

# Free Methodist Historical Collection



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*Centenary edition of*

DOCTRINES

AND

DISCIPLINE

*of the*

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

OF

NORTH AMERICA

1960

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

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THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

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THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Printed in U S A

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# CONTENTS

	PAR.
THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH—ORIGIN AND CHARACTER	1-15

## PART I

### The Constitution

#### CHAPTER

PREAMBLE .....	20
1. ARTICLES OF RELIGION .....	21-43
2. MEMBERSHIP .....	45-57
A. Requirements, Rights, and Tenure ....	45-48
B. General Rules .....	50-56
C. Special Rules .....	57
3. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT ..	60-73
A. Pastoral Charges, District and Annual Conferences .....	60-62
B. The General Conference .....	63-72
C. Judicial Council .....	73
4. RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF AMENDMENT	75-78

## PART II

### The Christian Life

5. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT .....	80-85.1
I. Temperance .....	80
II. Marriage and Divorce .....	81
III. Dress .....	82
IV. Secret Societies .....	83
V. Labor and Industrial Relations .....	84
VI. Militarism and War .....	85
VII. Public School Activities .....	85.1
6. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP .....	86-91
I. Reception into Preparatory Membership	86



CHAPTER	PAR.
II. Admission to Junior Membership .....	86.1
III. Admission into Adult Membership ....	87-90
IV. Transfer of Membership by Certificate ..	91
7. CHRISTIAN WORSHIP .....	92-97
I. Order of Public Worship .....	92
II. Music .....	93
III. Love Feasts .....	94
IV. Classes and Class Meetings .....	95-97

### PART III

#### Official Bodies

8. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE .....	100-109
9. THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION .....	110-114
10. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION .....	120-122
I. Its Powers .....	120-122
II. Conference Claimants and Social Security	123-128
III. Church and Parsonage Aid .....	129-131
IV. Department of Benevolences .....	132
V. The Publishing House .....	133
11. THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS .....	140-149.5
I. Objects, Membership, Officers, Duties ..	140-141
II. General Missionary Board .....	142
III. The Directors of the Commission .....	143
IV. The General Missionary Secretary .....	144
V. The Treasurer .....	145
VI. Home Missions .....	146
VII. Title to Land in Foreign Countries .....	147
VIII. Duties of Preachers in Charge .....	148
IX. The Women's Missionary Society .....	149.1
X. Missions and Conferences .....	149.5
12. THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ....	150-171
I. General Organization and Personnel ...	150
II. Department of Sunday Schools .....	151
III. Department of Educational Institutions	158-167

## CONTENTS

vii

### CHAPTER

### PAGE

IV. Department of Young People .....	168
V. Department of Intermediate Youth ..	169.3-169.6
VI. Department of Leadership and Service Training .....	170-171
13. THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM AND CHURCH EXTENSION .....	180-186
I. General Provisions .....	180
II. The Department of Evangelism .....	181
III. The Department of Church Extension ..	182
IV. Church Extension Areas .....	183
V. Church Extension Loan Fund .....	184
VI. The Department of Interracial Evangelism .....	185
VII. Finance .....	186
14. THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD .....	190
15. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE .....	240-259
16. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE .....	260-262
17. THE OFFICIAL BOARD .....	270-271
18. THE CIRCUIT MEETING .....	280-281
19. THE SOCIETY MEETING .....	290-291

## PART IV

### The Ministry

20. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK .....	300-318
I. The Call to Preach .....	300
II. Rules for a Preacher's Conduct .....	301-302
III. Spiritual Qualifications .....	303-306
IV. Matter and Manner of Preaching .....	307-308
V. Where to Preach .....	309
VI. Pastoral Visitation .....	310-315
VII. Employment of Time .....	316
VIII. Union Among Ourselves .....	317
IX. Union with Others .....	318
21. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES .....	320-325



CHAPTER	PAR.
I. Reception on Probation .....	320
II. Reception into Full Membership .....	321
III. Reception from Other Denominations ...	322
IV. Ordination Credentials .....	323
V. Termination of Conference Membership	324
VI. Transfer of Membership .....	325
22. DEACONS AND ELDERS .....	327-329
23. BISHOPS .....	330-334
24. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS .....	340-343
25. PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE .....	345-346
26. SUPERNUMERARY AND RETIRED MINISTERS .....	347-349

