 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 Paragraphs 234, except in case of a preacher charged with gross immorality who voluntarily absents himself from the session of his annual conference.

¶ 239. All cases brought before an annual con-

ference, 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.

¶ 239½. Whenever it is for the best interests of the church and for convenience of witnesses, and the parties so stipulate, a case may be referred to one person appointed by the bishop, to act as a judge to try the case without a committee; and when so referred, his decision shall have the same effect as that of a trial committee of an annual conference, subject to the same right of appeal and for writ of review.

¶ 240. 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.

¶ 241. 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 decisions shall have the same effect as that of the General Conference.

¶241½. Whenever in the judgment of the appellate court a new trial is granted, it may either be remanded

back to the original court for a new trial, or it may be tried de novo, (that is, by the appellate court itself) whenever the interests of justice and the general welfare of the church can best be served thereby, provided, however, that no such trial shall be had without the consent of both parties.

¶ 242. 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

¶ 243. 1. Charge. (Name the offense.)

2. Specifications. (Name the acts, times and places.)

II. Order of Conducting Church Trials

¶ 244. 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. Instructions of the presiding officer as to the form of bringing in their verdict.

16. The verdict.

17. The court shall announce the verdict and impose the penalty fixed by the trial committee.

V. Restoration of Credentials

¶ 245. 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 probation, 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 superintendent 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 parch-

ments, and, at its first session thereafter, his annual conference should declare them forfeited.

VI. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Probation

¶ 246. A preacher on probation 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

¶ 247. 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 five 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 superintendent shall preside at the trial.

But if, for any reason, the district superintendent 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.

¶ 248. 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 district superintendent shall call a committee of not less than five members of the quarterly conference, which shall have power to suspend until the next session of the quarterly conference.

¶ 249. I. 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 superintendent presides, then such district superintendent shall preside at the trial.

¶ 250. 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

¶ 251. 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, censure or expulsion. However, the sentence may be suspended by the committee, and he may be placed on probation for not more than one year by the committee, at the expiration of which time his membership may be restored, upon recommendation of the official board and upon a three-fourths vote of the society of which he was a member and upon giving satisfactory answers to Paragraph 75 of the Discipline.

¶ 252. Any member upon whom the penalty of probation or suspension has been duly imposed for the neglect of duties required by the Word of God or "indulgence of sinful tempers, words or actions," shall vacate all offices, and surrender all credentials held by action of the church. The secretary of the

body that issued the credentials in the case shall hold such credentials during the period of penalty.

2. Notification of Time and Place of Trial

¶ 253. 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

¶ 254. 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 five, 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 probation or in full membership, shall be eligible to act on this committee.

¶ 255. 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

¶ 256. The preacher in charge, when in full membership in the conference, shall preside at the trial of

members; but the district superintendent shall, for sufficient reasons, appoint some other traveling preacher in full membership to preside at any particular trial. The district superintendent shall not preside at such trial.

5. Right of Appeal

¶ 257. 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

¶ 258. 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.

¶ 259. No member of the Free Methodist Church will be permitted to exercise any official functions while under penalty by the church for unchristian conduct. This shall not apply to the office of trustee in states where the civil law will not permit the suspension of the office of a trustee for such reasons.

IX. Citation of Society, Quarterly Conference, or Annual Conference, to Show Cause

¶ 260. 1. The Board of Administration shall have the power to cite a society, quarterly conference or annual conference to appear before it to show cause. if any they may have, why they should not be declared in a state of insubordination when reliable information reaches said board that said society, quarterly

conference, or annual conference is openly in a state of insubordination, and refusal of obedience. Notice of said order to show cause shall be given by a statement of the facts constituting the state of insubordination stated in clear and definite terms so that said society, quarterly conference, or annual conference may be properly informed of what acts constitute said insubordination. The said order shall be served upon the secretary of said society, quarterly conference, or annual conference, and in event that said board shall find said society, quarterly conference, or annual conference guilty, or in event said society, quarterly conference or annual conference shall admit their insubordination, then said Board of Administration shall have the power to suspend said society, quarterly conference, or annual conference of all rights and recognition as a Free Methodist society, quarterly conference, or annual conference, until the ensuing General Conference, with whom the final decision of the case shall rest.

2. In event that said society, quarterly conference or annual conference shall reform and pledge their loyalty to the church and Discipline, and make contrition for their insubordination, then said Board of Administration shall have the power to reinstate said society, quarterly conference or annual conference.

X. Citation of Preacher to Show Cause

¶ 261. 1. A bishop shall have the power to cite a preacher to appear before a committee of not more than six persons, three of whom shall be ministers and three laymen, there to show cause, if any he may have, why he shall not be declared in a state of insubordination and maladministration when said bishop shall have reasonable cause to believe that said preacher is in a state of insubordination or in viola-

tion of the Discipline, or when said preacher shall have been accused of wilful neglect in the administration of the Discipline or refusal of work assigned to him by the annual conference.

2. In the event the preacher shall be so cited he shall be furnished with the statement of facts pur porting to constitute such insubordination and maladministration, stating the time, place and action. Said citation shall show the date, hour and place where said minister shall appear and the names of said committee appointed by the bishop. In the event said committee finds said preacher guilty of maladministration and insubordination, or, in event he shall plead guilty, the committee shall have the power to suspend him of all rights as a minister until the sitting of his annual conference, with whom the final decision of his case shall be, and in event that said conference shall take no action, or in event such conference shall refuse to take action in the case, a trial committee may be appointed by the Board of Administration consisting of not less than six and not more than twelve persons, one-half of whom shall be ministers and one-half laymen, before whom the preacher shall be tried, according to the procedure for trial of the preacher, and if found guilty said committee shall have the power to censure, rebuke, or expel said minister according to the terms of the Discipline.

Paragraphs 260 and 261 shall not be construed so as to prevent the accused in any of the above stated cases from the right to challenge for cause any person appointed to sit on said committee.

CHAPTER II

INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

¶ 262. 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.

¶ 263. 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.

¶ 264. 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.

¶ 265. 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.

¶ 266. 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. CHURCH PROPERTY

CHAPTER I

SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS

I. Support of Bishops

¶ 267. The salaries of our bishops shall be raised by conference collections; and the Executive Commission 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 Superintendents

¶ 268. The district superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is appointed, as provided for in Paragraph 208 (17), each circuit contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the annual or quarterly conference. In case he is elected stationed district superintendent he shall be supported by the circuit or charge to which he is appointed.

III. Support of Preachers in Charge

¶ 269. 1. It shall be the duty of the finance 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 finance committee shall report regularly to the official board.

3. The membership is requested to co-operate

heartily with this plan, giving not less than one-tenth of the net annual income for the Lord's work.

IV. Support of Evangelists

¶ 270. Evangelists shall depend upon the fields in which they labor for their support, except in case of general evangelists, whose salaries are provided by appropriations from the Commission on Evangelism and by collection on their fields of labor.*

* For support of retired ministers, see Conference Claimants' Fund, Paragraph 106

CHAPTER II

CHURCH PROPERTY

I. Trustees—Appointment and Duties

¶ 271. 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.

¶ 272. 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.

¶ 273. 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.

¶ 274. 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.

¶ 275. 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.

¶ 276. If a district desires to purchase or acquire property, such district shall incorporate. There shall be not less than three or more than nine trustees elected by the quarterly conference. All trustees shall hold their office till their successors shall be elected but provided that if a duly elected member shall refuse, by his actions, to attend legally called meetings of the board for one entire year or for three consecutive meetings, whichever is the longer period, his place shall be declared vacant by the next session of the quarterly conference and his successor elected at once for the remainder of the term, provided the same does not conflict with the law of the State of Incorporation. When the district becomes incorporated, the deed shall be made out directly to the district in its corporate name, and not to individual trustees; and in all cases it shall contain the trust clause included in Paragraph 278. This does not apply to Canadian property.

II. Incorporation and Deeds

¶ 277. 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 rules, regulations, doctrines, and Discipline of the Free Methodist Church, incorporated as "The Free Methodist Church of North America," as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of said church, in so far as the

same do not contravene the laws of the state, 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.

¶ 278. 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 'The Free Methodist Church 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."

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

¶ 280. 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.

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

¶ 282. Whenever it becomes advisable to dispose of any church property, the trustees may sell and convey it by securing the authority of the society and the consent of the district superintendent and of the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America; 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.

¶ 283. 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

¶ 284. 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. Each annual conference shall appoint a committee of not less than three on "Church Buildings and Locations," and no church shall be built within the bounds of the conference without the approval in writing both of the location and the plan of the building and of the title of the property. If any location is selected or a church building constructed without such consent that society shall not receive aid from the Church Extension and Aid Society. This committee shall satisfy themselves that proper facilities have been made for the accommodation of the Sunday school before giving their approval.

5. The Executive Commission 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 Commission and to make such use of it as local conditions will permit.

PART VIII
CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER I

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

¶ 285. 1. Genesee (1860). The Genesee Conference to embrace that portion of the state of New York lying West of a line beginning at the Irondequoit Bay running due south to West Bloomfield, New York, thence following the eastern line of Livingston county to Wayland, New York; thence along Route 2 (as established at this day) to Savona, New York, thence due south to the Pennsylvania line. All cities or villages on this boundary line shall be counted as in the Genesee Conference, except those on Route 2 and Dansville and Byersville, New York, shall be an exception and shall remain in the Susquehanna Conference.

¶ 286. 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 shall also include the Beloit, Wisconsin, and Davenport, Iowa, societies.

¶ 287. 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 Delaware and Hudson 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 Delaware and Hudson railroad. This conference shall also include Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and the province of Quebec.

¶ 288. 4. Michigan (1865). The Michigan Conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Michigan lying south of the base line, starting at Lake Michigan; thence east along the base line to Novi Road; thence north along said Novi Road to a point one mile north of the Twelve Mile Road; thence due east to Lake St. Clair.

¶ 289. 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. It shall include the city of Hutchinson.

¶ 290. 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 South Dakota, including Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine and Lac-qui-parle counties in Minnesota, and shall include Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien and Sioux counties in Iowa and that portion of Iowa not included in the Iowa, West Iowa and South Dakota conferences. The church and parsonage property at Boyden, Iowa, to remain under the jurisdiction of the South Dakota conference.

¶ 291. 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, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

¶ 292. 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, then east to Clayton on the Mississippi River. It shall also include the city of Des Moines according to its present incorporate limits (1898).

¶ 293. 9. Wisconsin (1875). The Wisconsin Conference shall include the state of Wisconsin.

¶ 294. 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, except the towns of Grayling, Frederick, Gaylord and Vanderbilt, in Crawford and Otsego counties. It shall also include the Upper Peninsula and Drummond's Island.

¶ 295. 11. Ohio (1879). The Ohio Conference shall embrace the state of Ohio, except the towns included in the Pittsburgh and Oil City Conferences.

¶ 296. 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. On the east it shall be bounded by a line running from Shelby county south through Teutop-

olis, Illinois, then south to Shawneetown. It shall also include the city of St. Louis, Missouri.

¶ 297. 13. Texas (1881). The Texas Conference shall include all of the state of Texas, and that part of New Mexico lying east of the 106th meridian.

¶ 298. 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.

¶ 299. 15. West Kansas (1883). The West Kansans Conference shall include all parts of the state of Kansas not included in the Kansas Conference.

¶ 300. 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.

¶ 301. 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.

¶ 302. 18. California (1883). The California Con-

ference shall embrace all the state of California lying north of San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo counties.

¶ 303. 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 the southeast corner of Eaton counties, thence north running parallel with the meridian line to Lake Huron, except the parts of Royal Oak and Warren townships embraced in the Michigan Conference. It shall also include the towns of Grayling, Frederick, Gaylord and Vanderbilt, in Crawford and Otsego counties, formerly embraced in the North Michigan Conference.

¶ 304. 20. Louisiana (1884). The Louisiana Conference shall include the states of Louisiana and Mississippi.

¶ 305. 21. Oregon (1885). The Oregon Conference shall include all of the state of Oregon not included in the Columbia River Conference.

¶ 306. 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.

¶ 307. 23. Wabash (1885). The Wabash Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Indiana lying south and west of a line beginning at the northwest corner of Benton county; thence east to the city of Wabash; thence south to the north boundary line of Madison county; thence following north and east boundary line of said county to southeast corner; thence east to Ohio state line.

¶ 308. 24. Colorado (1886). The Colorado Conference shall embrace the state of Colorado, the state of Utah, and that part of New Mexico lying west of the 106th meridian.

¶ 309. 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.

¶ 310. 26. Nebraska (1890). The Nebraska Conference shall include the state of Nebraska, except Dakota county; six counties in South Dakota bounded as follows: A line commencing at the southeast corner of Shannon county; thence north to the White river; thence east along said river to its junction with the Missouri river; thence along the Missouri river to the south line of the state of South Dakota; and all the state of Wyoming.

¶ 311. 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.

¶ 312. 28. Ozark (1895). The Ozark (formerly Arkansas and Southern Missouri) Conference shall embrace the state of Arkansas together with that part of Missouri not included in the Missouri Conference.

¶ 313. 29. Columbia River (1896). The Columbia River Conference shall include that part of the state of Washington lying east of Grant, Douglas and Okanogan counties, and that part of Oregon east of Gillian, Wheeler and Crook counties, and north of Harney and Malheur counties; it shall also include the state of Idaho and that part of the state of Montana lying west of the 110th meridian.

¶ 314. 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 Columbia river with the southern boundary of Grant county, thence along the eastern boundary of Grant, Douglas and Okanogan counties to the northern boundary of the state, thence west to the crest of the Cascade Mountains, thence along the crest of the Cascade Mountains to and including Alaska, and on the west by the Pacific waters.

¶ 315. 31. 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.

¶ 316. 32. East Ontario (1896). The East Ontario Conference shall include all that part of the province of Ontario not included in the West Ontario Conference.

¶ 317. 33. Kentucky and Tennessee (1896). The Kentucky and Tennessee Conference shall include the states of Kentucky and Tennessee.

¶ 318. 34. 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.

¶ 319. 35 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 Huntington, 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. It shall also include the towns of Conneaut and North Kingsville, in the state of Ohio.

¶ 320. 36. Oklahoma (1899). The Oklahoma Conference shall include all of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory.

¶ 321. 37. South Africa (1907). The South Africa Mission Conference shall include Natal, Cape Colony and the Orange River Colony.

¶ 322. 38. Georgia and Florida (1913). The Georgia and Florida Conference shall include the states of Georgia and Florida.

¶ 323. 39. Saskatchewan (1914). The Saskatchewan Conference shall include the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

¶ 324. 40. 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 Cascade Mountains. It shall include the city of Hope.

¶ 325. The East Texas Conference has been reunited with the Texas Conference.

¶ 326. 41. North Indiana (reorganized 1922). The North Indiana Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Indiana lying north and east of a line beginning at northwest corner of Benton county, then running east to and including the city of Wabash, then

south to north boundary line of Madison county, then following north and east boundary of Madison county to southeast corner, thence due east to Ohio state line.

¶ 327. 42. Japan (1923). The Japan Conference shall include all of the work in Japan which is carried on by the Free Methodist Church.

¶ 327½. 43. Maryland-Virginia (1939). The Maryland-Virginia Conference shall include all of Virginia, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia, and all of Maryland except Garrett and Alleghany counties.

¶ 328. Any question of boundaries that may arise shall be referred to the Executive Commission.

¶s. 329-339. Omitted because of wrong numbering in previous editions.

PART IX
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

¶ 340. 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:]

¶ 341. Dearly beloved, inasmuch 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 upon 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

¶ 342. 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

¶ 343. 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:]

¶344. 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, meekly kneeling, make your humble confession to Almighty God.

[Then may this general confession be made:]

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge 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

¶ 345. [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.

Inasmuch 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

¶ 346. 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:]

Inasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother, (sister, or child) we therefore commit his, (or her) 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

¶ 347. [When the time appointed for 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.

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 doctrine 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; for these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness we render unto thee most hearty thanks; we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee 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 thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through 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 salvation; 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

¶ 348. [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 deacons." Then 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 no crime nor impediment be alleged, then shall be said the following collect and epistle:]

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast 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 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 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 slanderous, 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 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

¶ 349. [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 may 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 X

COURSES OF STUDY

CHAPTERS

I. FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS
II. FOR LOCAL PREACHERS
III. FOR DEACONESSES
IV. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS
V. BOARD OF EXAMINERS

CHAPTER I

COURSE OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS

Course of Study for Preachers Attending Church Schools

¶ 350. A four-year course to be known as the "Standard Four-year Theological Curriculum, graduation from which will carry the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in religion. Completion of the first two years of this course will satisfy in full the disciplinary educational requirements for ordination as deacon. Graduation from the entire course will satisfy in full the disciplinary educational requirements for ordination as elder.

The actual course in any school to be approved by the commission as satisfying the requirements of this curriculum must include the following core of subject matter:

I. Standard Four-Year Theological Curriculum

A. FIRST YEAR	CREDITS
Bible Study (New Testament)	3
Bible History and Bible Geography	2
Speech	2
English Composition	6
History (including Medieval)	3
Foreign Language (preferably Greek)	6
Personal Evangelism	1
Science	5
Electives	4

B. SECOND YEAR

Bible Study (Old Testament)	3
Church History	3
Homiletics	3
Psychology	3
Systematic Theology	3
Religious Education	4
Hymnology and Conducting	2
Philosophy	3
Electives	8

C. THIRD YEAR

Bible Study (Upper Division)	3
Biblical Theology	3
Bible Doctrine of Holiness	2
Mental Health	2
Comparative Religions	2
Social Science	3
Electives	17

D. FOURTH YEAR

Bible Study (Upper Division)	3
Modern Cults	2
Pastoral Ethics and Church Administration	1
Modern Church History (including Free Methodist Church)	3
Social Science	3
Philosophy	4
Contemporary Religious Thought	2
Electives	14

In addition to the Four-Year Standard Theological Curriculum, our schools are also authorized to offer a shorter theological course to be known as the "Special Two-Year Curriculum for Ministers" which shall be

correlated closely with the home study course listed in the Discipline. Those completing the first year of this curriculum shall be reported to any conference committee on course of study as having completed the equivalent of the first two years in the disciplinary home study course and thus satisfying the minimum educational requirements for ordination as deacon. Those completing this Special Two-Year Course shall be reported to any conference committee on course of study as having completed the equivalent of the four years in the disciplinary home study course and thus satisfying the minimum educational requirements for ordination as elder.

The actual course in any school to be approved by the commission as satisfying this curriculum must include the following core of subject matter:

II. Special Two-Year Curriculum for Ministers

A. FIRST YEAR	CREDITS
Bible Study	6
Christian Evidences	3
Bible Geography and Bible History	2
Homiletics	3
English Composition	6
Speech	2
Psychology	3
Electives	7

B. SECOND YEAR	
Bible Study	6
Church History	6
Theology	3
Religious Education	4
Elementary Logic	2
Electives	9

III. Candidates Attending Theological Schools

1. Each year of practical service* on the part of a regular student following admission on probation in any conference while pursuing the Standard Four-Year Theological Course in any approved Free Methodist School shall be interpreted as equivalent to one year of itinerant service as required for ordination as deacon or elder, under the following conditions:

a. The candidate must be under proper church supervision and regularly report to his quarterly conference, who shall carefully examine each candidate as to his call, his doctrine, and his other qualifications.

b. The faculty of the school must certify that the practical service has been satisfactory.

c. The district superintendent must give favorable recommendation.

d. Recommendation must be received from the conference committee on reception of members.

e. Not more than two years of "equivalent itinerant service" may be thus earned during the entire Four-Year Theological Course.

f. Final decision regarding any candidate having met the foregoing requirements in a satisfactory manner rests with the candidate's annual conference.