## PART V

## Local Preachers and Lay Helpers

27. LOCAL PREACHERS .....	350-356
28. LICENSED EVANGELISTS .....	360
29. EXHORTERS .....	361
30. DEACONESSES .....	363-364
31. BANDS AND BAND WORKERS .....	370
32. CLASS LEADERS .....	371
33. STEWARDS .....	372

## PART VI

## Judicial Administration

34. CHURCH TRIALS .....	400-430
I. Object of Church Discipline .....	400-401
II. General Directions .....	402-403
III. Trial of Preachers in Full Membership..	404-412
IV. Form of Procedure .....	413-414
V. Surrender and Restoration of Credentials	415
VI. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Probation .....	416

## CONTENTS

ix

### CHAPTER

### PAR.

VII. The Trial of a Local Preacher .....	417-420
VIII. The Trial of an Accused Lay Member ..	421-428
IX. Citation of Society, Quarterly Confer- ence, or Annual Conference to Show Cause .....	429
X. Citation of Preacher to Show Cause ....	430
35. INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES	440-444

## PART VII

### Temporal Economy

36. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS .....	450-453
I. Support of Bishops .....	450
II. Support of District Superintendents ....	451
III. Support of Preachers in Charge .....	452
IV. Support of Evangelists .....	453
37. CHURCH PROPERTY .....	460-469
I. Trustees—Election and Duties .....	460-464
II. Incorporation and Deeds .....	465-468
III. Erection of Churches .....	469

## PART VIII

### Conference Boundaries

38. CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES .....	470-471
Conference Boundaries .....	470
Interim determination .....	471

## PART IX

### The Ritual

39. BAPTISM .....	480-482
I. Of Infants .....	481
II. Of Children under Twelve .....	481.5
III. The Affirmation of Baptismal Vows for Junior Members .....	481.6



# CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
IV. Of Those of Riper Years .....	482
40. THE LORD'S SUPPER .....	483-484
I. General Directions .....	483
II. Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper .....	484
41. MARRIAGE .....	485
42. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD .....	486
43. ORDINATION SERVICES .....	487-488
I. Ordination of Elders .....	487
II. Ordination of Deacons .....	488
44. DEDICATION OF CHURCHES .....	490

## PART X

### Ministerial Education

45. CENTRAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING .....	500
46. PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS ..	501-505
47. LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS .....	506-509
48. COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES .....	510-511
49. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS .....	512
50. PUBLICATION COMMITTEE .....	513

## PART XI

### Appendix

51. INCORPORATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH AND BY-LAWS .....	520-530
52. MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS .....	560-561
53. CONSTITUTION OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL .....	600
54. CONSTITUTION OF FREE METHODIST YOUTH .....	610
55. CONSTITUTION OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS	620
56. FORMS .....	650
INDEX .....	293



# The Free Methodist Church

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## ORIGIN AND CHARACTER

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

The Reverend John Wesley, founder of Methodism, says: "In 1729 two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness, followed after it, and incited others so to do. In 1737 they saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise 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. Free Methodists look upon practical godliness as the never failing results 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 democratic with lay members having 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. The district superintendents are elected by the annual conference and may be appointed to circuits the same as the rest of the preachers. The bishops are elected every four years by the general conference and it is their duty to preside at the annual conferences, and travel through the connection at large. The rights of the members are carefully guarded.

¶ 10. Free Methodists endeavor to promote spirituality and simplicity in worship. Congregational singing is universal. (See par. 93) 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. Free Methodists 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. Free Methodists 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.

¶ 14. 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.

¶ 15. You will find in this book the doctrines and form of government of the Free Methodist Church. 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**

## **CHAPTERS**

- 1. ARTICLES OF RELIGION**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP**
- 3. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND  
GOVERNMENT**
- 4. RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF  
AMENDMENT**



# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

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## PREAMBLE

¶ 20. In order that we may wisely preserve and pass on to posterity the heritage of doctrine and principles of Christian living transmitted to us as evangelicals in the Arminian-Wesleyan tradition, insure church order by sound principles and ecclesiastical polity, and prepare the way for evangelization of the world and the more effective cooperation with other branches of the church of Christ in the advancement of Christ's kingdom among men, we, the ministers and lay members of the Free Methodist Church of North America, in accordance with constitutional procedure, 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 Conditions and Rules of Membership, and the Articles of Organization and Government here following, to wit:

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## CHAPTER 1

### ARTICLES OF RELIGION

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

¶ 21. 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*

¶ 22. 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*

¶ 23. 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*

¶ 24. 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*

¶ 25. 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*

¶ 26. 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*

¶ 27. 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*

¶ 28. 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*

¶ 29. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour 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*

¶ 30. 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*

¶ 31. 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*

¶ 32. 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. Of Entire Sanctification*

¶ 33. Entire sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to regeneration, by which the fully consecrated believer, upon exercise of faith in the atoning blood of Christ, is cleansed in that moment from all inward sin and empowered for service. The resulting relationship is attested by the witness of the Holy Spirit and is maintained by obedience and faith. Entire sanctification enables the believer to love God with all his heart, soul, strength and mind, and his



neighbor as himself, and prepares him for greater growth in grace.

#### XIV. *Future Reward and Punishment*

¶ 34. 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*

¶ 35. 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*

¶ 36. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful 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*

¶ 37. 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*

¶ 38. 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*

¶ 39. 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*

¶ 40. 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*

¶ 41. 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*

¶ 42. 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 \**

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

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



## CHAPTER 2

### MEMBERSHIP

#### A. REQUIREMENTS, RIGHTS, AND TENURE

¶ 45. The privileges and requirements of full membership in the church are constitutional, and changes therein may be made only by constitutional enactment. Nothing shall be included in the membership ritual that is contrary to the following definitions of conditions and privileges of membership.

¶ 46. The requirements of full membership are:

1. Christian baptism, confession of a personal experience in regeneration, and a pledge to seek diligently until sanctified wholly if that experience has not been attained;

2. Acceptance of the Articles of Religion, the rules of Christian living, and the authority of the DISCIPLINE in matters of church government;

3. A covenant to support the church, to live in fellowship with the members thereof, and to seek God's glory in all things;

4. Recommendation to membership by the official board of the church, the candidate's public declaration of membership vows, and the approving vote of three-fourths of the members of the receiving society who are present and voting.

¶ 47. The rights of full membership are:

1. Participation in the sacraments and ordinances of the church;

2. To vote and hold office when sixteen years of age and over.

3. Trial and appeal if charged with failure to maintain the conditions of membership, with the specific provision that joining another religious denomination or sect shall of itself sever membership in the church without trial.

¶ 48. Church membership may be terminated only by:

1. Voluntary withdrawal (including permission to withdraw under complaint).



2. Joining another religious denomination or sect or a secret order.

3. Expulsion after proper summary proceeding or trial and conviction.

4. Persistent neglect of church relationship by a member residing at a distance from pastoral and church supervision, which in effect is voluntary withdrawal.

## B. GENERAL RULES

[The General Rules is a historic document originally prepared by John Wesley. The text printed here is that adopted by the organizing convention of the Free Methodist Church and published by it in 1860. The Special Rules have been adopted at various times in the intervening years.]

### The Nature, Design, and General Rules of our

## UNITED SOCIETIES

¶ 50. 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 from 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 meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

¶ 51. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than "a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another

in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."

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

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

1. To inquire how their souls prosper.

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

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

II. To meet the minister and the stewards of the society once a week; in order,

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

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

¶ 53. 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. 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,  
The taking of the name of God in vain.

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

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

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

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with

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



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, i. e., 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

The putting on of gold or costly apparel.

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

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

Softness and needless self-indulgence.

Laying up treasure upon earth.

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

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

Secondly, 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 them that are sick or in prison.

To their souls, by instructing, reproofing, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with; 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 them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other 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.

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

Thirdly, 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, and

Fasting or abstinence.

¶ 56. 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 practice. And all these we know His 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 ways. We will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

### C. SPECIAL RULES

¶ 57. 1. Members shall conform to the scriptural standards of attire, adorning themselves in a meek and quiet spirit, not with gold, pearls, or costly array.

2. The church forbids its members the using, growing, processing, buying or selling of tobacco; the habitual use of opiates; and the processing, buying, selling or using of intoxicating liquors unless for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes, or in any way intentionally and knowingly aiding others so to do.

3. The church condemns secret societies on scriptural grounds and as contrary to the glory of God, and forbids membership in them.

## SPECIAL RULES

Par. 57

4. The church recognizes no other ground for divorce than that permitted by the Word of God (Matt. 5:32; Mark 10: 11, 12).

## CHAPTER 3

### ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

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

##### I. *Pastoral Charges*

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

##### II. *Districts and District Conferences*

¶ 61. 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.