2. Each year of practical service on the part of a Free Methodist student while pursuing graduate work in a theological seminary shall be interpreted as equivalent to one year of itinerant service as required for ordination as deacon or elder, under the same condi-

* The Commission on Christian Education will prepare a list of approved activities and standards by which to judge "practical service." They will prepare a "Practical Service" blank with spaces for checking specific Christian activities carried out under supervision of the church.

tions, except "e" as those stated above for theological students in our own schools, with the following requirements:

a. Recommendations must be received from the Executive Secretary of the Department of Bible Schools and Colleges of the Commission on Christian Education of the Free Methodist Church.

b. In all cases candidate must cover courses in Free Methodist polity and doctrine either in Free Methodist schools or in the regular Home Study Course.

IV. The Board of Bishops shall have authority to elect to elder's orders an ordained deacon who is an approved candidate for chaplaincy in the Army or the Navy of the United States, if said candidate has completed only a portion of the third and fourth years' disciplinary requirements. He must be recommended by his quarterly conference.

HOME STUDY COURSE

PRELIMINARY

¶ 351. 1. A four-years' high school course or its equivalent.

2. Theological Compend—Binney.
   Collateral reading:
   How We Got Our Bible—J. Paterson Smyth.
3. Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley.
   Collateral reading:
   The Way to Pentecost—Chadwick.
4. Free Methodist Discipline.
   Collateral reading:
   The Story of Our Church—Howland.
   Hymns That Are Immortal—Hogue.

FIRST YEAR

¶ 352. 1. Biblical Geography—Hurlburt.

2. Elements of Divinity—Ralston. Doctrines of Christianity, Books I and II, pages 9 to 191, inclusive.

Collateral reading:

The Christian Faith—Curtis. Chapters I-VIII.

Perfect Love—Wood.

Possibilities of Grace—Lowery; or Mile-Stone Papers—Daniel Steele.

3. Homiletics—Hogue, Part I. Written sermon

Collateral reading:

Wesley's Sermons, 1-30 inclusve.

Fishers of Men—Roberts; or Taking Men Alive—Trumbull.

The Holy Spirit—Hogue.

Primer in Evangelism—Fairbairn.

Digest of Free Methodist Law—Watson.

4. Century Collegiate Handbook—Greever and Jones.

SECOND YEAR

¶ 353. 1. Old Testament History—Smith.

2. Elements of Divinity—Ralston. Doctrines of Christianity, Book III and IV, pages 193-472, inclusive

Collateral reading:

The Christian Faith—Curtis, Chapters IX-XVII.

The Faith of Our Children—Mary Alice Jones.

3. Homiletics—Hogue, Part II, or Pastoral Theology. Written sermon.

Collateral reading:

Wesley's Sermons, 31-53 inclusive.

Preparation and Delivery of Sermons—Broadus.

Youth Speaks—Marston.

4. Modern Times and the Living Past—Elson, To the period of the Reformation, page 316.

THIRD YEAR

¶ 354. 1. New Testament History—Smith.

Collateral reading:

Life of Christ—Farrar, or Stalker.

A Brief Life of Paul—Olmstead.

2. Elements of Divinity—Ralston. Evidences of Christianity, pages 545-731 inclusive.

Collateral reading:

The Christian Faith—Curtis. Chapters XVIII-XXIX.

3. Sociology: Textbook, Social Living—Landis

Collateral reading:

Secret Societies—Brown.

4. Modern Times and the Living Past—Elson. From the period of the Reformation to the World War.

5. Church History—Fisher. First 448 pages.

FOURTH YEAR

¶ 354½. 1. Elements of Divinity—Ralston. Morals and Institutions of Christianity, pages 733-1016 inclusive.

Collateral reading:

The Christian Faith—Curtis. Chapters XXX-XXXVI.

The Day—Martin.

2. Elements of Logic—Jevon.

3. Church History—Fisher: second half.

Collateral reading:

Wesley and His Century—Fitchett.

History of the Free Methodist Church—Hogue: 2 volumes.

Master Workmen—Blews.

In all subjects throughout the course, requiring examinations, credit for passing shall be withheld until the candidate has met the reading requirements.

CHAPTER II

COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS

I. For Local Preachers Who Are to Be Examined by the Quarterly Conference

FIRST YEAR

¶ 355. 1. Theological Compend—Binney.

2. Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley.

3. Articles of Religion and General Rules of the Free Methodist Discipline.

Collateral reading:

Fishers of Men—Roberts.

Outline History of the Free Methodist Church—MacGeary.

Wesley's Sermons, Volume I, sermons 1 to 15 inclusive.

SECOND YEAR

¶ 356. 1. Helps to Bible Study—Sims (revised edition).

2. Handbook of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology—Hogue, Part I.

Collateral reading:

Perfect Love—Wood.

Person of Christ—Schaff.

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

¶ 357. 1. Handbook of Theology—Field, first half.
2. Old Testament History—Smith.

Collateral reading:

History of the Free Methodist Church—Hogue, Volume I.
Why I Believe the Bible—Burrell.
The Indwelling Christ—Baldwin.

III. For Local Deacons Who Wish to Be Ordained Elders

¶ 358. 1. Handbook of Theology—Field, second half.
2. New Testament History—Smith.

Collateral reading:

History of the Free Methodist Church—Hogue, Volume II.
Secret Societies—Brown.
Wesley and His Century—Fitchett.

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 DEACONESSES

FIRST YEAR

¶359. 1. Free Methodist Discipline.

2. Outline of Bible History — Hurst (Normal Edition).

3. American Red Cross and Home Hygiene.

Collateral reading:

1. All About the Bible—Collett.
2. "A Corn of Wheat"—Root.

SECOND YEAR

¶ 359½. 1. Theological Compend—Binney.

2. Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley.

3. Fishers of Men—Roberts.

Collateral reading:

1. Tongue of Fire—Arthur.
2. The Heart of Asbury's Journal—Tipple.
3. Hymns That Are Immortal—Hogue.

The examination of deaconesses shall be conducted by the annual conference board of examiners, and may be conducted orally. See Paragraph 222 (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 222 (6).

CHAPTER IV

COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS

¶ 360. The following course for 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.
Theological Compend—Binney.
Christian Perfection—Wesley.
Perfect Love—Wood.
Fishers of Men—Roberts.
Hymns That Are Immortal—Hogue.
History of Methodism—Stevens (Abridged).
The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life—Smith.
Story of Our Church—Howland.
Possibilities of Grace—Lowery.
Mile-Stone Papers—Steele.

Paragraphs 361-381 on courses of study for missionaries discontinued.

CHAPTER V

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM AND CENTRAL BOARD OF CONFERENCE EXAMINERS

¶ 382. 1. There shall be a Committee on Curriculum to represent and serve all the agencies of the church which may desire to designate or develop for publication books, pamphlets, papers, lessons or study material for use in the church or any of its agencies.

2. The Committee on Curriculum shall be composed of a central board of conference examiners of five members, and a representative each of the Y. P. M. S., the Department of Sunday Schools, the Department of Sunday-school Publications, the Department of Service Training, the Publishing House, and the Association of Free Methodist Colleges. The bishop in charge of the Commission on Christian Education shall be chairman ex officio of the Committee on Curriculum. The members of the Central Board of Conference Examiners and all other members of the Committee on Curriculum shall be appointed by the Executive Commission.

3. The Committee on Curriculum is authorized, by the formation of appropriate sub-committees if necessary for efficiency, to initiate and approve material for use in service training courses, to authorize the development of new Sunday-school materials when needed, to approve the selection of materials for Y. P. M. S., Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, camp meetings, child evangelism, and similar uses, when these are to receive general recommendation.

4. The Central Board of Conference Examiners shall have as its duties:

a. To formulate rules and prepare questions for examinations in the preachers' course of study, 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.

b. To 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.

c. To make changes which become necessary in the preachers' course of study.

PART XI

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 post-office 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 MISSIONARY SOCIETY
VI. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
VII. CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS
VIII. FORMS

CHAPTER I

INCORPORATION

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Under the Laws of California*

Office of the
Secretary of State

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

¶ 383. That we, the undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens and residents of the State of California, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under Title XII, Article I of the Civil Code of the State of California.

AND WE HEREBY CERTIFY:

FIRST: That the name of the corporation shall be THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

---

* Editor's Historical Note. Originally the church was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, April 30, 1873, as "The Free Methodist General Conference of North America." The General Conference of 1915 authorized the board of trustees of the General Conference to incorporate in the state of Illinois. Pursuant to this order, a charter was granted by the state of Illinois, December 2, 1915, under the title "The Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America." This incorporation was approved by the General Conference of 1919 and was duly authorized to assume all the duties and exercise the prerogatives of the original incorporation. The General Conference of 1931 ordered a consolidation of the several boards into a Board of Administration. The General Conference of 1935 authorized said Board of Administration to form a new incorporation. Pursuant to this order, a corporation known as "The Free Methodist Church of North America" was formed in 1937, whose articles of incorporation are set forth above.

SECOND: That the purposes for which it is formed are religious, charitable and benevolent, and especially:

To conduct religious services, to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and assist in improving and ameliorating the moral and social conditions of humanity; to purchase, own, sell, mortgage and lease real estate and other property as may be necessary for the purposes of this corporation; to receive donations, to receive, manage, take and hold real and personal property by gift, grant, devise, or bequest, and to sell or dispose of the same, and to do each and every thing necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes herein enumerated, or which shall at any time appear conducive or expedient for the protection or benefit of this corporation.

To take and hold by donation, gift, grant, devise or otherwise any property, real, personal, or mixed, in any state in the United States, or any other country in behalf of and for the benefit of The Free Methodist Church of North America, or any of its subsidiary interests, and the same to manage, grant and convey, lease or otherwise dispose of, and to execute such trust or trusts as may be confided to said corporation, the whole to be under the supervision of and amenable to the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America.

To carry on a general publishing and printing business including that of stationers, printers, lithographers, stereotypers, electrotypers, photographic printers, photolithographers, engravers, die-sinkers, book printers, account book manufacturers, dealers in parchments, dealers in stamps, advertising agents, designers, draftsmen, ink manufacturers, book sellers, publishers, paper manufacturers, and dealers in the materials used

in the manufacture of paper, and dealers in or manufacturers of any other articles or things of a character similar or analogous to the foregoing, or any of them, or connected therewith for the furtherance of the general objectives of this corporation.

To receive property by devise or bequest, subject to the laws regulating the transfer of property by will, and to otherwise acquire and hold all property, real or personal, including shares of stock, bonds and securities of other corporations.

To act as trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation or for the benefit of any of its members, or members of their families, and to receive, hold and administer and expend funds and property subject to such trusts.

To convey, exchange, lease, mortgage and encumber, transfer upon trust or otherwise dispose of all property, real or personal.

To borrow money, contract debts and issue bonds, notes and debentures, and to secure the same.

To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation including the conduct of any business for profit, providing said profits are used for the objects of said corporation and not distributed to the members thereof.

THIRD: That the principal office for the transaction of business of said corporation is to be located in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

FOURTH: That the terms for which said corporation is to exist is perpetual.

FIFTH: That it is a corporation which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and therefore there shall be no capital stock.

SIXTH: That this corporation shall be successor to and take the property of the following corporations which are hereafter to be dissolved:

The Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Conference Claimants of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Church Extension of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.*

This corporation shall also become the successor of the Free Methodist Publishing House, an Illinois Corporation, and The General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation, whenever the same shall be dissolved and ordered consolidated with this corporation by an order of the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

SEVENTH: That said corporation shall be subject to the rules, regulations and Discipline of The Free Methodist Church of North America as from time to

---

* Editor's Note. On October 28, 1943, the Board of Administration of the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America in session at Winona Lake, Indiana, took the following action: That the respective officers of the Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Conference Claimants of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Church Extension of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation, take any necessary steps or execute any necessary papers for the dissolution of these corporations and to transfer any and all of the assets of said corporations to the Free Methodist Church of North America, a California Corporation, their successor.

time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America in so far as the same do not contravene or conflict with the laws of the State of California or the several states of the United States.

The Discipline, rules and regulations of The Free Methodist Church as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America shall at all times be a part of the by-laws of this corporation.

EIGHTH: That the names and addresses of the persons who are to act in the capacity of directors until the selection of their successors, and who shall be known as trustees, are:

NAMES	ADDRESSES
CLAUDE A. WATSON	Los Angeles, California
B. E. ILER	Santa Monica, California
A. G. BALL	Los Angeles, California

That the number of trustees may be changed by a by-law duly adopted or amended by the members, authority for which is hereby expressly conferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, for the purpose of forming this corporation under the laws of the State of California, we, the undersigned, constituting the incorporators of this corporation including the persons named hereinabove as the first directors of this corporation, have executed these Articles of Incorporation this 15th day of January, 1937.

CLAUDE A. WATSON
B. E. ILER
A. G. BALL

BY-LAWS OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ARTICLE I

Members

¶ 383½. Section 1: The several members of the Board of Administration of The Free Methodist Church of North America, elected by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, shall constitute the members of this corporation.

Section 2: All meetings of members except as herein otherwise provided shall be held as directed by the corporation or by the Board of Directors of said corporation.

Section 3: The regular annual meeting of the members shall be held on the last Wednesday in the month of October in each year at the hour of 10:00 o'clock A. M., beginning on the third Wednesday of the month of October in the year 1937.

Should the last Wednesday in the month of October in any year fall on a holiday, the regular annual meeting of the members in such year shall be held at said hour on the next business day thereafter.

Section 4: Notice of the annual meeting of members shall be given in writing to members entitled to vote, by the Secretary (or Assistant Secretary) by sending a copy of the notice through the mail, charges prepaid, to the address of each such member as the same appears on the records of the corporation, or as supplied by a member for the purpose of notice, not less than fourteen (14) days before such meeting, or by publication of such notice in The Free Methodist paper published at Winona Lake, Indiana, for at least two (2) weeks before said meeting.

Section 5: Special meetings of the members may be

called at any time for any purpose or purposes whatsoever, by the President, or by the Board of Directors, or by any three or more members thereof.

Section 6: Notice of special meetings of the members, stating the time, and in general terms the purpose or purposes thereof, shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member entitled to vote at his address, as the same appears on the records of the corporation, or as supplied by the member for the purpose of notice, at least one week prior to the date of the special meeting.

Section 7: Should the address of any member not appear on the records of the corporation, then notices of any meetings of the members shall be mailed, addressed to such member at Winona Lake, County of Kosciusko, State of Indiana.

Section 8: An entry of the service of notice of a meeting of the members, given in the manner above provided, shall be made in the minutes of the proceedings of the members, and such entry, if read and approved at a subsequent meeting of the members, shall be conclusive on the question of such service.

Section 9: When all the members are present at any meeting, however called or notified, and sign a written consent thereto, or when the members present, and the members not present at such meeting, give their written consent thereto, and such written consent is made a part of the records of such meeting the proceedings had at such meeting are valid, irrespective of the manner in which the meeting is called, or the place where it is held.

Any member of the Board of Directors of this corporation may be removed from office according to paragraph 103, section 2 of the Free Methodist Discipline of 1935 and any amendments thereto, duly adopted by the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Section 10: At any meeting of the members, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 11: Any regular or called meeting of the members may adjourn from day to day, or from time to time, without further notice, until its business is completed; and any regular or called meeting of the members may adjourn from day to day, or from time to time, without further notice, if for any reason there be not present a quorum to transact business, in person or by proxy, such adjournment and the reasons therefor being recorded in the journal of the proceedings of the members; and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at any meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

Section 12: The President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President, or, in the absence of the President and Vice-President a Chairman, elected by the members present, shall call the meetings of the members to order, and shall act as the presiding officer thereof.

Section 13: The Secretary of the corporation shall act as Secretary at all meetings of the members, and in his absence the presiding officer may appoint any person to act as Secretary.

Section 14: At the regular annual meeting of the members held in the month of October subsequent to the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, the members entitled to vote shall elect by ballot a Board of Directors as constituted by these by-laws, and the articles of incorporation of this corporation.

Section 15: All proxies must be in writing, executed by the members themselves, or by their duly author-

ized attorneys, and must be filed with the Secretary of the corporation at or before the meeting of the members.

ARTICLE II

Directors

Section 1: The corporate powers, business, and affairs of the corporation shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by a board of five directors.

Section 2: No person shall be elected or appointed a Director unless he is a member in good standing of The Free Methodist Church of North America. If a Director shall cease at any time to be a member in good standing of the Free Methodist Church of North America, he shall thereby cease to be a Director, but no act of the corporation, its officers or directors shall be invalidated by reason thereof.

Section 3: Each Director shall hold office for eight years or for such shorter period as he may have been appointed, and until his successor shall have been elected.

Section 4: Any vacancy occurring in the office of Director by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise except vacancies caused by the removal of the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of the Civil Code of the State of California, shall be filled by an appointee of the majority of the remaining Directors, though less than a quorum. Such Director, so appointed, shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the members, or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose prior thereto.

When one or more of the Directors shall give notice of his or their resignation to the Board, effective at a future date, the Board shall have the power to fill such vacancy or vacancies to take effect when such resigna-

tions shall become effective. Each Director so appointed shall hold office during the remainder of the term of office of the resigning Director or Directors, or until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 5: Immediately after the election of Directors at the annual meeting of the members on the first October subsequent to the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, the Directors shall meet for the purpose of organization, the election of officers, and the transaction of other business.

Section 6: All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as directed from time to time.

Section 7: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held annually, without notice, on the last Tuesday of October of each year at the hour of 9:00 o'clock A. M.

Section 8: Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called at any time on the order of the President or on the order of two (2) or more Directors.

Section 9: Notices of special meetings of the Board of Directors, stating the time, and in general terms the purpose or purposes thereof, shall be mailed or telegraphed or personally delivered to each Director, not later than five days before the day appointed for the meeting. An entry of the service of notice, given in the manner above provided, shall be made in the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and such entry, if read and approved at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, shall be conclusive on the question of service. If all the Directors shall be present at any Directors' meeting, however called or noticed, and sign a written consent thereto which is entered on the record of such meeting, or if the majority of the Directors are present, and those not present sign a written waiver of notice of such meeting,

whether prior to or after the holding of such meeting, which said waiver shall be filed with the Secretary of the corporation, and entered on the record of such meeting, any business may be transacted at such meeting, and the transactions of such meeting shall be as valid as if had at a meeting regularly called and noticed.

Section 10: Each Director shall register his address with the Secretary, and notices of meetings mailed or telegraphed to such address shall be valid notices thereof.