##### III. *Annual Conferences*

¶ 62. 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 and, where a charge has more than two hundred (200) full members, sixteen years and over, an additional lay delegate may be elected.

#### B. The General Conference

##### I. *Of Whom Composed*

¶ 63. The General Conference shall be composed of the bishops and ministerial and lay delegates, to be chosen as hereinafter provided.



## II. Ministerial Delegates

¶ 64. 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. They 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.

## III. Lay Delegates

¶ 65. 1. Each annual conference shall be entitled to the same number of lay as ministerial delegates in the General Conference.

2. Lay delegates to the General Conference shall be elected by ballot of the lay delegates of the annual conference they are to represent. They must at the time of election and at the time of the General Conference be members of the church in full relation within the bounds of the conference which elects them.

## IV. Credentials

¶ 66. The secretary of each annual conference shall furnish certificates of election to the delegates severally, signed by the president and the secretary, as the credentials upon which they are to be admitted to the General Conference.

## V. Sessions

¶ 67. 1. The General Conference shall meet at such times and places as the General Conference itself may from time to time determine. The Board of Administration shall have the power in 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 secre-

## Par. 68 ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

tary 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.

### VI. *Presiding Officers*

¶ 68. The General Conference shall elect by ballot one or more traveling elders to the office of bishop; and the bishops shall preside at the sittings of the General Conference in such order as they may determine; if no bishop be present, the General Conference shall elect by ballot an elder as president pro tem. The term of office of bishops shall begin at the close of the General Conference session at which they are elected.

### VII. *Other Officers*

¶ 69. The General Conference shall have general organizational, promotional and supervisory powers over the activities of the church and shall be the only lawmaking body of the same. It shall have power to determine the number of its officers, their qualifications for office, and the manner of their selection.

### VIII. *Board of Administration*

¶ 70. The General Conference is empowered to set up a Board of Administration, to determine its powers and to prescribe the qualifications of its members and the manner of their selection.

### IX. *Quorum*

¶ 71. 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.

### X. *Voting*

¶ 72. The members of the General Conference shall de-



liberate 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.

### C. Judicial Council

¶ 73. 1. There shall be a Judicial Council. The General Conference shall determine the number and qualifications of its members, their terms of office, and the method of selection and of filling vacancies.

2. During sessions of the General Conference, the Judicial Council shall have authority to determine the constitutionality of any acts or proposed legislation of the General Conference body upon appeal of one-fifth of the members of said General Conference.

3. A decision of the Judicial Council shall be final.



## CHAPTER 4

### RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF AMENDMENT

#### I. Restrictive Rules

¶ 75. The General Conference shall have power to make rules and regulations for the Free Methodist Church, under the following limitations and restrictions:

1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, the General Rules, or any condition of membership, 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 the power to deprive our preachers or members of the right of trial by an impartial committee, or of the right of an appeal.

¶ 76. The first two restrictive rules, or any items specified therein, but not the third restrictive rule, may be altered by concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the votes cast thereon in the General Conference and an aggregate two-thirds majority of all votes cast thereon in the annual conferences upon reference to them. Also the first two restrictive rules or any items specified therein may be altered by an aggregate two-thirds majority of all votes cast thereon in the annual conferences after presentation to each of the annual conferences and a two-thirds majority of the votes cast thereon in the General Conference.

#### II. Amendment of the Amending Process for Restrictive Rules

¶ 77. The processes for amending specified in Paragraphs 76 and 77 shall not be amended except by concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the votes cast thereon in the General Conference and an aggregate two-thirds majority of all votes

cast thereon in the annual conferences after reference to them.

### III. Other Amendments

¶ 78. Changes in the constitution which do not in any way involve the restrictive rules may be accomplished by a concurring majority of the votes cast thereon in the General Conference and an aggregate majority of all votes cast thereon in the annual conferences after reference to them. Also such changes may be accomplished by the concurrence of an aggregate majority of all votes cast thereon in the annual conferences after presentation to each of them and a majority of the votes cast thereon in the General Conference.





**PART II**  
**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

## **CHAPTERS**

- 5. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**
- 6. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
- 7. CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

## CHAPTER 5

### CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

#### I. Temperance

¶ 80. 1. A spirit of self-denial is indispensable to 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

¶ 81. 1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

(a) When one spouse is guilty of adultery and a divorce has been granted by a court of law on those grounds, the innocent spouse, though remarried, shall not be barred by this divorce from membership in the Free Methodist Church.