Section 11: A majority of the whole number of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and every act or decision of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, made or done when duly assembled, shall be valid as the act of the Board of Directors; but a majority of those present at the time and place of any stated or special meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the same from time to time, or from day to day, without further notice, until a quorum shall attend, and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

Section 12. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to borrow money on behalf of the corporation, including the power and authority to borrow money from any of the members, directors or officers of the corporation, and otherwise to incur indebtedness on behalf of the corporation, and to authorize the execution of promissory notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of the corporation, and to agree to pay interest thereon; to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, assign, exchange, lease, and otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, and otherwise encumber the property, real and personal, and the franchises

of the corporation; to purchase, lease, and otherwise acquire property, real and personal, on behalf of the corporation; and generally to do and perform, or cause to be done and performed, any and every act which the corporation may lawfully do and perform, providing said total indebtedness of the corporation does not exceed the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00).

Section 13: The Directors of this corporation shall serve without compensation, except their actual expenses.

Section 14: The Board of Directors may appoint an executive committee of such Board, and may delegate to such committee any of the powers and authority of the Board of Directors, except the power to adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws. Such executive committee shall be composed of members of the Board of Directors and shall act only in the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall be subject at all times to the control of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1: The executive officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2: All of the officers of the corporation shall be elected by ballot by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

President

Section 1: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors.

He shall have general charge of the business of the corporation, shall execute, with the Secretary, in the name of the corporation, all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed.

Section 2: The President shall also have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Vice-President

Section 1: The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President, in case of the absence or disability of the President.

Section 2: The Vice-President shall also have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Secretary

Section 1: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the members and of the Board of Directors in books provided for that purpose. He shall attend to the giving and serving of notices of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and otherwise. He shall execute, with the President, in the name of the corporation, all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, and, with the President, shall sign all certificates of membership of the corporation. He shall be the custodian of the corporate seal of the corporation, and when so ordered by the Board of Directors shall affix the seal

to deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments. He shall keep and have charge of the journal of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members, the book of by-laws, and such other books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Board of Directors. (He shall perform the duties of the Treasurer in case of the absence or disability of the Treasurer.)

Section 2: In case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, or his refusal or neglect to act, notices may be given and served by the President, or by the Vice-President or by any person thereunto authorized by the President, or by the Vice-President, or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

Treasurer

Section 1: The Treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept, full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books to be kept for that purpose. He shall receive and deposit, or cause to be received and deposited, all moneys and other valuables of the corporation, in the name and to the credit of the corporation, in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation only as directed by the Board of Directors of the corporation and shall take proper vouchers for such disbursements. He shall render to the President of the Board of Directors and to the members, whenever they may require, accounts of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of

Treasurer, subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Seal

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable seal for the corporation, which shall be in circular form, which will contain the following inscription: The Free Methodist Church of North America, Incorporated Jan. 15th, 1937, Los Angeles, California.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1: The Discipline, rules and regulations of The Free Methodist Church as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America shall at all times be a part of the by-laws of this corporation.

ARTICLE X

Section 1: The By-Laws of this corporation may be amended at any annual meeting of the members of the corporation by a majority vote of those present and voting.

¶ 383¾. Form of bequest of money or other personal property: "I give and bequeath to the Free Methodist Church of North America the sum of..... dollars, to be used and appropriated by that body to religious, charitable, missionary or educational purposes."

Real estate:

"I grant and devise (full description of the land)."

CHAPTER II

RESIDENCES, ADDRESSES, ETC.

¶ 384. Bishops

William Pearce, Rochester, New York
Leslie R. Marston, Greenville, Illinois
M. D. Ormston, Spring Arbor, Michigan
C. V. Fairbairn, McPherson, Kansas

¶ 385. Publishing Agent

B. H. Gaddis, Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 386. Editors

Carl L. Howland, The Free Methodist,
Winona Lake, Indiana
Benjamin L. Olmstead, Sunday-school Publications,
Winona Lake, Indiana
A. L. Brown, The Sunday School Worker,
Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 387. General Secretaries

Harold H. Winslow, General Missionary Secretary,
Winona Lake, Indiana
A. L. Brown, General Sunday School Secretary,
Winona Lake, Indiana
R. B. Campbell, General Evangelistic Secretary,
Winona Lake, Indiana
Ernest Keasling, General Y. P. M. S. Superintendent,
Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 388. Treasurers

B. H. Gaddis, General Missionary Board, Church Extension Society, Board of Conference Claimants, Bishops' Fund, Sunday School Board, Board of Education, Church and Parsonage Aid Fund, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Lillian T. Beeson, General Woman's Missionary Society, Young People's Missionary Society, 7 Church Street, Perry, New York.

CHAPTER III

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS

¶ 389. Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America

Office: Winona Lake, Indiana

President, L. R. Marston — Secretary, C. A. Watson

Terms expire in 1947

William Pearce — R. Harrington

Terms expire in 1951

L. R. Marston — C. A. Watson — J. M. Daniels

¶ 390. Board of Administration

Bishop William Pearce
Bishop L. R. Marston
Bishop M. D. Ormston
Bishop C. V. Fairbairn
J. T. Logan, Secretary
J. M. Daniels
A. J. Hill
E. W. Walls
L. E. Cook
W. A. Sayre
C. A. Kress
F. D. Voller
G. W. Bodine
C. A. Watson
F. A. Daw
A. W. Secord
J. E. Wade
R. Harrington
L. H. Kresge
M. L. Barton
C. DeCan
F. J. Archer
A. R. Martin
B. E. Iler
B. R. Williams
G. M. Cottrill
W. L. Woods
H. C. Gensch
F. Hendrickson

¶ 391. Executive Commission

Bishop W. Pearce, Chairman — C. A. Watson, Secretary
J. E. Wade
J. M. Daniels
L. H. Kresge
E. W. Walls
L. E. Cook

¶ 392. Commission on Missions

Bishop M. D. Ormston, Chm. — H. H. Winslow, Secretary
A. J. Hill
F. A. Daw
R. Harrington
M. L. Barton
C. DeCan
F. J. Archer
Carrie T. Burritt
Ella Maze Daniels

¶ 393. Commission on Christian Education

Bishop L. R. Marston, Chm. A. W. Secord, Secretary
A. R. Martin B. R. Williams
C. A. Kress W. A. Sayre
B. E. Iler

¶ 394. Commission on Evangelism, Charities, and Church Extension

Bishop C. V. Fairbairn, Chm. F. D. Voller, Secretary
G. M. Cottrill H. C. Gensch
G. W. Bodine F. Hendrickson
W. L. Woods

¶ 395. Central Board of Conference Examiners

Bishop William Pearce Pres. B. L. Olmstead, Secretary
C. L. Howland G. M. Cottrill
C. A. Watson

¶ 396. Y. P. M. S. Council

Ernest Keasling, Supt. E. Stanley Watkins
Douglas Russell David P. Smith
Dale Cryderman

¶ 396½. Revision Committee

R. R. Blews, Editor-in-Chief F. A. Daw
A. W. Secord

CHAPTER IV

CONSTRUCTIONS OF LAW BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

DECISIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND BISHOPS

Approved by General Conferences, and General Conference resolutions having the force of law

From Journal of 1866

¶ 397. 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."

¶ 398. Omitted because covered by later legislation.

¶ 399. 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 in 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 in full connection after but one year's trial, be disapproved.

¶ 400. 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

¶ 401. 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

¶ 402. 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 resolution or reports.

¶ 403. 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.

¶ 404. No secretary of any annual conference has a right to insert anything in the conference records other than actual conference business.

¶ 405. Resolved, That we disapprove of the practice of calling a quarterly conference together in any other way than that prescribed by the Discipline.

From Journal of 1874

¶ 406. 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

¶ 407. 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.

¶ **408.** Omitted because superfluous.

¶ **409.** 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

¶ **410.** Omitted as obsolete.

¶ **411.** Omitted as obsolete.

¶ 412. 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.

¶ 413. 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

¶ 414. 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.

¶ 415. 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.

¶ 416. 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

¶ 417. 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 superin-

tendents 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 439.)

From Journal of 1894

¶ 418. 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.

¶ 419. 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."

¶ 420. "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."

¶ 421. 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.

¶ 422. 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

¶ 423. 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.

¶ 424. 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 afterwards 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.

¶ 425. 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

¶ 426. 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 mem-

ber 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.

¶ 427. 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.

¶ 428. 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 co-operation 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.

¶ 429. Omitted as obsolete.

¶ 430. 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.

¶ 431. 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.

¶ 432. 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.

¶ 433. Omitted as obsolete.

¶ 434. **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.

¶ 435. Omitted, because superfluous.

¶ 436. 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."

¶ 437. **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 practice referred to is a plain violation 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."

¶ 438. 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."

¶ 439. 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 417.)

¶ 440. Omitted, because superfluous.

¶ 441. 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

¶ 442. 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 minorty 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.

¶ 443. 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.

¶ 444. 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.

¶ 445. At the forty-ninth annual session of the Genesee Conference held at Ransomville, New York, September 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, New York, 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.

¶ 446. 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 exceedingly irregular, and for the bishop to act in such capacity is highly improper.

Adopted.

¶ 447. 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 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.

¶ 448. 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, Kansas); 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, Kansas, 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.

From Journal of 1915

¶ 449. Oil City Conference. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew. On page 370 of the journal is the following: "June B. Horning, having been recommended by the quarterly conference as a suitable person to be received on trial in the annual conference, was, on motion, received."

The bishop ruled that this action would deprive her of her seat in the conference held under ¶172 (4) of the Discipline.

Decision approved.

¶ 450. South Dakota Conference. Ruling of B. R. Jones. Session of 1913. Journal, page 270.

"Winnie Ashcraft's name was called and her character passed. She had a standing of 85 in Bible doctrine. On motion, she was discontinued from probation,

Bishop Jones having decided that those women whose home duties interfered with their being free to take any appointment were not eligible for reception on trial in the traveling connection."

Decision sustained.

¶ 451. Oil City Conference. Ruling of Bishop Wilson T. Hogue. Page 318 of Journal. The secretary read a letter from T. C. Goodrich, a former member of the conference, requesting a certificate of standing, and Bishop Hogue ruled that he not being a member of the church his request could not be granted.

Ruling sustained.

¶ 452. Southern Oregon Conference. Ruling of Bishop W. T. Hogue. Records of 1912, p. 20.

"The following communication from Bishop W. T. Hogue, in reply to a communication from the secretary of the conference in regard to the resignation of District Elder B. F. Smalley and the appointment of W. E. Goode as elder, was accepted as the decision of the conference:

" 'Replying to yours of March 28th would say: Brother Smalley did not indicate to me that the last quarterly conference had been held or I should have made no appointment, inasmuch as any appointment I might make would require the ratification of that body. As it is, the conference on assembling will have to elect some one to sit on the stationing committee in Brother Smalley's place.' "

Decision sustained.

¶ 453. Susquehanna Conference. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew. Conference Journal, pages 156, 157.

"H. L. Crockett, attorney for the church, notified Rev. W. B. Roupe that the charges upon which he had been suspended by the committee would be presented to the annual conference at its next session. Rev. W. B. Roupe then notified H. L. Crockett as follows:

" 'I hereby withdraw from the Free Methodist Church and the Susquehanna Conference.'

"H. L. Crockett then states he received a letter from W. B. Roupe, a few weeks later stating, 'Since I have become able to make this defense I would request that you destroy the letter of withdrawal and go on with the trial, unless the charges are withdrawn, in which case also destroy the letter.'

"The president of the conference stated to the conference that it was their prerogative to decide whether they would accept the withdrawal of W. B. Roupe from the church and conference, as mentioned above, or would permit him to withdraw it as requested in the second communication and permit the trial to go on.

"Pending the consideration of this case, the question was raised, Were these communications from W. B. Roupe to be considered as officially received by the conference, since they were addressed to H. L. Crockett, attorney for the church in the case, and not addressed to the secretary or some official of the conference? The president decided that they were officially received by the conference.

"On motion the conference decided to accept his withdrawal from the church and conference under charges, as stated in his first communication.

"O. B. Russell, who had been requested by W. B. Roupe to act as his attorney, took an appeal to the General Conference from the ruling of the president and the action of the conference."

Decision sustained.

¶454. New York Conference. Ruling of Bishop William Pearce. Page 153 of the Journal.

"Upon a question submitted to the chair for decision, i. e.: Whether A. G. Miller is eligible to a re-election to the Wilkes-Barre District, having served same as such together with the Windsor District, for two years suc-

cessively, and then independently of said Windsor District for two successive years more, making four consecutive years of travel as district elder over both districts. Chair decided that the Discipline was 'incontrovertibly plain' on this point, and hence A. G. Miller was not eligible to a re-election to the Wilkes-Barre District."

Ruling approved.

¶ 455. New York Conference. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew. Conference Journal, page 221.

"Following a motion for the renewal of deaconess' license of persons who were also evangelists the president called attention to Paragraph 154, and stated that in his opinion persons who held an evangelist's license were not entitled to deaconess' license, but because some have been granted by his predecessors he would permit the motion to pass, enter his protest and refer the matter to the forthcoming General Conference."

Opinion expressed by the bishop approved.

¶ 456. New York Conference. Ruling by Bishop W. A. Sellew. Pages 203, 204 of Journal.

"If an annual circuit meeting has met and elected a delegate to the annual conference, can one of the points on the circuit be set aside to form a new circuit and a delegate be elected to represent said circuit? In which case what is the standing of the delegate who is first elected?"

1. The district elder may divide the circuit, according to the Discipline, Paragraph 140, even after the annual circuit meeting has been held and a delegate has been elected.

2. If the circuit is so divided, the delegate first elected represents the other part of the original circuit.

Decision sustained.

¶ 457. Wabash Conference. Ruling of Bishop B. R.

Jones. In conference of 1914 the following question was asked the president:

"Is it illegal for a quarterly conference held at the close of the conference year to fix time or place for a camp meeting to be held the coming year?"

Answer: "Ordinarily such action would not be considered strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, but conditions sometimes arise which justify such action."

Decision approved.

¶ 458. North Indiana Conference. Ruling by Bishop B. R. Jones. Records of 1912, page 113. "The legality of the election of Bert Mellott, a lay delegate of the newly-organized circuit, West Side, South Bend, was called in question. The chair ruled that, as Monroe Williams' name appeared upon both credentials and as E. J. Bean was still a member of South Bend class, that the two named circuits are only one; therefore, B. Mellott's election as delegate was illegal. B. Mellott retired."

Decision approved.

¶ 459. Omitted, because superfluous.

From Journal of 1919

¶ 460. At a session of the Louisiana Conference the following question was asked Bishop W. A. Sellew:

"If a person having been recommended by the district quarterly conference of which he is a member for admission on trial, and the same person is recommended by the same district quarterly conference for local deacon's orders, could such a person at the same session of the annual conference be received on trial and ordained local deacon?"

The president ruled as follows: "In my opinion, he cannot, because as soon as he is received on trial he ceases to be a local preacher."

Decision approved.

¶ 461. Decision by Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Central Illinois Conference:

"The facts agreed upon in the case are as follows: In 1915, at its annual session, the Kentucky and Tennesee Conference granted to W. R. Garrison a certificate of his good standing with a view to his being transferred to the Central Illinois Conference. At the annual session of the Central Illinois Cnference, held at Cowden, Illinois, September 13-16, 1916, this certificate was presented to the conference and W. R. Garrison was duly received into the conference after having been transferred by Bishop W. T. Hogue.

"It appears, however, that the Kentucky and Tennesee Conference held its annual session for 1916 on the same week as Central Illinois, and that the Kentucky and Tennessee Conference was in session at the same time that this certificate was received by the Central Illinois Conference.

"This fact made this certificate null and void, and W. R. Garrison was actually a member of the Kentucky and Tennessee Conference at the time he was received by the Central Illinois Conference.

"I, therefore, decide that the transfer made by Bishop Hogue and his reception by the Central Illinois Conference were both illegal, and that W. R. Garrison is not a member of this conference but of the Kentucky and Tennessee."

Decision disapproved.

¶ 462. Decision of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Oregon Conference. The case was substantially as follows: The amount assessed for conference claimants at the time of its session in 1915 was 45 cents a

member. During the ensuing conference year the executive committee increased the apportionment to 50 cents. At the next session of the conference in 1916 the question was raised as to whether the conference would be expected to pay 45 cents or 50 cents a member for the year just closing. The president rendered the following decision:

"In my opinion only 45 cents can be assessed against the conference this year."

Decision sustained.

¶ 463. Decision of Bishop W. A. Sellew, at the North Michigan Conference in 1915: A recommendation for evangelist's license was brought before the quarterly conference at the first session of the year, having been made by a society meeting prior to the last session of the annual conference. There was a question raised as to the legality of granting the license. The district elder ruled that it was legal. The case was appealed to the annual conference to be answered by the bishop.

The president decided that in his opinion it was legal, as it was acted upon by the first session of the quarterly conference after the recommendation was made by the society.

Decision approved.

¶ 464. Omitted as obsolete. On instrumental music.

¶ 465. Decision of Bishop W. T. Hogue made at the Colorado Conference in 1916.

The question of granting a quarterly conference evangelist's license to Mrs. Rose Cooper was rejected by the Pueblo District quarterly conference on the grounds taken by the district elder that she was not present and had not brought up her course of studies.

The president ruled that under the circumstances,

and inasmuch as Mrs. Rose Cooper was an efficient missionary among us, the license could have been granted.

Decision approved.

¶ 466. Decision of Bishop W. A. Sellew on the validity of an evangelist's license.

A sister with an annual conference evangelist's license verbally withdrew from the church. The official board finally at a second (not verbal but written) announcement of withdrawal, accepted it. Afterward she requested to be received again into the church and accordingly her request was granted in harmony with Paragraph 78 of the Discipline. Does this action include reinstatement as an annual conference licensed evangelist?"

The president decided that the restoration of her membership by the official board did not apply to her evangelist's license which could only be granted by the quarterly conference.

Decision approved.

¶ 467. Decision of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Southern California Conference. Records of 1917.

At the third sitting, Edward K. Inaba, lay delegate from the Port Los Angeles work, handed in his credentials and took a seat in the conference.

At the fourth sitting, Edward K. Inaba, having been recommended by the Los Angeles District quarterly conference as a suitable person to be received on trial and the committee on the preliminary course of study having reported that he had passed a satisfactory examination, on motion, he was received on trial.

At the fifth sitting, the president ruled that since Edward K. Inaba had been received on trial, in harmony with the Discipline, his relation as lay delegate

has automatically ceased. His name was therefore stricken from the roll.

Ruling disapproved.

¶ 468. Report of Committee on Judiciary.

"If a conference minister fails to use his certificate of good standing and general acceptability, given with a view to transfer, when does the life of said certificate cease?

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that the life of such certificate ceases at the calling of the roll at the first sitting of the ensuing session of the annual conference giving it.

"Also, that such a certificate given by a quarterly conference expires at the calling of the roll at the first sitting of the ensuing session of the annual conference within whose bounds the quarterly conference is located."

Report adopted.

¶ 469. Report of Committee on Judiciary:

"If a minister shall present a certificate of good standing and general acceptability to an annual conference, and be transferred to said conference by the presiding bishop, such transfer having been made after the conference granting said certificate had convened in its next annual session following the session in which the certificate was given; where does such preacher hold his membership?

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that the transfer was legal, and the membership of said preacher is in the conference to which the transfer has been made."

Report adopted.

¶ 470. The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference

that forcing a workman to join the union or leave his job constitutes coercion."

From Journal of 1923

¶ 471. Decision of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Kansas Conference. The following was taken from the records of the Wichita District quarterly conference:

"On a complaint from the Wichita charge in regard to the division of the circuit, and since there seems to be a discrepancy between the constitution of the Mission of Redeeming Love and Paragraph 160, section 11, of the Discipline on that point, we the quarterly conference of the Wichita District, appeal to the bishop of the conference for a decision on this action."

The bishop's ruling follows: "I decide, 1. That it was a violation of the Discipline for the district elder to divide the Wichita circuit without the consent of the preacher in charge and the official board. The Discipline, Paragraph 160, section 11, must take precedence over the constitution of the Mission of Redeeming Love, even though the latter may have been approved by action of the General Conference. 2. That the society formed as the Mission Society is still a regular society and cannot be dissolved except as provided for in the Discipline."

The decisions of the bishop were approved.

¶ 472. Ruling of Bishop W. H. Clark in the New York Conference.

After reading in open conference Paragraphs 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 of the Digest of Free Methodist Law, and after a statement that in the church record of the society he was about to leave, a preacher had made the notation opposite the name of his wife,

"transferred to another circuit," but had not given a church letter, the following questions of law were asked of the president of the conference:

Question 1. As no church letter was given, does not the membership of said person remain in said circuit, notwithstanding said notation?

Question 2. Is not said person amenable to said circuit for her conduct, notwithstanding said notation?

The bishop's answer to both questions was, "Yes."

Decisions approved.

¶ 473. Ruling by Bishop D. S. Warner in the New York Conference.

The following question was submitted to the president for decision: Can a quarterly conference legally adjourn at its second sitting to meet in its third sitting in another place, several miles distant, and after an interval of nearly three weeks?

The decision was, "Yes."

Decision approved.

¶ 473½. Decision of Bishop D. S. Warner in the Illinois Conference.

An appeal taken by W. J. Bone, from the decision of District Elder F. D. Brooke, of the Chicago district, as to the eligibility of Sadie Hill to a seat in the annual conference.

The district elder ruled that she was not eligible to a seat in the annual conference while on trial in that body. The bishop sustained the ruling of the district elder.

Decision of the bishop approved.

¶ 474. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Southern Oregon Conference.

Question 1. If a pastor appointed to a circuit declines to occupy the parsonage, has he the right to

rent the parsonage to other parties without the consent of the official board?

Answer: "I think not."

Question 2. If a preacher appointed to a circuit declines to occupy the parsonage, has the official board the right to rent the parsonage without the consent of the preacher in charge?

Answer: "I think they have."

Question 3. If the official board rents the parsonage to other parties, has the preacher in charge the right to demand, and is the official board under obligation to pay, said rent to the preacher in charge?

Answer: "I think he is entitled to the rent."

All three decisions approved.

¶ 475. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Louisiana Conference.

The following question of law was submitted to the chair by J. M. Manchester: "Is it a violation of our rule on dress, according to our book of Discipline, for persons who are members of the Free Methodist Church to wear feathers and artificial flowers on their hats?"

Answer: "In my opinion, it is."

Decision approved.

¶ 476. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the East Texas Conference.

The president's decision in the case of L. V. Maund: 1. The last annual conference imposed a penalty upon him, resulting from a bill of charges, of suspension from the ministry and from the church for two years. In my opinion the conference went beyond its authority in doing so, as suspension of a minister can only be for one conference year. I decide that he has served out the time of suspension and is now entitled to a seat in the conference.

2. As his case has now been referred to a committee on ministerial relations by the conference, I decide that the committee cannot consider anything contained in the bill of charges upon which he was suspended at the last conference.

Both decisions approved.

¶ 477. Ruling by Bishop D. S. Warner in the Southern Oregon Conference.

The following questions were asked and answered by the president, from whose decision an appeal was taken to the answer on question 1.

Question 1. In forming a new society does Paragraph 77 of the Discipline provide for receiving into the church as full members persons who have had no previous connection with any church or religious society nor have served on six months' probation?

Answer: It is my understanding that Paragraph 77 provides for receiving members in such manner in organizing a new society.

Question 2. Would it be a violation of Paragraph 75 of the Discipline to receive members into the church in full connection who have not been on probation or connected with any church or religious society or organization?

Answer: Yes.

Question 3. Would a preacher receiving members in such a manner be deemed guilty of maladministration of the Discipline?

Answer: Yes.

All three decisions sustained.

¶ 478. Ruling of Bishop D. S. Warner in the Southern California Conference.

It was stated that the Bethel society had voted their intention to transfer in a body to the Ontario society at a future date, if permitted to sell their

church property and take it with them as a part of a church building fund in Ontario, and requested permission of the conference to do so. It was moved and seconded, that the request be granted. It was moved and seconded, as a substitute, that $300.00 of the proceeds be appropriated to the Chino society. After some discussion the previous question was moved and seconded. Pending this a point of order was raised on the substitute. The president made the following ruling:

"Inasmuch as there is not at this time a bona fide sale of the property, and it appears there will be no sale of the property unless the proceeds of said sale may be taken to assist in building a church in Ontario, therefore the substitute motion is out of order."

An appeal was taken from the ruling of the chair.

Decision approved.

¶ 479. Ruling of Bishop W. Pearce in the Ohio Conference.

A resolution was introduced recommending that those districts of the conference which are served by one elder, where there is no district elder's home, take steps to secure additional elders' homes at suitable locations, and until this is done recommending that rent be raised for elders' homes separate from elders' salaries.

The chair ruled that it is not in the province of the annual conference to recommend that a district or districts which do not have a district elder's home should provide the same or in lieu thereof pay the rent for a district elder's home.

Decision sustained.

¶ 480. Whereas, A member who is accused of unchristian conduct is suspended from all offices pending the outcome of the trial; be it

Resolved. That it is the sense of this General Conference that conviction of unchristian conduct would continue the suspension from said offices.

¶ 481. Omitted because of wrong numbering in previous editions.

From Journal of 1927

¶ 482. At the session of the Minnesota and Northern Iowa Conference, presided over by B. J. Vincent by appointment of Bishop W. H. Clark, September 13-19, 1925, the president was asked whether it was legal or disciplinary in reporting members to conference to omit the names of those members whose conference claims are difficult to collect or who have seemingly lost interest in the church.

The president ruled as follows: "The pastor is bound by the Discipline to include in the number of members which he reports to conference all the people whose names are retained on the membership records on the circuit."

Decision approved.

¶ 483. The following question was asked the president of the Chicago District quarterly conference: Has a pastor the right to refuse a certificate of membership, properly made out and signed, on the ground that the bearer lives nearer the church giving him the letter than the church to which he wishes his membership transferred?

The district elder, F. D. Brooke, ruled that the church had no right to refuse her own paper and that the pastor should receive the certificate of membership.

An appeal was taken to the president of the next session of the annual conference. Bishop W. H. Clark decided, "I sustain the ruling."

Decision approved.

¶ 484. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the West Kansas Conference. Question: Is it a violation of the Free Methodist Discipline for our members to join the Ku Klux Klan? Answer: In my opinion membership in the Klan is a bar to membership in the Free Methodist Church.

Ruling approved.

¶ 485. At the session of the North Michigan Conference of 1923 the following question was asked Bishop W. A. Sellew: "Can the quarterly conference at its last session for the conference year fix the time and place of holding the first session for the ensuing year?"

Bishop Sellew answered as follows: "In my opinion it has authority to fix either the time or place or both."

Decision approved.

¶ 486. The secretary of the Southern California Conference asked the president, Walter A. Sellew, the following question: How shall I list Lillian Pool Burnett in the conference minutes, she having been located according to Paragraph 120 of the Discipline?

The president rendered the following decision: "When a woman who is a member of an annual conference and is an ordained deacon, marries a preacher who is a member of an annual conference and is located under Paragraph 120 of the Discipline, such a woman should be listed as an ordained local preacher."

Decision approved.

¶ 487. The president of the Pasadena District quarterly conference decided that a local preacher's license could not be granted subsequent to the session of the quarterly conference on condition that the applicant appear before the district elder

and give satisfactory answers to the disciplinary questions.

An appeal was taken from this decision to the annual conference.

Bishop D. S. Warner confirmed the ruling of the president of the Pasadena District quarterly conference.

Decision approved.

¶ 488. At the Oil City Conference the question was asked: If an annual conference evangelist in the interim of conferences makes engagements for meetings beyond the ensuing conference, can it be legally said that he has broken the Discipline?

The president, Bishop Selley, decided as follows: "It is my opinion that a preacher who has been appointed to the evangelistic relation by his annual conference is authorized to make evangelistic appointments beyond the date of the next annual conference to which he belongs, but such appointments must be conditioned upon the conference continuing him in evangelistic relation for the following year. If for any reason his conference should not grant him that relation and should appoint him to a charge he would be under obligation to cancel his evangelistic engagements and take the work assigned him by his conference."

Decision approved.

¶ 489. At the session of the West Kansas Conference held August 6, 1924, the following question was asked the president, Bishop D. S. Warner:

"Is it contrary to the law or spirit of our Discipline to retain or to receive members into the Free Methodist Church who are members of any secret society for the purpose of keeping up their life insurance?"

The president's answer was, "I think that it is."

Decision disapproved.

The following resolution was passed:

¶ 490. Resolved, That it is distinctly understood that no person can retain membership in a secret society and in the Free Methodist Church at the same time.

¶ 491. Omitted as obsolete. On instrumental music.

¶ 492. In the records of the Oregon Conference, page 344, the following decision is found: "When the name of a certain elder was called, objection was made to passing his character on the ground that he had co-operated in placing an instrument of music in the Central Church in Portland, of which he was pastor, and using the same in public worship, and a motion was made and seconded that his case be referred to the committee on ministerial relations."

Bishop W. A. Sellew decided that the offense named was not of a character that could be referred to such a committee, and gave Paragraph 436 of the Discipline as the basis of his decision.

Decision approved.

¶ 493. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Kansas Conference.

A question having arisen as to the legality of a probationer in the church sitting as a delegate in the annual conference, the president ruled that it was illegal for a member on probation in the church to serve as delegate to conference.

Ruling approved.

¶ 494. Ruling by Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Susquehanna Conference.

Question: Is a district elder eligible to serve on the conference evangelistic board, under Paragraph 119 of the Discipline? Answer: He is eligible.

Ruling approved.

¶ 495. Decision by Bishop W. H. Clark in the Susquehanna Conference.

Question: Can a local preacher's license be revoked by the quarterly conference that issued it when in their judgment the local preacher has violated the conditions mentioned in said license? Answer: They can revoke it.

Decision approved.

¶ 496. Ruling by Bishop D. S. Warner in the Oil City Conference:

The president ruled that a quarterly conference recommendation for the renewal of an annual conference deaconess license is necessary for the renewal of such license by the annual conference.

Decision approved.

¶ 497. Ruling of Bishop W. A. Sellew in the Louisiana Conference.

The committee reported that they found that two women had been licensed as local preachers and questioned whether or not this was regular. At this juncture a member of the conference submitted the following question: "Is it in harmony with our book of Discipline to license a woman as a local preacher?" The chair rendered the following decision: "I know nothing in the Discipline that forbids it."

Decision approved.

¶ 498. Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that this decision allows women to be licensed as exhorters and local preachers.

¶ 499. Resolved, That the years a woman spends as an evangelist shall not be counted on the years required necessary for her ordination as local deacon.

¶ 500. Decision by Bishop W. H. Clark in the Michigan Conference. Question: If a preacher with-

draws from the conference under censure, or is expelled, can a preacher or society receive him on probation or otherwise? Answer: It is a violation of rule 8, Paragraph 182, of the Discipline, and any preacher doing so is guilty of maladministration.

Decision approved.

¶ 501. In the Iowa Conference an appeal to the chair for a decision concerning conference claims was answered by F. L. Baker, the president appointed by Bishop W. H. Clark, to the effect that the conference claims were not a personal assessment.

Decision approved.

¶ 502. At the session of the Susquehanna Conference held September 12-17, 1925, the question was raised as to the legality of holding a quarterly conference outside the bounds of the district.

Bishop D. S. Warner ruled that it was irregular and undisciplinary.

Decision approved.

¶ 503. In a meeting of an official board with the district elder presiding, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, Complaint has been made to this board that from time to time certain derogatory statements have been made against the pastor by a member of this board; be it therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of this board, do hereby instruct and direct our secretary to communicate with the said member and request him to be present at a meeting of the board in the church, to answer such complaints against him and to state his reasons for such remarks, he having been requested to do so at a meeting of this board held previously, and having failed or refused to do so.

The following record was made of a further action

of the above named official board: "A communication was received from the said member and was read before the board. It was moved and carried that the secretary be instructed to write a letter to him expressing the regrets of the board in session that he has taken the attitude that he has toward the board and church and that this board requests him to refrain from taking part in public worship until such time as he meets with their request."

The quarterly conference of the district took action requesting the president of the conference at its coming session to render a decision on the authority of the official board to take the before-mentioned actions.

Bishop W. A. Sellew rendered the following decisions in the case:

"It is my opinion:

"1. That the action taken by the official board, in the first instance, was a proper action, and that the presiding officer was justified in allowing the board to pass such action." Decision approved.

"2. That the said official board had no right or authority to take the action it did in this case at the later meeting and that the presiding officer of the official board was guilty of maladministration of Discipline in allowing the board to pass such action."

Decision approved.

¶ 504. Resolved, That the proper officers of the various church boards and of the Publishing House be requested hereafter to make a full, detailed statement of the assets and liabilities and net worth, showing their financial standing, and it is ordered that the same be published in the Annual Minutes.

From Journal of 1931

¶ 505. Omitted as obsolete. On instrumental music.

¶ 506. Page 241 of 1930 Journal. Pittsburgh Conference. Ruling by President W. D. Cochran.

Question: 1. After prayerful consideration and brotherly dealing, should Paragraphs 73, 470, and 209(21) be strictly adhered to?

Answer: In my opinion they should.

Ruling sustained.

¶ 507. Louisiana Conference. Page 321 of Journal. Ruling by Bishop G. W. Griffith.

In considering the eligibility of J. W. Sherrell to sit as a delegate in this session, I find the following facts relative to his election:

1. That the said J. W. Sherrell requested letters be granted himself and family in 1926; that the pastor, Mrs. Grace Williams, was not sure what kind of a letter was desired; that a letter of inquiry was sent to the family, who were traveling in Oklahoma, and that the reply did not name a society, but requested a letter of good standing; that Mrs. Williams, the pastor, in the absence of more definite information, sent letters recommending them to membership in another church.

2. That at the ensuing session of the Louisiana Conference, in 1927, upon the representation of J. W. Sherrell that they did not want letters of withdrawal, upon the advice of Frank L. Baker, president of the conference, Mrs. Grace Williams signed such certificate of membership for the five members of the family, said certificate bearing date of the original letter, November 30, 1926.

3. That this certificate of membership was given to the pastor of the Summerville circuit a few days prior to the date of expiration, near the last of November, 1927.

4. That when these letters were read to the Sum-

merville society, that society, under the impression that they had a right to do so, refused to accept them.

5. That the following pastor, J. M. Manchester, ruled that the persons named were members of the Summerville society, on the ground that the church can not refuse her own paper.

6. That said J. M. Manchester gave said J. W. Sherrell and family regular certificates of membership, upon which they were duly organized into a Free Methodist society at Monroe, Louisiana, and that said society held a circuit meeting and elected said J. W. Sherrell delegate to this conference.

In the light of the foregoing facts several irregularities are apparent, but it is my opinion that the society at Monroe is entitled to recognition as a Free Methodist society; therefore its delegate is entitled to a seat in this conference.

Ruling approved.

¶ 508. Ruling of Bishop Griffith in West Kansas Conference.

Joseph Westwood presented a request to be received into the conference on his certificate of location, granted him at his request by the West Kansas Conference, August 18, 1905. The legality of his being received on said certificate of location was questioned, and the president was asked to rule on this point. The president made the following statement and ruling:

I find that the following resolution was adopted by the West Kansas Conference in the fourth sitting of the 38th annual session:

"Whereas, Rev. Joseph Westwood was elected to deacon's orders and ordained by the West Kansas Conference, and was located at his own request, and

later united with the Methodist Episcopal Church by letter, and was recognized as an ordained local deacon; and,

"Whereas, He has again united with the Free Methodist Church by letter and was recognized as an ordained local preacher; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That he be recognized as a local deacon in the Free Methodist Church."

Inasmuch as the Discipline of the Free Methodist Church has been interpreted by General Conference action as holding that uniting with another church forfeits all conference relationships (see Discipline, Par. 431), and inasmuch as a certificate of location is a conference paper containing conference membership in status quo,

I rule that in joining another denomination Joseph Westwood forfeits the privilege dormant in such certificate of location; that he is now a local deacon in the Free Methodist Church, and that it will be necessary for him to come up by the regular disciplinary process if he desires to become a member of the annual conference.

Ruling sustained.

¶ 509. Ruling by Bishop Griffith in New York Conference. Journal of 1928.

Question: Has a district board of trustees the right to rent a district parsonage which has been purchased for a district elder's home? If they do so, have they a right to keep the money received as rent?

Answer: It is my opinion that they have no right to do so without the consent of the district elder concerned. In case the property is so rented without a mutual agreement between the parties concerned, the district elder would have the right to demand for himself, and the board of trustees would be under

obligation to pay, said rent, in harmony with Par. 474 of Discipline.

Decision sustained.

¶ 510. Iowa Conference. Page 127 of Journal of 1927. Ruling by Bishop Zahniser.

The following appeal from the Cedar Rapids district quarterly conference was presented:

"The district elder stated that the Cedar Falls society had restored the membership of J. L. Kent, a former local elder of the Free Methodist Church, whose name had been dropped from the records, and as such his character was to be considered.

"It was moved and seconded, that inasmuch as J. L. Kent was out of the church, he had lost his ministerial relation.

"The district elder ruled that his restoration to membership restored his ministerial relation.

"On motion, an appeal was taken from the decision of the district elder to the annual conference."

Bishop A. D. Zahniser, president of the conference, rendered the following decision:

"Inasmuch as the records show discrepancy between the statement of the appeal and the decision of the district elder and an irregularity regarding the local membership of the party in question, I decide that J. L. Kent as a regularly ordained elder located, was a member of the quarterly conference and amenable to that body and held local membership at Cedar Falls. His name was unofficially dropped from the records, and later, by a vote of the official board, placed on the records. No action appears to have been taken at any time officially disposing of his quarterly conference relation; nor by the annual conference recalling or revoking his parchments. Therefore, he has been and now is a regular member in good

standing both of the local church and of the quarterly conference.