(b) When a divorce has been granted on grounds other than those allowed in the scripture, and either party subsequently shall remarry, this constitutes scriptural grounds for divorce by the other party who shall not then by this divorce be barred from membership in the church, though remarried.

(c) A divorced person desiring membership in the church, but not qualifying under provisions "a" or "b," before consideration for membership by the official board, shall declare and sign the following on Form 23 and file the same with the secretary of the official Board: "I solemnly declare upon my word as a Christian that it is my definite knowledge that adultery did exist on the part of my former spouse and was a factor in our separation that led to divorce."

5. 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 persons, be present. They shall refuse to officiate at the marriage of divorced persons, unless furnished with satisfactory evidence that they are not violating the law of divorce recognized in the preceding paragraph.

### III. Dress

¶ 82. We insist on the rules concerning dress. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of apparel. Therefore, receive none into the church until they have left off

superfluous ornaments. In order to this: 1. In visiting the classes be very mild but very strict. 2. Allow no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

#### IV. Secret Societies

¶ 83. 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. We therefore believe that all secret organizations and societies, philanthropic or otherwise, are anti-Christian and destructive of the best interests of the church and the individual soul. Accordingly, all such organizations or societies claiming our cooperation on Christian grounds must do so with an open face. Members of the Free Methodist Church are not to affiliate with any such organization that will not lift its veil of secrecy.

2. Any society requiring an oath, affirmation, promise of secrecy, or a secret password as a condition of membership is held to be a secret society; and any member joining or continuing in one violates the special rule of the church set forth in Paragraph 57, Section 3 and the member's own covenant obligation as set forth in Paragraph 87, Section 5, and shall thereby in due form be excluded from membership in the church; and the preacher shall report that he is excluded for infraction of our rules and regulations.

3. Nothing herein shall prevent one's paying dues in a secret society to keep in force insurance contracted before becoming a member of the church.

#### V. Labor and Industrial Relations

¶ 84. 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 pledged or oath-bound secrecy, coercion, lawlessness, or any other evil in their organization; and we prohibit our members from joining labor unions or other societies demanding an oath-bound pledge of secrecy as a condition of membership. Yet, otherwise, we recognize their inherent right to hold membership in labor organizations. And wherever they cannot on account of required oath-bound pledges of secrecy be members of the labor union, if merely upon the payment of regular dues they are allowed to work free from the use of coercion, we grant them the privilege of doing so.

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

## VI. Militarism and War

¶ 85. 1. Militarism is contrary to the spirit of the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Even from humanitarian principles alone it is utterly indefensible. It is our profound conviction that none of our people should be required to enter military training or to bear arms except in time of national peril, and that the consciences 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.

2. The secretary of each annual conference shall keep a proper register containing names, addresses, and dates of declaration of all members of the church within his conference who declare themselves to be conscientious objectors; and he shall make a prompt report of these declarations to the secretary of the General Conference, who shall keep a complete record of them. (See Par. 105.)



## VII. Public School Activities

¶85.1. Wherever the dance is made a part of physical education in an educational system, we deplore such fact, and claim for our members and their children the right of exemption from participation in dancing and other school-related activities contrary to personal religious convictions or denominational rules and standards, without prejudice to academic standing.

## CHAPTER 6

### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

#### I. Reception into Preparatory Membership

¶ 86. None shall be admitted to preparatory membership until he gives evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come, by bringing forth fruits meet for repentance, and gives affirmative answers to the following questions:

1. Do you now have the assurance that God has forgiven your sins through faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: I do have that assurance, and am now trusting Christ as my Saviour.

2. Will you consent to receive membership instruction as offered by our church and to be governed by our **BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**?

Answer: I will.

3. Have you received Christian baptism?

Answer: Yes or No.

If not, will you receive this sacrament at a duly appointed time?

Answer: Yes.

4. You have been won to Christ. Will you endeavor to win others to Christ and the church?

Answer: I will.

Preparatory members shall not be continued longer than two years on the membership roll, in that relation.

#### II. Admission to Junior Membership

¶ 86.1. All members under sixteen years of age shall be known as junior members. They shall be exempt from all claims and apportionments made by the General Conference. Their number shall be kept in a separate column in the statistical report, and no society shall be apportioned claims for them. They are not eligible to vote in business meetings.