Decision sustained.

¶ 511. Ruling of Bishop Pearce in Susquehanna Conference. Page 173 of Journal of 1927.

Statement: An elder in the conference, whose case is under informal investigation, writes his district elder, requesting that he be allowed to withdraw from the conference and the church. The district elder granted him the privilege of withdrawing on condition that he surrender his credentials. Will an action by the annual conference approving this action make it valid and lawful?

Decision: The district elder acted as the medium of dealing in the case of the preacher in question, on behalf of the annual conference. Under pressure of investigation, the preacher wrote him a letter of withdrawal. The final decision of the case lies with the annual conference.

Decision approved.

¶ 512. Ruling by Bishop Griffith in Oil City Conference. Page 73 of Journal of 1928.

At the thirtieth session of the annual conference, held at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, September 26-30, 1928, complaints against a local preacher on trial were presented, and the question was raised as to whether the quarterly conference had jurisdiction in regard to his case or the annual conference.

The presiding officer made the following ruling:

"According to Par. 409 of the Discipline, a local preacher on trial in an annual conference is not a member of a local society. Par. 198, sec. 2, specifically declares that a preacher on trial holds his church membership in the annual conference. In the light of Par. 246, it is clear that in a case requiring

specific charges and a formal trial, jurisdiction would lie in the quarterly conference of the district where the defendant held his appointment; but in the case of confession of wrongdoing of a flagrant nature, in the light of the first two paragraphs cited, it is my opinion the annual conference has the right to permit a preacher on trial to withdraw from the church under complaints."

Decision sustained.

¶ 513. Platte River Conference. Ruling by Bishop Griffith. Journal of 1930.

The attention of the president has been called to the fact that Carrie H. Randall was elected reserve lay delegate to the General Conference, in the last sitting, while seated as a member of the conference, under the provision of Par. 220, sec. 4, and the question raised of her eligibility to serve.

Inasmuch as the Discipline specifically states that members of the conference by virtue of this provision shall be counted with the preachers in the transaction of conference business, I rule that Carrie H. Randall is not eligible to serve as a lay delegate to the General Conference.

Decision approved.

¶ 514. Ruling by B. J. Vincent, president, in Wabash Conference. Journal of 1931.

The president was asked the following question:

Is it legal for a quarterly conference to grant a certificate of good standing and withdrawal to a conference preacher wishing to withdraw from the church in order to join another denomination?

Answer: While Par. 207, sec. 6, of the Discipline assumes that the quarterly conference is competent to give a conference preacher a certificate of his standing, it seems clear that the granting of such a

certificate is for the one purpose, of the preacher's transfer to another conference within the Free Methodist Church. The purpose of a conference preacher to withdraw from the Free Methodist Church to join another denomination is quite another matter; and I decide that only that body to which the preacher is amenable, his annual conference, is competent to grant him a certificate of standing and withdrawal.

Decision sustained.

¶ 515. Ruling by Bishop Griffith in Louisiana Conference.

The president was asked the following question: Has a society a right to hold a camp meeting apart from the district?

Answer: While I know of no Discipline which specifically provides for a society or circuit holding a camp meeting, it is a custom of long standing among us for a society, and especially a circuit, to appoint and hold what is called a circuit camp meeting when the interests of the church can be furthered by holding such a meeting.

Decision approved.

¶ 516. Omitted because covered by later legislation.

¶ 517. Oregon Conference. Ruling by Bishop Zahniser. Page 35 of the thirty-third annual session.

A question being raised as to the validity of the election of a conference Sunday-school secretary at the morning sitting, the one elected not being a member of the conference, the president decided that one not holding membership within the bounds of the conference could not become a conference official, and that, therefore, there had been no election of a Sunday-school secretary on the ballot taken in the morning sitting.

Decision approved.

¶ 518. Resolution. The following resolution was adopted by General Conference as a substitute for the decisions of Bishop G. W. Griffith to the effect that societies in which musical instruments were used in violation of the Discipline were not entitled to representation in the annual conference, and for the action taken by the Executive Committee approving of said rulings:

Resolved, 1. That we sustain and approve of the action of the Executive Committee and of the rulings of Bishop G. W. Griffith for this emergency only; and,

Resolved 2. That this approval and sustaining of the Executive Committee and of Bishop G. W. Griffith shall not be construed as granting bishops the right to challenge the seat of a delegate in an annual conference of which they are not members, or to inflict a penalty when no such penalty has been made by the General Conference; and,

Resolved, 3. That we request the committee on judiciary to suggest suitable legislation to this conference for its adoption, providing for the trial and infliction of penalty upon a quarterly conference or an annual conference for the violation of the Discipline, and when it is reasonably believed they are in a state of insubordination and in contempt of the Discipline.

(See Paragraphs 260 and 261 for the legislation adopted.)

From Journal of 1935

¶ 519. Omitted as obsolete. On instrumental music.

¶ 520. Ruling by Bishop Pearce in the Susquehanna Conference. "Helen Balch having married, her relation to the conference shall be local deacon, according to Paragraph 486 of the Discipline."

Decision approved.

¶ 521. Rulings by President C. L. Howland in the Minnesota and Northern Iowa Conference.

Question 1. "Is it disciplinary to remove a member from full relationship because of inability to pay conference claims?" Answer: "No."

Decision approved.

Question 2. "Is it permissible to carry a member on the roll of the local church without reporting the same to the annual conference?" Answer: "No."

Ruling approved.

¶ 522. Ruling by Bishop Griffith in the California Conference.

At the session of the California Annual Conference in 1930, R. E. Cochrane was granted an evangelistic relation with quarterly conference membership fixed on the Sacramento district. During the year a vacancy occurred at Oakland, California, a circuit on the San Francisco district, and R. E. Cochrane was appointed pastor there by the district elder who was also district elder of the Sacramento district. Does the quarterly conference relation of R. E. Cochrane remain on the Sacramento district or is he a member of the San Francisco District quarterly conference by virtue of his being appointed pastor of the Oakland circuit?

Decision: Inasmuch as a district elder has power to "appoint" and "change" preachers on his district or districts in the interval of the conference sessions, and, inasmuch as the quarterly conference shall be composed of the traveling preachers and the members of the official boards of the district, therefore it is my opinion that the quarterly conference relation of R. E. Cochrane was transferred from the Sacramento district to the San Francisco district by virtue of his appointment as pastor at Oakland by the district elder.

Ruling approved.

¶ 523. Ruling by Bishop Griffith in the Colorado Conference.

Question 1. "If a preacher on trial in the annual conference is discontinued for cause and the stationing committee fixes his membership on a certain circuit, does that clear him of any charges that may have been brought against him?"

Answer: "It does so far as the conference is concerned for the reason that a preacher on trial in an annual conference is amenable to the conference for his administration only, and his discontinuance by the conference and his church relation fixed at some point in the conference, would carry the implication of full settlement of the case so far as the jurisdiction of the conference is involved."

Decision approved.

Question 2. "In a society meeting or any business meeting of a society, or quarterly conference, has the presiding officer the right to refuse to put a motion that may come before the meeting in the proper way in the regular order of business?"

Answer. "If the motion comes from a lawful member of the assembly and pertains to the prescribed powers and duties of the assembly, it is my opinion he does not."

Decision approved.

¶ 524. Ruling by President C. A. Watson in the Kansas Conference.

The following question was asked the presiding officer: "Where there is an inter-church basket ball league in a town, is it a violation of our Discipline for one of our Sunday schools to organize a ball team and have them take part in the program of the league?"

Decision rendered: "I think that inasmuch as the

Discipline prohibits interschclastic games, that the same principle applies in this case."

Decision approved.

¶ 525. Ruling by President H. F. Johnson in the Oklahoma Conference.

The matter of receiving Rev. F. G. Johnson into the church and conference on his elder's credentials and certificate of good standing from the Church of the Nazarene was taken up. The question was raised as to whether he could be admitted to the conference in full connection without first uniting with a church society and receiving a recommendation by a quarterly conference recommending him as a suitable person to be received. A decision was called for from the chair in the matter and he rendered the following ruling:

Ruling by the President: "A minister from another orthodox church may be received into full connection in the traveling ministry, according to Paragraph 70 of the Digest of Free Methodist Law, and Paragraph 200 of the Discipline, on condition of the presentation of properly accredited ordination papers, plus a certificate of up-to-date good standing and giving satisfactory answers to the questions which we propose to our members and ministers before receiving them into full membership, providing the annual conference is satisfied with his gifts, graces and usefulness and the candidate agrees with us in doctrine, discipline and government."

The question was called for, which was on the substitute for the original motion, that Brother Johnson be received into the conference in full connection after giving satisfactory answers to the questions of the Discipline as to membership in the church and the questions propounded to ministers joining in full connection. The substitute carried. The conference

president asked the questions to the candidate, which were answered satisfactorily, and he was received.

Decision sustained.

¶ 526. Omitted because covered by later legislation.

¶ 527. Kansas Conference. Ruling by B. H. Pearson, president. Journal of 1939 pages 457, 474.

The following questions were asked the president:

1. Are the duties of a conference superintendent so varied and multiplied as to make the appointment of an advisory board or committee advisable?

2. Strictly speaking, is the conference superintendent a district elder?

3. Does the conference superintendent of necessity come under the terms of the time limit as prescribed for district elders in Paragraph 208 of the Discipline?"

Answer by the president:

1. An annual conference may instruct its district elder to work under the general direction of an advisory committee or board of administration, providing there shall be no infringement of the Discipline.

2. There is no disciplinary provision for the election of a conference superintendent. Calling a district elder by some other name, or adding other duties or responsibilities to those which the Discipline prescribes for him, does not make him less a district elder.

3. The district elder, acting as a conference superintendent, does of necessity come under the time limit prescribed in Paragraph 208, Section 12, of the Discipline.

Decision sustained.

¶ 528. Pittsburgh Conference. Decision by Bishop L. R. Marston. Pages 435 and 436 of the Journal

Question: What is the conference relation of Boyers Boyce? It is argued in behalf of the appellant above named: 1. That he was ordained local deacon. 2.

That he was ordained local elder. 3. That he now is a full member in the traveling connection. 4. That he is an elder in the traveling connection and entitled to all the immunities and privileges of that order and relation. 5. In support of these claims it is observed: a. That the appellant's ordination was never forfeited. b. An elder is in no sense of a lower order: i.e., ordination elevates the whole man to whatever order he holds. c. Conference action did (though unwittingly) act as a waiver of conference rights in the matter of educational requirements.

Ruling: The chair rules that the admission of Boyers Boyce to full membership in the conference did not establish his relationship as a traveling elder. A conference member sustains a dual relationship, one as a minister of the church of God defined by his ordination parchments, and one as a member of the ecclesiastical organization. These two relationships do not invariably coincide, as when an ordained minister changes denominational relationships without surrender of ordination parchments, or a minister returns to the denomination after joining another organization and re-establishes conference relationship by repeating the original steps, without, however, submitting to reordination.

In the case in question, Brother Boyce's ordination as an elder stands, empowering him to perform the full office of an elder in divine worship and the ordinances of the church, but his entry into the traveling connection did not automatically establish his conference relationship as that of a traveling elder. He must take the same steps to the highest conference relationship, that of traveling elder, as must the ordained elder when he returns to the Free Methodist Church from another denomination. Two of these steps

Brother Boyce has already taken: (1) He has entered the traveling connection by way of probationary membership of two years in the conference. (2) He has completed the two-year course of study and has been admitted to full membership in the conference with the relationship of a traveling deacon. It remains for Brother Boyce to complete the third and fourth year of the course of study and be admitted by vote of the conference to the relationship of traveling elder.

Decision sustanied.

¶ 529. East Ontario Conference: Ruling of Bishop R. H. Warren. Page 333 of Record.

Question: What constituted gain or loss in membership, as reported in the statistical blanks?

Answer by the president: Gain or loss refers to full members only.

Decision sustained.

¶ 530. Nebraska Conference. Ruling by Bishop L. R. Marston. Page 361 of the Record.

Question: Is C. H. Foe eligible to re-election as district elder, having served eight years continuously, one year in the Platte River Conference and seven years in the Nebraska Conference following the merging of the Platte River and Nebraska Conferences?

Answer: It is the opinion of the chair that C. H. Foe is not eligible for re-election inasmuch as the Nebraska Conference is a continuation of the Platte River Conference, the latter not having disbanded but having merged with the former Nebraska Conference without transfer of membership.

Decision sustained.

¶ 531. Resolution

Whereas, The bishops when presiding at the annual

conferences are asked questions which require rulings on church law; and,

Whereas, The particular case which gives rise to the question may not be fully known to the bishop; and,

Whereas, The Committee on Superintendency has been asked to approve or disapprove of the rulings which shall decide certain differences of opinion for particular cases on the basis of inadequate information; therefore be it

Resolved, That whenever a ruling is requested of a bishop, the question shall be submitted in writing, together with a full written statement of the facts concerning the particular case involved, if there be such, the statement of facts to be prepared by opposing parties in a disputed case; and, be it further

Resolved, That all of this information shall be placed in the hands of the Committee on Superintendency when such decision is referred to the committee.

¶ 532. Resolution on Gold—Rings, etc.

"Resolved, That in the sense of this conference that the rule of our Discipline forbidding the wearing of gold applies to those who wear gold wedding rings, and that the wearing of any kind of finger rings or jewelry is a violation of the rule prohibiting the wearing of superfluous adornment."

¶ 533. Resolutions adopted by General Conference of June, 1939 having the force of law:

It is improper and contrary to the spirit of The Free Methodist Discipline for any person or organized group to circulate a petition which would effect the election of a district elder.

¶ 534. Enactment by the General Conference of 1935:

We hereby declare that the right to conduct a denominational referendum or straw vote inheres in the General Conference alone and is not allowable to any subordinate body, unless by specific act of the General Conference.

¶ 535. At the eightieth session of the Susquehanna Conference the following decision was rendered by Bishop L. R. Marston.

Question: Does a preacher who holds a certificate of standing from his annual conference retain his membership and rights in the quarterly conference, or does he forfeit the same under Paragraph 109 of the Digest of Free Methodist Law?

Answer: Paragraph 109 of the Digest specifically applies to society membership and does not refer to conference membership. To extend the application of this paragraph to conference membership overlooks the essential difference; a member holding a society letter can place it immediately, thereby securing the usual official privileges of society membership.

Whereas, a preacher holding a conference certificate of transfer may not be able to place his certificate for an entire year, and thus could be deprived of his official church privileges.

Therefore, any curtailment of quarterly conference privileges of preachers holding certificates of transfer should be based upon specific legislation and not on application to such as Paragraph 109 of the Digest.

Decision sustained.

¶ 536. Ruling of Bishop Marston at New York Conference.

On a question as to whether or not a lay member for the stationing committee could be elected from the New England District as contemplated in the memorial, the Bishop ruled that such procedure would be irregular

and hence the election of a lay member must be made from the territory served by the elder.

Decision sustained.

¶ 537. Absentee voting. Ruling of Bishop Pearce in the Kansas Conference.

Question: Is it a violation of the Discipline for a pastor to refuse absentee votes in the circuit meeting in electing officers?

Answer: It is not permissible to admit absentee votes at circuit meetings. See also paragraph 412 of the Discipline.

Decision sustained.

¶ 538. Special Days to Be Observed

1. Children's Day. Par. 121, (12, 5).
2. Superannuate Day. Par. 121, (12, C, 2).
3. Day of fasting and prayer for general evangelism. Par. 131, (4).
4. Day of fasting on Friday preceding the session of the annual conference. Par. 171.
5. Men and Missions Day.

¶ 539. Duties of Pastors in Relation to Special Occasions

1. To hold one or more missionary meetings on his circuit during the year. Par. 115.
2. To observe Christian Education Day. Par. 122(6).
3. To hold a Children's Day service the first Sunday in June. Par. 121, (12, 5).
4. To preach a sermon on practical charity. Par. 132, (7).
5. To read Wesley's sermon on evil speaking. Par. 194, (2).

6. To read Wesley's sermon on dress at least once a year in every society. Par. 71, (1).

7. To read the General Rules once a year in every congregation and once a quarter in every society. Par. 209, (16).

8. To see that a fast is held in every society on Friday preceding every quarterly meeting. Par. 209, (20).

9. To preach to the children. Par. 121, (12, b).

CHAPTER V

¶ 540. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America, organized in General, Conference, District and Local units, auxiliary to the Commission on Missions.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to promote missionary intelligence, to deepen interest in world evangelism and to secure systematic contributions for missions.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

1. The general society shall be composed of the general officers, two representatives on the Commission on Missions, one delegate from each conference, and an additional delegate from each conference having over seven hundred active members.

2. The delegates and reserve delegates are to be elected by their respective conference societies at the annual session immediately preceding the session of this society.

3. No person shall be elected as delegate to this body who is not a member of the Free Methodist Church and an active member of the Woman's Miss-

ionary Society, nor any person who is a delegate or reserve delegate to the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The meetings of this society, shall be held quadrennially at the time and place of the General Conference, when a report of its operation, condition and prospects shall be presented. An election by ballot of general officers and representatives on the Commission on Missions shall be held at that time.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. The officers of this society shall be a president, first vice-president and mission study secretary, second vice-president and stewardship secretary, treasurer, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, editor of "The Missionary Tidings," and Junior superintendent.
2. A nominating committee may be chosen to submit nominations to the society.
3. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

1. No person shall be eligible to office in this society who is not a member of the Free Methodist Church and an active member in the Woman's Missionary Society.
2. No general officer may serve more than twelve years consecutively in the same office.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The general officers together with the repre-

sentatives on the Commission on Missions shall constitute a general executive committee to administer the affairs of the organization and to transact business in the intervals of the quadrennial meeting. Five of these officers shall constitute a quorum.

2. The executive committee shall meet annually at the time and place of the meeting of the Commission on Missions.

3. The executive committee shall elect (a) a superintendent of Foreign Boxes and (b) a literature agent and these shall report annually to the executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII

ADVISORY BOARD

There shall be an advisory board of three members elected by the society.

ARTICLE IX

METHODS

No methods of raising money or of conducting meetings shall be used which are not in harmony with the Discipline of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE X

CONTINGENT FUND

Five per cent of the funds of this society shall be reserved as a contingent fund and deposited in a savings bank.

ARTICLE XI

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

A judiciary committee shall be appointed to serve as a court of appeal in case of inquiry into any act or decision of the president of this body, the executive committee or any member thereof, the board of directors or any member thereof. This committee shall con-

sist of three members elected by ballot in quadrennial meeting. Inquiry may originate in any society local, district or conference, but shall be brought before this body only by the executive committee of a conference society.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any Quadrennial Meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Constitution of Local, District, and Conference Units of the Woman's Missionary Society

ARTICLE I

NAME

This society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of ..... local ..... district ..... conference auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to promote missionary intelligence, to deepen interest in world evangelism and to secure systematic contributions for missions.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

1. The payment of twenty-five cents a quarter, or one dollar a year, shall constitute membership in the local society, and the payment of twenty-five dollars raised or given for that purpose shall constitute Life

membership. The payment of ten dollars or more shall constitute membership "In Memoriam."

2. Men are welcomed as honorary members on payment of dues.

3. No one may hold at the same time membership in more than one local W. M. S., but any young woman under thirty may belong both to the W. M. S. and the Y. P. M. S. at the same time.

4. Membership in the local society shall constitute membership in the district and conference.

5. A certificate of membership shall be given when a member transfers from one society to another.

6. The names of the officers of the conference and district societies, together with the names of the members present at an annual meeting shall constitute the roll.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

1. Local meetings shall be held monthly. Each society shall decide at its first meeting how many members shall constitute a quorum.

2. District meetings shall be held quarterly at the time and place of the district quarterly meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

3. The conference society shall meet annually at the time and place of the annual conference. One-half the members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. The officers of this society shall be a president, first vice-president and mission study secretary, second vice-president and stewardship secretary, treasurer, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, Junior superintendent and literature agent, elected by ballot. In the conference society a box superintendent may

also be elected. These officers shall constitute an executive committee to transact business in the interim of meetings. The executive committee shall have power to fill vacancies in the offices of the society. The term of office shall hold until the close of the next annual meeting or until successors shall be elected. The local and district officers may be elected before or after conference. The district presidents shall be members of the conference executive committee.

2. A nominating committee may be chosen.

3. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

1. All conference and district officers and all local presidents must be members of the Free Methodist Church and active members of the Woman's Missionary Society; Junior superintendents must be members of the Free Methodist Church and active or honorary members of either the W. M. S. or Y. P. M. S. All other officers may be either active or honorary members of the W. M. S. and as far as possible must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

2. No local or district officer may serve more than four years, and no conference officer more than eight years consecutively in the same office.

ARTICLE VII

SPECIAL FUNDS

1. No money raised by the payment of dues shall be applied to any special fund nor shall the money raised for special funds be applied on life membership.

2. A working fund for local, district or conference may be raised by offerings and held by the treasurer for such purposes.

CHAPTER VI

¶ 541. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. Ella Maze Daniels, President, Greenville Illinois.

Miss Helen I. Root, First Vice-President and Mission Study Secretary, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Mrs. Jenne H. Howland, Second Vice-President and Stewardship Secretary, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Mrs. Lucy K. Kellum, Corresponding Secretary, 805 Wabash, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Mrs. Ruth L. Cochrane, Recording Secretary, 306 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, California.

Mrs. Lillian T. Beeson, Treasurer, 7 Church Street, Perry, New York.

Miss Alice E. Walls, Editor of "Missionary Tidings," Winona Lake, Indiana.

Mrs. Hazel O. Johnson, Junior Superintendent, 1027 Erie, Youngstown, Ohio.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

Mrs. Ella Maze Daniels, Greenville, Illinois.
Mrs. Carrie T. Burritt, North Chili, New York.

MEMBERS OF ADVISORY BOARD

Mrs. Rebecca E. Sellew, Jamestown, New York.
Mrs. Emma F. Shay, Wessington Springs, South Dakota.
Mrs. Evaline D. Green, McPherson, Kansas.

CHAPTER VII

¶ 542. CONSTITUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS

ARTICLE I

NAME

To promote the spiritual welfare of Intermediate Youth and to provide Christian direction for their legitimate activities there shall be an organization known as the Christian Youth Crusaders of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

1. To lead boys and girls of the intermediate age into a genuine experience of salvation from sin, to promote their spiritual welfare, and to acquaint them with the history, teachings and activities of the Free Methodist Church.

2. To provide a wholesome outlet for some of the characteristic adolescent interests and to provide Christian direction for their week-day activities.

3. To provide opportunities where those who are or become Christians shall receive training and experience in winning others to Christ.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. Members shall be boys or girls of twelve to fourteen years of age, inclusive, who desire to unite

for activities, instruction and worship under the direction of the C. Y. C. The age limit may be extended one year in either direction at the discretion of the director and advisor to meet local conditions.

2. A certificate of membership shall be given to each member, and, unless revoked, shall constitute a certificate of good standing to another local organization of the C. Y. C. or for admission into the Y. P. M. S.

3. Anyone within the proper age limit may belong to the C. Y. C. and the Y. P. M. S. at the same time.

4. Should the conduct of a member become such as to be out of harmony with the principles of the C. Y. C. that member shall be interviewed by the director and the advisor. Failure to respond to the advice and help given shall bring revocation of the certificate of membership and the name of the member shall be placed automatically on the group's prayer list. Should the member's conduct improve, he or she may be reinstated.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

1. The general interests of the C. Y. C. shall be under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education, and promotional activities connected therewith shall be carried on by the general Sunday-school secretary.

2. Each annual conference shall elect a director of the C. Y. C. who shall labor under the direction of the board. The board may nominate.

3. Wherever practicable each local church at a society meeting shall elect a C. Y. C. director for boys and one for girls. Directors must be members of the Free Methodist Church and regular attendants of the Sunday school and church. They shall work under

the direction of the Sunday-school board and in co-operation with the pastor.

4. It shall be the duty of the pastor to act as advisor to the groups in the church or churches under his charge.

5. It shall be the duty of the director and the advisor in conjunction with the official board to arrange for special evangelistic services for the purpose of bringing the intermediate youth into definite experiences of salvation from sin.

6. It shall be the duty of the director to receive and disburse funds and to have charge of materials. He shall report regularly to the Sunday-school board.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. The officers of the local organization shall consist of a president, a vice-president and a secretary.

2. Officers must be members and regular attendants of the Sunday school and shall be elected by ballot from nominations either made or approved by the director and advisor.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

1. C. Y. C. groups shall have three types of meetings: the Sunday-school class, a Sunday afternoon meeting and a week-day or week-night meeting, all of which each member is expected to attend. No meeting shall be arranged at any time so as to interfere with the attendance of members at any of the regular meetings of the church.

a. The Sunday-school class need not be changed in any way except that the director wherever possible should be the teacher of the class.

b. The Sunday afternoon meeting may be devoted to prayer, visiting the sick or any other appropriate Sunday service project, or to study or discussion under the guidance of the director. It is recommended that one of these services each month be devoted to missions.

c. The week-day or week-night meetings may be devoted to health and first-aid instruction, hobby projects or service projects.

2. No methods shall be used nor activities engaged in which are not in harmony with the spirit and letter of the Free Methodist Discipline.

ARTICLE VII

FUNDS

A fund created by voluntary contributions from the members and from other sources, shall be known as the "Activities Fund." The tithe of this fund shall be sent to the conference Sunday-school board to be used exclusively for childhood and youth evangelism. The balance shall be kept by the local group for its own use.

ARTICLE VIII

SUGGESTIVE MATERIALS

A catalogue of printed matter and other materials to assist the organizations in all phases of their work shall be provided by the Commission on Christian Education, subject to the approval of the Committee on Curriculum.

CHAPTER VIII

¶ 543. 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 titie 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 276.)

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 278.).....

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. What provisions have been made for suitable accommodations for the Sunday school?

*14. I approve of the sale, mortgage as proposed.

.....Preacher in Charge

Address .....

.....District Superintendent

Address .....

.....Sec. of Official Board

Address .....

.....

*Cross off "sale" or "mortgage" as the case may require.

CONSENT TO SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

The Trustees of the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America, incorporated in the state of Illinois, 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 be known, who, being duly sworn, did depose and say that he is the secretary of the Trustees of the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church 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 trustees 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 practice 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 practice 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.

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 or ..... 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 PROBATION—LOCAL PREACHER

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 probation, and he is hereby authorized to act in that capacity, according to the Discipline of said Church, provided his spirit and practice 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 PROBATION—EVANGELIST

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 probation, and ..... is hereby authorized to act in that capacity according to the Discipline of said church, provided ..... spirit and practice 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....

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 bishops before it is received.]

I hereby transfer.....to the.....Conference. When....shall have been received by vote of said ..... Conference, ... 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 practice are such as become the gospel of Christ, and h. .. teach

ings 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.*

RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVANGELIST'S LICENSE

This certifies that ..... is hereby recommended by the Quarterly Conference of ..... District to the ..... Annual Conference as a proper person to be licensed by the Annual Conference as an **Evangelist** in the Free Methodist Church of North America, according to the provisions of the Discipline.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of ..... District, 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 practice 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.*

RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE DEACONESS' LICENSE

This certifies that ..... is hereby recommended by the Quarterly Conference of ..... District to the ..... Annual Conference as a proper person to be licensed by the Annual Conference as a **Deaconess** in the Free Methodist Church of North America, according to the provisions of the Discipline.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of .....District, this ..... day of .... 19....

.....*President.*

.....*Secretary.*

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.*

PERMANENT DEACONESS' LICENSE

This certifies ....., of ....., having held an annual conference Deaconess' License for two years, and having served the required time in practical deaconess' work, and having passed a satisfactory examination in the required course of study, is granted this **Permanent License,** and is hereby authorized to officiate as a **Deaconess** in the Free Meth-

odist Church of North America, so long as her spirit and practice are such as become the gospel of Christ.

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 probation 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.]

INDEX

The figures standing alone refer to the numbers of the paragraphs. Those in parentheses, to the divisions of said paragraphs.

ADDRESSES
Bishops, 384
Editors, 386
General secretaries, 387
Publishing agent, 385
Treasurers, 388
Administration, Judicial, 228-266
Administrative boards, 390-396¾
ADMISSION
—See Reception, Members, Conferences
Into church membership, 74-78
Into annual conference, 198-200, 220 (3, 4)
ADVICES, SPECIAL
Chapter on, 63-73½
Smaller, to preachers, 184
Temperance, 63-65
On marriage and divorce, 66-70
Dress, 71
Secret Societies, 72, 73
On war, 73½
Africa, South, Mission Conference, 134-138
AGENT, PUBLISHING
Employment of, 103 (7)
Duties of, 108 (3) (4)
Name and post-office address of, 385
Assistant, election of, 103 (7)
Aggressive evangelism, 165, 130, 131
Amusements, worldly, prohibited, 12
Annual conferences, number of, 153, 285-328
APPEAL
General conference not to abolish privilege of, 61 (3) 62, 98 (3), 99
Cannot be denied, 61 (3), 98 (3)
Court of, 105 (4), 173 (6) [2], 240, 250, 257
Of traveling preachers to general conference, 240
Of local preachers to annual conference, 250
Of members to quarterly conference, 257
Duties of quarterly conference, 173 (5), 257
Of members, how forfeited, 257

Grounds of, to be settled, 231 (6)
Who disqualified to sit on, 231 (5)
May be referred to committee, 239, 241
President of court of, 207 (8), 239
While pending, penalty suspended, 242
While pending, ministerial office not exercised, 242
APPEALS, TRIERS OF
General conference, 240-242
Executive commission, 105 (5)
Annual conference, 250
Quarterly conference, 257
APPENDIX
Contents, 383-540
APPOINTMENTS
Of district superintendents, 208 (12-17)
Of traveling preachers, with limitations, 160
Preacher may be left without, 162
Of local preachers, 217
Of general evangelistic secretary, 95
Of evangelists by annual conference, 167
By district superintendent, restriction, 208 (10)
By evangelists, 220 (8)
APPROPRIATIONS
—See Support
Of mission funds, 109 (7), 110 (3)
Of claimants' fund, 161
Arbitration in insolvencies and disputes, 262-266
Articles of organization and government, 47-62
Articles of religion, 16-38
Attendance upon ordinances of God, 45
BANDS
Who may organize, 224 (1)
Who may become members of, 224 (1)
Rules to be approved by annual conference, 224 (2)
Under direction of whom, 224 (3)
Who may be licensed as band workers, 224 (4)
BAPTISM
Article concerning, 33
Modes of, 340 (1)
Ritual for infants and adults, 341, 342
Bequests, Form of, 383½
Bible, Article concerning, 20
BISHOPS
Members of general conference, 50
How chosen, 55, 95
Term of office begins, 55
Names and post-office address of, 384
Support of, 267
May cite preachers to trial, 261
Call extra session of general conference, 54 (2), 91
To preside in general conference, 55, 94
To preside at annual conferences, 207 (8)
Appoint president of annual conference, 156 (1), 438
May change appointments, 207 (5, .6)

May retire after seventy years old, 207, (12)
To travel at large through the connection, 207 (1)
To oversee spiritual and temporal interests, 207 (2)
Call committee to investigate preacher, 235
To ordain deacons and elders, 203 (1), 204 (1)
To decide questions of law, 207 (8)
Resolution concerning decisions of, 439
Missionary, 56, 95
BOARDS
Administrative boards, 389-396½
Board of administration, 58, 102-104
Directors of general conference, 389
Executive commission, 105-108
Commission on missions, 109-116
Commission on education, 117-129
Commission on evangelism, 130, 131
Charities and charitable institutions, 132
General church extension, 133
General Sunday-school, 123-129
Central, of conference examiners, 382
Woman's auxiliary missionary, 441
Official, 176, 177
Conference evangelistic, 131
Conference claimants, 106
BOOKS
Bad, not to be read, 43
Canonical, of the Scriptures, 20
To be supplied to societies by preachers, 209 (5)
Borrowing without probability of paying, 43
Boundaries of annual conference, 285-327½
Boundaries, disputes, how settled, 328
Bribery at elections forbidden, 194 (6)
Budget system recommended, 269 (3)
BUYING AND SELLING
Buying and selling of slaves, 43
Of goods with duty unpaid, 43
On the Lord's day, 43
Using many words, 43
BURIAL OF THE DEAD
Ritual for, 346
No charge for allowable, 346
BUSINESS
Failure in secular, 262-266
Preacher may vote in official meetings, 430
Call to preach, examination concerning, 182
Camp meetings, held by quarterly conference, 173 (9)
Canadian conferences, relation of, 150
CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP
Reception on probation, 74
Reception into full membership, 75-77
CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY
Reception on probation, 198
Reception into full membership, 199
Divorced person not eligible, 198, (3)

Candidates attending Theological Schools, 350 (III)
Candidates for chaplaincy, 350 (IV)
Catalogue of societies, 209 (9)
Central board of conference examiners, 382, 395
CERTIFICATE
Transfer of membership, 79
Pastors to receive and dismiss members, 209 (1)
Form of to preacher transferring, 543
Form of in case of preacher locating, 543
Form of to preacher received on probation, 543
Who are entitled to receive, 79 (3)
Who are not entitled to receive, 79 (4)
Form of in joining another denomination, 79 (5)
Membership while holding certificate, 79, footnote
Limit of, 444, 461, 468, 469
CHALLENGE FOR CAUSE
Privilege of in all cases granted, 231 (3)
Validity of determined by presiding officer, 231 (3)
Characters of ministers examined, 169 (16)
CHARGES—See Complaints
Church trials, 228-259
Annual conference may try, etc., 238
Law concerning, 234-237, 246, 248
Form of procedure, 243, 244
CHARGES, PASTORAL
Two or more may be united, 414 (2)
Article on, 47
CHARITIES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS
Commission on Charities and Charitable Institutions, 132
Names of accredited institutions, 132 (5)
CHILDREN
Under sixteen exempt from conference claims, 79 (6)
Duty of instructing, 199 (14), 129 (1-3)
May be baptized, 75, footnote
Ritual for baptism of, 340
Children's Day, 120 (2), 129 (5)
Choir singing, prohibited in public worship, 10, 81 (6)
CHRIST
Article on divinity and humanity, 17
Article on resurrection, 18
Articles on sacrifice, 17, 34, 35
Christian men's goods, article on, 37
Christian man's oath, article on, 38
Christian Youth Crusaders, 542
CHURCH
Article on, 31
Article regarding rites and ceremonies of, 36
Free Methodist, origin and character, 1-14
Free Methodist, articles of religion, 16-38
Free Methodist, incorporation, 383

CHURCHES—See Deeds and Trustees
Church property, chapter on, 271-284
Church and parsonage aid, 107-107½
Erection of, 284
Incorporation and deeds of, 277-283
Not to be built on leased land, 284 (3)
Not to be liable for current expenses, 281
To be built plain, 284 (1)
Executive commission to furnish plans for, 284 (5)
To be without debt, 284 (2)
Plans to be submitted to conference committee, 284 (4)
Form for dedication of, 349
To be under care of pastor, 275
All seats in church buildings free, 13, 278
CHURCH AND PARSONAGE AID
Chapter on, 107-107½
Executive commission constitute society, 107
Object of, 107 (2)
To publish reports, 107 (3)
Annual conference society, 107 (4)
Aid, 107 (8)
Amount of aid given 107 (9)
Duties of preachers, 107 (13)
Emergency, 107 (14)
Provision for protection of church property, 107½
CHURCH EXTENSION
Church extension society, general, 133
Church extension and aid society, conference, 133 (5)
Application for aid to board, 133 (9, 10)
Reports, annual, 133 (2)
Churches to pay back fund, 133 (11)
Church finance—See Benevolent Collections, Stewards, Support
CHURCH PROPERTY
Chapter on, 271-284
Trustees, appointment and duties of, 271-275
Conveyance of to conform to law and Discipline, 278
Erection of churches, 284
Sale of churches, 282, 283
Abandoned, to be sold, how, 283
Not to be encumbered for current expenses, 281
Church record, to be kept, 209 (6)
CIRCUITS
Charge of, 160, 164, 208 (1)
Representation of in annual conference, 152
May be divided by district superintendent, 208 (11), 456
May be united, 414 (2)
Must pay expenses of district superintendent, 208 (3)
To be supplied during conference, 210
Under care of district superintendent, 164
Under care of official board, 164, 176 (3, 4)
May request removal of pastor, 208 (7)

CIRCUIT MEETING
Chapter on, 178, 179
Notice of, 178 (1)
Business of, 178 (1-4)
Order of business, 179
When only one society, may elect, 178 (3)
Elect trustees when society is extinct, 272
Special how called, 178 (5)
Not to vote on return of pastor, 178 (6)
Pastor can not vote. 178 (1). 430

CLAIMANTS
Chapter on, 106
Who are, 106 (4)
Allowance, 106 [(5) D to H]
Committee on, 161
Necessitous cases, 106 (9)
Contributive plan for, 106 (2)
Administrative organization, 106 (3)

CLAIMS
Conference—See Duties of Pastors

CLASSES AND CLASS MEETINGS
Section on, 83-85
Origin of, 39, 41
Purpose of, 83
Organization of by preachers in charge, 209 (12)
Attendance on required, 75, 85
Neglect of, how to deal with, 85
General, when held, 84
To be visited by preacher in charge, 209 (13)
To be held separate from testimony meetings, 83 (3)

CLASS LEADERS
Chapter on, 225
Qualifications of, 209 (3)
Duties of, 41, 83, 225 (2-5)
Members quarterly conference, 173 (1)
Members official board, 176 (1)
To be examined by preachers, 209 (3)
Course of reading for, 360

COLLECTIONS ORDERED BY
GENERAL CONFERENCE
Report of to annual conference, 169 (22)
For educational purposes, 122
Claimants, 106
For conference claimants, 128 (2)
General missions, 110 (3), 115 (2)
Annual conference mission fund, 116
For Sunday-school promotion, 128 (1)
Foreign missions, 115 (1)
For the superannuates, 128 (2)
For church and parsonage aid, 107 (13)

Colleges, 118 (3)

COMMISSION ON MISSIONS
Section on, 109-116
Name and objects, 109 (1)
How constituted, 109 (2)
Members of, 109 (2)
Directors of, their duties, 110
Secretary, 111
Treasurer, 112
Woman's auxiliary, 441
Shall meet annually, 109 (4)
Moneys of to be deposited, 112
Home Missions, 113
Commission on Christian education, 117-129
Commission on evangelism, charities and charitable institutions, and church extension, 130-133
COMMITTEES
On ministerial relations, referring cases to, 436, 446
On trial of preachers, 235, 236, 239
On trial of members, 251, 254, 257
On claimants and claims, 161
On appeal cases, 231 (5)
On investigation of debts, 265
On estimating preacher's salary, 269 (1)
On curriculum, 382
In general conference, 95, 241
In annual conference, 160, 161, 239
In quarterly conference, 247, 248
Communion cups recommended, 343
COMPLAINTS—GROUNDS FOR—See Charges
Unscriptural conduct, 231 (1), 233
Violation of general rules, 46
Neglect of duties, 85, 233, 235, 251
Sabbath breaking, 194
Evil speaking, 194
Conformity to the world in dress, 71, 194
Disseminating false doctrines, 233
Unscriptural divorce, 69, 70, 415, 424
Unwarrantable contraction of debts, 194
Nonpayment of debts, 43, 194, 265, 266
Insolvency and fraud, 209 (21)
Inefficiency or want of usefulness, 238
Abandoning work, 235
Smuggling, 43, 194 (5)
Bribery, 194
Communion—See Lord's Supper
Community of goods, article on, 37
CONFERENCE ANNUAL
Chapter on, 151
Names and boundaries of, 285-327½
Members of, 151, 407, 412, 482
Appoint time and place of meeting, 155
President of, 207 (8)
Elect president pro tem, 156 (1)

May increase number on stationing committee, 160
Elect secretary who is custodian of records, 156 (2)
Elect treasurer, 156 (3)
Elect Sunday-school secretary, 124
Elect delegates to general conference, 51, 52, 87, 88
Elect and appoint district superintendents, 159, 208 (13)
Elect lay members of the stationing committee, 160
Elect to deacon's orders, 169 (6), 203 (1)
Elect to elder's orders, 169 (7), 204 (1)
Deliberations, mode of, 158
Division of, how affected, 207 (7)
Questions for consideration, 169
Call extra general conference, 54 (2), 91
Appoint committee on claimants and claims, 161
Organize evangelistic board, 165
To appoint committee on charities, 132 (8)
Vote on changes of Discipline, 62, 98
Admit preachers on probation, 169 (3), 198
Admit preachers into full membership, 169 (5), 199, 200
Terms of probation in, 169
Examine character of preachers, 169 (16)
License and appoint evangelists, 167
Admit evangelists to membership, 220 (4)
Locate preachers, 162, 163, 205, 238
Superannuate preachers, 169 (10), 212
Make superannuate preachers effective, 428
Place on supernumerary list, 169 (9), 211
May leave a preacher without an appointment, 162
May declare a preacher withdrawn, 202
Shall appoint auditor, 156 (4)
Try and expel preachers, 233-242
Grant certificates of transfer, 207 (6)
Receive statistical reports, 169 (17-23), 209 (6)
Receive and appropriate missionary funds, 116
Raise claimants' fund, 106
Raise funds for church extension, 133 (4)
Hear appeals from quarterly conferences, 231-250
Recording reports of, 416
Effect of law decisions in, 417
Not authorized to make law, 399
Permit withdrawal of preachers, 169 (12)
Not authorized to try probationers, 400
Cannot decide who are members of a society, 407
Withdrawal from forfeits relation to, 431, 432
Women eligible as delegates to, 410
Women may be admitted, 166, 220 (4)
Women may be ordained deacon, 166, 486
Organization of new conferences, 207 (7)
At adjournment, conference year closes, 170
Fast day recommended, 171
Referring members to committee on ministerial relations, 436, 492

CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS
Chapter on, 106

CONFERENCE, GENERAL
Chapter on, 86-101
Organization and government, 50-62
Members of, 50-52, 87, 88
Delegates to, how elected, 51, 52, 90
Time of meeting, 54 (1), 92
Credentials, 53
Quorum, 59, 93
Expenses of entertainment, 100
Extra sessions, 54 (2), 91
President, 55, 94, 207(8)
Deliberations and division of house, 60, 97
Powers and restrictions of, 61, 98
Elect bishops and other officers, 55-57, 95
Board of directors, 389
Missionary districts of, 104
Elect editors of official publications, 95
To try appeals, 241
Form new conferences, 49, 207 (7)
Incorporation of, 383

CONFERENCE, QUARTERLY
Chapter on, 173-175
Members of, 173 (1)
Article on, 48
Times and places of meeting, 173 (2); see footnote; 485, 502
President of, 173 (3)
Secretary of, 173 (4)
Duties of, 173 (5)
Not to be called irregularly, 405
May hear complaints and try appeals, 173 (6), 257
May grant second arbitration, 263
To hold camp meetings, 175 (14)
May grant and renew local preacher's license, 173 (6)
May grant evangelist's license, 175 (15)
May review official board records, 173 (5)
Recommend preachers to annual conference, 173 (6)
Recommend local preachers for orders, 173 (7)
Recommend evangelists to annual conference, 175 (15)
Approve appointment of district superintendents, 208 (14)
Receive pastor's report of Sunday schools, 175 (16)
Relation of preacher outside his conference, 426
Special sessions, how called, 173 (2), 208 (14)
Elect district superintendent of the Y. P. M. S., 173 (8)

Conference, South Africa Mission, 134

Conference, Japan, 140-149
Constitution of general W. M. S., 540
Constructions of law, 397-539

Conversation, 43, 86, 183, 186 (5)

Conveyance of church property, 282, 283
Counsel for accused members, 231 (2, 3)
Course of reading for class leaders, 360
COURSES OF STUDY
For traveling preachers, 350-354½
Examination of preachers, required, 203 (1), 204 (1)
Excusing from disapproved, 437
For local preachers, 355-358
Examination of local preachers required, 174, 358
For evangelists, 220 (1), 355, 356
Method of examining evangelists, 356
For deaconesses, 359, 359½
CREDENTIALS OF ORDINATION
Entitled to receive, when, 200 (2)
Forfeited, how restored, 245 (1, 2)
Surrender of, in case of withdrawal, 202, footnote, 427
In case of refusal to surrender, 245 (3)
From minister of another church, 200
DEACONESSES
Chapter on, 222
Members of quarterly conference, 173 (1), 222 (10)
How recommended for license, 222 (3, 4), 180 (3), 496
Training school for, 223
DEACONS
When and how constituted, 166, 203 (1)
Women may be, 166
Authority of, 203 (2)
Local, duties of, 216
Suspension of, 205, 233, 235-238
Ritual for ordination, 348
DEBTS
Not to be improperly contracted, 43
Preachers to be free from, 199 (17)
Preachers not to involve circuit in, 284 (2)
Disputes concerning, 262-266
DECISIONS
Of bishops, have force of law, 417, 518
Of bishops, notification of to be given, 439
Of bishops, subject to appeal, 207 (8)
Who shall decide as to membership in church, 407
Ministers being enrolled as soon as admitted, 401
Church relationship of preachers on probation, 409
The validity of a letter of withdrawal, 418, 453
Church letter held by unworthy person, 414 (1)
Uniting circuits by district superintendents, 414 (2)
Appointment of preachers to two circuits, 414 (3)
Cases of divorce, 415, 424
Courts going outside grounds of appeal, 419
Finality of decisions of courts of appeal, 420
Expiration of term of bishop, 421
Annual conferences trying probationers, 400

Annual conferences enacting law, 399 (1)
Shortening probation of preachers, 399 (2)
Letters to members going to other churches, 79 (5)
Conference resolution not having effect of law, 402
Members withdrawing, not joining any church, 79(4)
Speedy trials of accused members, 403
Interpolations of secretaries in minutes, 404
Calling of quarterly conferences, 405
Application of rule concerning gold, 406
A delegate who is not enrolled, 412
Preservation of rough minutes, 413
Reports adopted by annual conference, 416
Conflicting decisions of bishops, 417
Ministers uniting with other churches, 202
The wearing of neckties, 422
A supply having charge of a circuit 447
Cannot retain membership in two churches, 448
Women's right to seat in conference, 449, 450
On certificates of standing, 451
On appointment of district superintendents, 452
Validity of an evangelist's license, 455, 463, 465, 466
On dividing circuits, 456
Quarterly conference, fixing dates for camp meeting, 457
On ordination of local deacon, 460
Validity of certificate of transfer, 461, 468, 469
Preacher on probation may act as delegate, 467
Dividing circuits, 471
Transferring a member without certificate, 472
Quarterly conference holding adjourned sitting, 473
Preacher on probation not eligible to seat, 473½
Pastor's right to parsonage rent, 474
Wearing flowers and feathers, 475
Suspension of a preacher for two years illegal, 476
Who are eligible in forming new societies, 477
A substitute motion out of order, when? 478
Annual conference recommendation on district superintendent's home, 479
Resolution concerning suspension of a member, 480
Inserting all names on record, 482
No right to refuse certificate, 483
Membership in the Ku Klux Klan, 484
Fixing time of next quarterly meeting, 485
Woman listed as ordained local preacher, 486
Local preacher's license not granted, 487
Engagements of evangelist, 488
Paying dues in secret societies, 489
Membership in secret societies, 490
Use of organ in The Dalles society, 491
Referring preacher to ministerial committee, 492
Member on probation cannot be delegate, 493
District superintendent may serve on evangelistic board, 494

Revoking local preacher's license, 495
Recommendation for deaconess license, 496
Woman licensed as local preacher, 497
Women licensed as exhorters, 498
Women and ordination as local deacons, 499
Preacher who withdraws under censure, 500
Personal assessment for conference claims, 501
Quarterly conference outside of district, 502
Action by official board, 503
Church boards to file statements, 504
Membership in labor unions, 506
Church letters honored, 507
Preacher forfeits conference relation, 508
Trustees no right to collect rent, 509
Membership of local preacher restored, 510
Elder under censure allowed to withdraw, 511
Preacher on trial permitted to withdraw, 512
Lay delegate's eligibility, 513
Quarterly conference cannot give letter of withdrawal, 514
Society's right to hold camp meeting, 515
Eligibility of a Sunday-school secretary, 517
Substitute resolution for bishops' decisions, 518
Official relation of a woman deacon who has married, 520
Inability to pay conference claims not a bar to membership, 521
All members of church to be reported to conference, 521
Quarterly conference relation of a pastor on a circuit, 522
A preacher on probation amenable only to the quarterly conference for his conduct, 523
A presiding officer must put a proper motion, 523
Interscholastic games prohibited, 524
Receiving ministers from other denominations, 525

Dedication of churches, form for, 349

DELEGATES, GENERAL CONFERENCE
Members of, 50, 87
Basis of representation, 51 (1), 52 (1), 88
Method of election, 51 (2), 52 (2), 90
Expenses of, how met, 100 (1)
Absent, not counted, 412

DELEGATES, ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Lay members of, 151
Basis of representation in, 152
Women eligible as, 410
Absent, not counted, 412
Ministerial and lay vote separately, 90
Lay representation on stationing committee, 9, 160
Lay representation on claimants' committee, 161

Diligence enjoined, 183
Disagreement in business, arbitration, 262-266
DISCIPLINE, FREE METHODIST
Must be kept by probationers, 74
Must be kept by members, 75
Must be kept by preachers, 183
Must be enforced, 46, 194, 208 (2)
Dishonesty, 262-266
Dismissing members by certificate, 209 (1)
Disobedience in neglect of appointment, 205
Disputes, settlement of by arbitration, 262-266
Dissemination of false doctrine, 233
DISTRICTS, ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Annual conference divided into, 159
District superintendent over, 159
Supervision of by district superintendent, 208 (1)
Districts may incorporate, 276
Districts, general conference missionary, 104
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
Chapter on, 208
How appointed, 208 (13)
Duties of, 208
Term of office, 208 (12)
Jurisdiction of, 208 (16)
May be traveling or stationed, 9, 208 (13)
Vacancy in office, how filled, 208 (14)
Suspension of, 236, 237
May serve on evangelistic board, 494
Call committee to suspend preacher, 236
How supported, 208 (17)
Quarterly conference, relation to, 208 (16)
May hold official, circuit or society meeting, 208 (6)
On employing a rejected preacher, 208 (10)
May divide circuit, 208 (11)
Divisions of conference, how effected, 207 (7)
Division of the house, 158
Divorce and marriage of divorced persons, 66-70
DIVORCED PERSONS
Preacher shall not officiate at marriage of, 70
Doing no harm, doing good, 43, 44
DRESS
General rule, 43
Chapter on, 71
Drunkenness, 43, 63-65
ECONOMY, TEMPORAL
Economy of time, preachers, 195
Support of effective ministers, 267-270
Support of Conference claimants, 106
EDITORS
How elected, 57 (1), 95
Names and post-office addresses, 386

EDUCATION
Chapter on, 117-122
Support of, 120 (2)
ELDERS
How constituted and ordained, 204
Probation for ordination as, 204 (1)
Duties of, 204 (2)
Suspension of, 236
Appeal of, 240
Are under annual conference jurisdiction, 238
Eligible as delegates to general conference, 51 (2), 88
Eligible as presidents pro tem, 55, 94, 156 (1)
Eligible to election as district superintendents, 160
Local, amenability of, 216
Form of ordaining, 347
ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION
Article on, 28
By the Holy Ghost, 10
Experience of insisted on, 7, 75 (2), 199 (4)
Estimating Allowances—See Support
EVANGELISTIC BOARDS
General board, 131
Annual conference board, 165, 131
Day of fasting and prayer, 131 (4)
EVANGELISTS
Chapter on, 220
Course of study for, 355, 356, 220 (9)
May make appointments conditionally, 488
To report to annual conference, 172
Membership in official board, 176 (1)
District superintendents may act as, 208 (5)
Women, admitted to conference, 220 (3, 4), 443
EXAMINATIONS
Of character, 175 (24)
Of persons called to preach, 182
Of preachers received on probation, 198
Of preachers received into full membership, 199
Of traveling preachers required, 203 (1), 204 (1)
Of local preachers, 214, 355, 356
Of local preachers who wish to be ordained, 357, 358
Of local preachers required, 174, 358
Of evangelists, 220 (1, 9), 355, 356
Of deaconesses, 359, 222 (11)
Examiners, central board of, 395
Exclusion for neglect of means of grace, 46, 251
Excusing ministers deficient in studies disapproved, 437
EXECUTIVE COMMISSION
Chapter on, 105
How constituted, 58, 105
Members of 105, 391
May change time and place of holding general conference, 54 (1)

Decides questions of law, 105 (4)
Reviews irregularities, 105 (5)
Settles disputes about boundaries, 328
Authorizes formation of new conferences, 207 (7)
Provides for bishops' salaries, 267
Provides plans for church buildings, 284 (5)
Supervises publishing interests, 105 (3)
EXHORTERS
How licensed, 177 (8)
Are members of official board, 176 (1)
Are members of quarterly conference, 173 (1)
EXPULSION—See Penalties
Of members, 251
Of local deacon or elder, 247
Of member of annual conference, 238
Restoration of expelled member, 258
Failure in business, 262-266
FASTING
Enjoined, 45
Recommended, 199 (16)
Quarterly, 209 (20)
Preceding annual conference, 171
Preceding general conference, 100 (2)
Fellowship, 75 (7), 197
FOREIGN MISSIONS
Chapter on missionary work, 109-116
Woman's missionary society, 540
Form for dedication of churches, 349
FORMS
Chapter on, 543
Of articles of incorporation, 383
Of bequests, 383½
Of certificates of membership, 79
FORMS OF PROCEDURE
—See Order of Business
For church trials, 243, 244
Free Seats, 13, 98 (2), 278
Free will, article of religion, 23
Full Membership—See Membership
General conference, 50-62, 86-101—See Conference
General conference missionary districts, 104
GENERAL RULES
Division on, 39-46
Subscribed to, 74 (2), 75 (6), 199 (6)
Must be enforced, 46, 199 (11)
Must be read, 209 (16)
How changed, 62, 99
General evangelistic secretary, 131 (8)
General Sunday school secretary, 123 (3), 387
Gold not to be worn, 8, 43, 75 (4)
Gold wedding rings forbidden, 406
Good works, article of religion, 25
Goods of Christians not common, 37

Government—See Discipline
Grace, gifts and usefulness proof of call to preach 182(2)
Grace, means of, 32, 45, 186
Holiness—See Sanctification
Holy Ghost, believed in, 10, 19, 75 (1)
Holy Scriptures, 20, 21, 45
Holy Trinity, 16
Home missions, 113
Hop growing, 397
IMMORAL CONDUCT, ACCUSATION OF
In case of traveling preacher, 236
In case of local preacher, 248
In case of lay member, 251
Form of charge, 243
Inefficient traveling preachers, may be located, 162, 238
Incarnation of Christ, article on, 17
INCORPORATION
Of general conference, articles of, 383
Churches, 277
Trustees, 272
Individual communion cups recommended, 343
Infant baptism, 341
Insolvency, rules against, 209 (21), 262-266
Intoxicating liquors forbidden, 43
ITINERANCY
Bishops, 9, 95, 206 (1), 207
District superintendents, 159, 208 (13)
Traveling preachers, 98 (2), 160
Japan conference, 140
Jewelry forbidden, 8, 43, 75 (4), 406
Judicial administration, 228-266
Justification, articles on, 24, 25, 27, 28
Ku Klux Klan, membership in, 484
Labor, with offenders, 46, 228, 229, 233, 257
LABOR UNIONS
Open organization not opposed, 73 (1)
Objectionable unions described, 73 (1)
Membership in, prohibited, 73 (1), 209 (21)
LAW
Moral, binding upon all Christians, 21
Going to law with brothers forbidden, 43
Appeals from decisions on, 207 (8)
Constructions of law by general conference, 397-537
Lay delegates to general conference, 52, 87, 90
Lay delegates to annual conference, 49, 151, 152
Lay representation, 61 (2), 98 (2)
Lay helpers, 213-227
LAYMEN
Have equal powers with preachers, 9, 60, 97, 158
Members of executive commission, 105
Members of general conference, 9, 52, 87
Members of annual conference, 9, 151, 152
Members of stationing committee, 9, 160

Leaders, class, 41, 83-85, 225—See Class Leaders
LICENSES
Of local preachers, 174
Of evangelists, 175 (15)
Of deaconesses, 222 (1-11)
Of exhorters, 177 (8)
Forms for, 540
Liquors, intoxicating, forbidden, 43
LITERATURE
Societies to be supplied with, 209 (5)
Local deacon, 203, 205
Local elder, 204, 205
Location of general conference, 54 (1), 92
Local preachers, 213-219½—See Preachers
LOCATION OF PREACHERS
By annual conference, 201, 169 (8)
For inefficiency, 162, 201 (2)
Certificate, form for, 540
LORD'S SUPPER
Article of religion on, 34
To be received, 45, 186 (3), 199 (7)
Unfermented wine to be used, 64
Individual communion cups recommended, 343
To be administered by elders, 204 (2)
Deacons may assist at, 203 (2)
Stewards to provide elements for, 227 (8)
Love-feasts, to be held, 82, 209 (4)
Magistrates, not to be spoken evil of, 43
MARRIAGE
Chapter on, 66-70
Who may perform ceremony, 203 (2), 204 (2), 219½
Form of solemnizing, 345
Means of grace, 45, 186
MEETINGS
Class—See Classes and Class-meetings
Official, 176, 177
Society, 180, 181
Circuit, 178, 179
Quarterly, to be held, 208 (4)
General quarterly, to be held, 208 (4), 173 (2)
MEMBERS
Reception of, 74-78
To be received and dismissed by preacher, 209 (1)
Amenability and trial of, 251-258
Duties of, 43-46
Of another church joining ours in a body, 77
How reinstated, 78
Shall pay their conference claims, 209 (13)
Right to petition general conference, 101
MEMBERSHIP
Basis of representation in general conference, 50, 88
Of local preachers, 216, 218
Transfer of by certificate, 79, 209 (14), 483
Transfer of by missionaries to Africa, 434

Methodical employment of preachers' time, 195
Militarism and war, 73½
Ministers—See Preachers
MINUTES
Original to be preserved, 413
Of annual conference to be examined, 156 (2)
Of quarterly conference to be examined, 173 (4)
Mission, South Africa conference, 134-138
Missions, Home, 113
Missionary bishop, 95
Missionary Board—See General Missionary Board
Missionary Society, Woman's constitution of, 540
Missionary work, chapter on, 109-116
MUSIC
Instructions concerning singing, 81
Instrumental in churches, rules permitting use of organ or piano, 81, (7)
New trial, remanding for a, 231 (7)
Oath, a Christian man's, 38
Oblation of Christ, 35
Obedience to Discipline, 46, 74 (2), 75 (6)
OFFICIAL BOARD
Chapter on, 176, 177
How constituted, 176 (1)
Order of business, 177
Consent to change of preachers, 207 (5)
Appoint committee on salary, 269 (1)
Call in district superintendent, 208 (3)
How extra meetings may be called, 208 (3)
Cannot pass sentence, 503
ORDER OF BUSINESS
Annual conference, 169
Quarterly conference, 175
Official board, 177
Circuit meeting, 179
Society meeting, 181
Sunday-school board, 126
Order of public worship, 80—See Worship
Orders two, ministers and laymen, 51, 52, 60, 90, 97, 158
Orders, recognition of, 200 (2)
ORDINATION
Of elders, 347
Of deacons, 348
Organization and government, articles of, 47-62
Origin and character of Free Methodist Church, 1-14
Original sin, article on, 22
Parchments—See Credentials of Ordination
PARENTS
Baptism of children, 341
When women may marry without consent of, 68

PARSONAGES
To be built without debt, 284 (2)
Not to be on leased land, 284 (3)
Not to be liable for current expenses, 281
Pastors, or preachers in charge—See Preachers
Pastoral charges, 47, 414 (2, 3)
Pastoral visiting, 190-195, 209 (13)
Periodicals, church, 169 (23)
PENALTIES
Reproof, 233, 251
Putting on probation, censure, 251
Suspension, location, 235-239, 247, 248
Denial of society and sacraments, 46, 231 (8)
Expulsion, 233, 247, 251
Probation as a penalty not more than a year, 251
Those under, must vacate offices, 252, 480
Those under, must not exercise official functions, 259
Permanent fund, 106 (3A)
POOR
Special efforts for, 41 (3), 44
Duties of stewards, 227 (1)
Prayer, 45, 184, 186 (1, 2), 210
Prayer meeting, 210
Preachers employing evangelists, 209 (22)
PREACHERS, LOCAL
How licensed, 175 (15), 487
Women eligible, 497, 498, 499
License may be revoked, 495
Members of class, 216
Members of official board, 176 (1)
Members of quarterly conference, 216
Amenability, 216
Eligibility to orders, 213, 214
May supply work, 218
Pastors to oversee, 217
Trial of, 247-250
Appeal of, 250
Membership, when supplying, 218
Course of study for, 219, 355, 356
PREACHERS, SUPERANNUATED—See Claimants
Relation defined, 212
Relation fixed by annual conference, 212
Members of annual conference, 151
How supported, 161
The allowance for, 106
Quarterly conference, relation of, 212
Made effective by annual conference, 428
PREACHERS, SUPERNUMERARY
Relation defined, 211
Relation fixed by annual conference, 211
Members of annual conference, 151
Quarterly conference, relation of, 211

PREACHERS, TRAVELING
The call to preach, 182
Of the marriage of, 183
On probation, How received, 198
On probation, church relationship, 198 (2), 409
On probation, how long continued, 199, 203 (1)
On probation, not eligible as delegates, 178 (2)
On probation, amenability of, 216, 246
In full membership, how admitted, 199
Permanent members of annual conference, 49
Course of study for, 350-354½
Stationing committee to fix appointments, 9, 160
Amenability of, 238
How received from other churches, 200
May be transferred how, 169 (11), 207 (5, 6)
May be declared withdrawn by annual conference, 202
Received, changed, etc., how, 207 (4, 5), 208 (7)
Members of quarterly conference, 173 (1)
Members of official board, 176 (1)
Rules for conduct of, 183, 184
Qualifications of, 185, 186
Voting in business meetings on circuit, 430
Duties of and directions to, 209
Use of time, 195
Necessity of union, 196
Deportment at conference, 86
Where and how to preach, 187-189
Pastoral visiting and fidelity, 190-195
To discourage improper marriages, 66, 67
Solemnizing marriage of divorced persons, 69, 70
Preside at official meeting, 176 (2)
Reception of expelled, 500
Preside at circuit meeting, 178 (1)
Preside at society meeting, 180 (2)
Call extra circuit meeting, 178 (5)
Hold watch-night service, love-feasts, etc., 209 (4)
Preach out of doors, etc., 209 (13)
Have charge of the pulpit, 275
Enforce discipline, 46, 67, 71, 209 (11)
Duty as to classes and leaders, 209 (3, 13), 225 (1, 4)
Duty as to Sunday schools, 121 (12)b
Give certificates of membership, 79
Take up all conference collections, 209 (13), 100 (1)
Raise missionary money, 115
Keep local preachers employed, 217
Duty as to church property, 209 (17, 18), 275, 284
Appointed without having charge of circuit, 164, 447
Who refuses to travel circuit assigned, 160
Cannot be appointed to two circuits, 414 (2, 3)
Support of, 41 (3), 269
Trial of, 233-244
Appeal of, 98 (3), 240-242
If restored must give legal satisfaction, 202

PREACHING—See Worship
Directions concerning, 187-189
Preamble to Constitution, 15
Probation, reception on, 74
Probation, members may be placed on, as penalty, 251
PROBATIONERS
How admitted to church, 75
How admitted to annual conference, 198
How admitted to full membership, 199
In conference, ineligible as delegates, 178 (2), 493
In conference, not members of societies, 409 (1)
Prohibition—See Temperance
Public Worship—See Worship
PUBLICATIONS, DENOMINATIONAL—See Books
Free Methodist paper, 169 (23)
Tract distribution, 209 (13)
Furnished by the publishing house, 108 (1)
Publishing agent—See Agent
PUBLISHING HOUSE
Chapter on, 108
Site of, how changed, 108 (2)
Punctuality, rules for preachers, 183
Quarterly conference—See Conferences
QUARTERLY MEETING
Circuit, to be held by district superintendent, 208 (4)
General district elder to hold four annually, 208 (4)
General, quarterly conference to be held, 173 (2)
Raising money, modern expedients prohibited, 11
Reading of unprofitable books forbidden, 43
RECEPTION OF MEMBERS
On probation, 74
Into full membership, form for, 75
From other evangelical churches, 77
May be reinstated, 78
Recognition of parchments given by other churches, 200
RECOMMENDATIONS
For exhorter's license, 221 (3)
Local preacher's license, 177 (8)
Traveling preacher's license, 198
For deacon's orders, 214
For elder's orders, 215
For evangelist's license, 220 (1-4)
For deaconess' license, 222 (1-6)
Band workers, 224 (1)
Recording secretary of official board, 176 (3)
Referendum unauthorized is forbidden, 534
Reinstating members who withdrew, 78
Religion, personal, family, 190-194
Repentance, grant of not to be denied, 27, 46
Repentance, preacher to bring sinners to, 183

REPORTS
Of general conference board of directors, 389
Of missionary board, 109 (8)
Of conference Sunday-school secretary, 124 (9)
Of district superintendents to bishops, 208 (9)
Of preachers to quarterly conference, 209 (7)
Of preachers regarding Sunday schools, 175 (16)
Preachers to annual conference, 169, 209 (6), 399
Of preachers to societies, 209 (8)
Of preachers to successors, 209 (10)
Of trustees to societies, 178 (4)
Reproof, preachers, just, loving, plain, speedy, 183
Representation in general conference, basis of, 51, 52, 88
Representation in annual conference, basis of, 152
Restoration of credentials, 245
Restrictive rules, 61, 98
Restrictive rules, how altered, 62, 99
Resurrection of Christ, article on, 18
Retaliation forbidden by general rules, 43
Rites and ceremonies of churches, article on, 36
RITUAL
Baptism, 340, 341, 342
Lord's Supper, 343, 344
Solemnizing matrimony, 345
Burial of the dead, 346
Ordination of elders, 347
Ordination of deacons, 348
Dedication of churches, 349
RULES—See General Rules
For a preacher's conduct, 183, 184
Restrictive, 61, 98
Restrictive, how altered, 62, 99
Sabbath, desecration of forbidden, 43
SACRAMENTS
Article on, 32
Baptism, article on, 33
Baptism, ritual for, 340-342
Lord's Supper, article on, 34
Lord's Supper, ritual for, 343, 344
Salaries of church officials, 105
Salvation, sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for, 20
SANCTIFICATION
Article on, 28
By the Holy Ghost, 10
Experience of insisted on, 7, 75 (2), 199 (4)
Schools, Free Methodist, 122, 124
Scriptures, sufficiency of, article on, 20
Scriptures to be searched, 45, 186 (2), 191
Seats in churches to be free, 13, 98 (2), 278
Secret societies, 72, 73, 489, 490

SECRETARY
Of general conference, 96
Of general missionary board, 111, 387
General Sunday school, 117 (8), 118, 387
Conference Sunday-school duties of, 119
Of general evangelism, 131 (11), 387
Of annual conference duties, 156 (2), 404, 416
Of quarterly conference, duties of, 173 (4)
Of circuit meeting, 178 (1)
Of society meeting, 180 (2)
Of official board, election and duties of, 176 (3)
Self-denial, 44, 186 (4, 5)
Seminaries, list of, 124 (1)
SERMONS, SPECIAL
On Christian education, 120 (1)
To the children, 121 (12)b
On Sunday schools, 121 (12)
On practical charity, 132 (7)
On dress, Wesley, to be read, 71 (1)
On evil speaking, Wesley, to be read, 194 (2)
SICK
Preacher to be informed of, 41, 227 (2)
Preacher to visit, 209 (13)
Official board to look after, 177 (8)
Sin, articles of religion on, 22, 27
SINGING, CONGREGATIONAL
Enjoined, 10, 81
Competent leaders to be appointed, 81 (4)
Cultivation of sacred music enjoined, 81 (3)
Free Methodist hymnal to be used, 81 (7)
Slavery, 43
Smuggling forbidden, 43, 194 (5)
SOCIETY
United societies, in general rules, 39, 40
Local, defined, 180 (1)
Admission into, 42, 74-77
Powers of, 181, 407, 442
May restore expelled members, 258
May reinstate members who withdrew, 78
Organized near boundary line, 154
Woman's Missionary Society, constitution of, 540
SOCIETY MEETING
Chapter on, 180, 181
May constitute the circuit meeting, 178 (3)
Order of business, 181
Pastors cannot vote, 430
Elects local Y. P. M. S. superintendent, 180 (3)
Speaking in tongue people understand, article on, 30

SPECIAL ADVICES
Chapter on 63-73½
Temperance, 63-65
Marriage and divorce, 66-70
Dress, 71
Secret societies, 72, 73
Labor unions, 73
Special days to be observed, 538
Special duties of pastors, 539

STATIONING COMMITTEE
How chosen, 9, 160
President of has casting vote, 160
Duties of and limitations of, 9, 160
Who are eligible to act on, 160
Substitute for district elder on, 160
Supply cannot act on, 160

Statistics to be supplied by preachers, 209 (6)

STEWARDS
Chapter on, 226, 227
Number of and how elected, 226 (2, 3)
Qualifications of, 226 (1)
Duties of, 227, 269
Are members of official board, 176 (1)
Are members of quarterly conference, 173 (1)

Study, courses of—See Courses of Study

SUNDAY SCHOOLS
Chapter on, 118-121
How established, 121, (12)
Duties of pastors concerning, 121, (12)
Number and amount raised for, to be reported, 119. (6, d.)
Superintendent of, how elected, 180 (3), 121
Superintendent may be nominated by pastor, 121
Superintendent member official board, when, 176 (1)
Superintendent member quarterly conference, 173(1)
Offering for Sunday-school work required, 119 (6)
Christmas service, how provided, 121 (10)
Proper outings provided for, 121 (10)
Superannuate day, 121 (12, c.)
Proper facilities for, 284 (4)

SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD
General board, 118
Local board, 121

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LITERATURE
Editor of, how elected, 57 (1), 95
Supply of for schools, 126 (8)

SUNDAY-SCHOOL SECRETARY
General, elected by general conference, 95
Conference, duties of, 119, (6) c.

Superannuated—See Preachers and Claimants
Supernumerary—See Preachers
Supererogation, work of, article on, 26

SUPPLY
Traveling preacher employed as, relation of, 426
Local preacher or evangelist engaged as, 218
To transfer membership, when, 218
SUPPORT
Of gospel, wrong means for, 11,
By class contributions, 41 (3), 83 (1), 227 (1), 269 (3)
Of bishops, 267
Of district superintendents, 268
Of preachers in charge, 269
Of pastors, official board to estimate for, 269 (1)
Of local preachers in some cases, 210
Of evangelists, 270
Of missions, 109 (7), 115, 116
Of superannuated preachers, 106
Of widows and orphans of preachers, 106
Of evangelists by conference board, 165
Secretary of tithing, elected by conference, 156, (5)
Tithing system recommended, 209 (19), 269 (3)
Budget system recommended, 269 (3)
Surrender of parchments, 245 (3), 427
Suspension of traveling preacher, 236-238
Suspension of local preacher, 248
TEMPERANCE
General rule on, 43
Special advice, 63-65
In all things, 186 (5)
TEMPORAL ECONOMY
Church property, 271-284
Church and parsonage aid, 107-107½
Testimony of members at a distance, 79 (2)
THE FREE METHODIST
Editor of, how elected, 57 (1), 95
Copies of taken, to be reported, 169 (23)
Time, improvement of by preachers, 183, 195
TIME LIMIT
For preachers, 160 (2)
Exception to, 160 (2)
Not to be abolished by general conference, 98 (2)
For district superintendents, 208 (12)
Tobacco, rule on, 43, 75 (6)
Tract distribution, 209 (13)
TRANSFER
—See Certificate
Of church membership, 79
Of conference membership, 169 (11, 13), 207 (6)
Transubstantiation, doctrine of unscriptural, 34
Traveling expenses of district superintendents, 208 (3)
Treasure, laying up on earth forbidden, 43
TREASURER
Of the general conference, election of, 57 (1)
Of general conference directors, 389
Of the church funds, 388

Custodian of educational funds, 121, (12) b.
Of Woman's Missionary Society, 388
Of annual conference, election of, 156 (3)
Vacancy, how filled, 156 (3)
Quarterly conference, 173 (4)
TREASURER OF GENERAL MISSIONARY BOARD
Duties of, 112
Vacancy in office of, how filled, 103 (2)
TRIALS, CHURCH
Chapter on, 228-261
TRIALS OF PROBATIONERS IN ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 246
TRIALS OF LOCAL PREACHERS
Section on, 247-250
TRIALS OF TRAVELING PREACHERS
Section on, 233-244
TRIERS OF APPEALS
General conference, 241
Executive commission, 105
Annual conference, 250
Quarterly conference, 257
Who may not sit on appeal cases, 231 (5)
General directions concerning, 231 (5-8)
Verdicts of, allowable, 231 (7)
Trinity, Faith in Holy, article on, 16
TRUSTEES—See Church Property
Of general conference, name and address, 389
Incorporation of, 383
Of local churches, election and duties of, 271-276
Report of, 273
When ceasing to be members of the church, 274
Union among ourselves, 196
Unions—See Labor Unions
Union with others, 197
United societies, rise of, 39
United societies, general rules of, 41-46
Usefulness, general rule, 44
Usury, or unlawful interest, forbidden, 43
VACANCIES
In general conference elective offices, how filled 103 (2)
Among district elders, how filled, 208 (14)
Visiting list for pastor's successor, 209 (9, 10)
VOTING
In annual and general conferences, 9
General conference quorum, 59, 93
By "orders" in general conference, 60, 97
By "orders" in annual conference, 158
For extra session general conference, 54, 91
On changing restrictive rules, 62, 99
Secure division of house, 60, 97, 158
President of stationing committee has casting vote. 160
By ballot, required in general conference, 55, 57, 94, 95

Executive commission, 105
Annual conference, 156, 160
Circuit meeting, 178 (2), 226 (3)
Classes, 225 (1)
For prohibition, a duty (65)
Respecting right of preacher in business meeting. 430
Watch night meetings to be held, 209 (4)
WESLEY, JOHN
Historical statement, 1
United societies, 39-46
Widows of preachers—See Conference Claimants and Support
Wine, unfermented for Lord's Supper, 64
WITHDRAWAL
Of preachers, 169 (12), 201 (4), 202, 431, 432
Credentials to be surrendered by preachers, 427
Of members, to be reported by pastors, 209 (8)
On validity of letter of, 418
Certificate of, 79
Woman's auxiliary missionary board, 441
Woman's missionary society, constitution of, 540
Woman's missionary society, general officers, 541
WOMEN
Preacher's conduct toward, 183
May be delegates to conference, 410, 411
May be members of annual conference, 166, 220 (3, 4)
May become local deacons, 486
May be ordained deacons, 166
As deaconesses, 222
Members of commission on missions, 109 (2)
May be received into traveling connection, 220 (3)
WORKS
Good, article on, 25
General rules concerning, 44
Of supererogation, 26
Worldly amusements prohibited, 12
WORSHIP
Character of true, 10
Chapter on, 80-85
Order of, 80
Attendance on, 45
Singing a part of, 81
In language understood, 30
Love-feasts to be held, 82
Class meetings to be held, 83
General class meeting, 84
Rites and ceremonies, 36
Neglect of, 85
WRIT OF REVIEW
May be granted, 105 (5)
YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
Constitution, 127