Admission to junior membership shall be effected by giving satisfactory answers to the following questions:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ has forgiven your sins



and is now your Saviour?

2. Have you received Christian baptism? If not, will you be baptized at such a time as your pastor may choose?
3. Will you faithfully attend your pastor's class of instruction on living the Christian life and serving God through your church?
4. Will you endeavor to begin each day by reading or reciting a passage from the Bible to assist you in living for God that day?
5. Will you endeavor to begin each day by committing your life anew to the Lord in private prayer?
6. Will you endeavor to attend regularly the Sunday school, the Sunday morning and evening services, and whatever weeknight services are specially provided for your age group?
7. Will you endeavor to show your friends by the way you live and what you say what it means to be a sincere Christian, and will you do your best to win them to Christ?

The names of junior members shall be reviewed by the Official Board at least once each year, with a view to character cultivation and Christian nurture.

Upon reaching the sixteenth birthday, Junior Members shall be recommended by the official board either for adult membership or for transfer to the Preparatory Membership roll. To be admitted to adult voting membership, they must answer satisfactorily the questions for adult membership, and receive a three-fourths vote of approval by the society.

Junior members shall be reported in a separate column in the Yearbook.

### ¶II. Admission into Adult Membership

¶ 87. None shall be received into adult membership unless he gives evidence of a renewed heart by living up to the requirements of the general rules; has received at least three months' instruction for full membership as required by the General Conference; has been baptized, and, if baptized in infancy, has publicly assented to the baptismal covenant; has been recommended by the official members of the society;



and gives satisfactory answers to the questions proposed for adult membership, before the society or public meeting of the church.

1. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?

Answer: I have.

2. Do you have that perfect love for God and man which is taught in the Holy Scriptures?

Answer: Yes, I have received this love, or,

No, I have not yet received this love, but I will earnestly seek to obtain it.

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

Answer: This is my purpose.

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

Answer: I will do so.

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

Answer: I will do so.

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?

Answer: I do, and am willing to be so governed.

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?

Answer: I do and I will.

8. Will you practice the principles of Christian stewardship, giving freely of your time, talents and possessions to Christ and His Church?

Answer: This is my purpose.

¶ 88. 1. The person giving satisfactory answers to the questions in Par. 87 shall, with consent of three-fourths of

the members present, be admitted to all the privileges of membership.

2. Any person in good standing in any evangelical church may be received into full membership upon meeting the other requirements of this chapter (see Par. 87), and having received adequate instruction for membership in our church, without having been a preparatory member.

3. A society is the final authority as to who are its members.

¶ 89. A society already organized, or several persons designing to unite with the Free Methodist Church and form a new society, shall adopt the DISCIPLINE as a whole, and then admit each person in his individual capacity upon his answering the questions in Par. 87 and by the consent of three fourths of the persons forming the society. This is the only circumstance under which members may be received in full relation without letters of transfer or preparatory membership.

¶ 89.1. Upon majority vote of contiguous societies or circuits, such societies or circuits may unite, with individual membership automatically transferred to the united society.

¶ 90. 1. Any member who withdraws from the church with no complaints pending against him at the time, may, by a recommendation of the official board and a three-fourths vote of the society from which he withdrew, be reinstated in full membership without being required to serve as a preparatory member, provided that he make request to the pastor of the society within one year of the date of withdrawal. However, any evangelist's or local preacher's license he may have held would be invalid until renewed by the quarterly conference.

2. If a member lives at a great distance from the class to which he belongs and is unable to attend, he shall, once a quarter, send to the leader or preacher testimony of his religious state. If he fails to do this or to contribute to the financial obligations of his society, he may at the end of one year, by order of the official board, be recorded on the register as "Removed without a letter." If he afterward claims membership, the official board may restore it.



## IV. Transfer of Membership by Certificate

¶ 91. 1. Only a member desiring to move to another circuit or to unite with another evangelical church is entitled to a certificate of standing, and, if he is in good standing, he shall receive it upon request.

2. A member in full relation wishing to transfer to another society must have from his pastor a certificate reading:

"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 this certificate, no one is to be received into the church in another place.

When a pastor gives such a certificate of membership, he shall at once give notice of the fact to the pastor of the society to which the certificate is addressed. If the member so transferring be an exhorter, an evangelist, a local preacher, a local ordained deacon, or a local elder, it shall be so stated on the certificate.

A member holding a certificate shall remain a member of and be amenable to the society from which the certificate was taken, until he presents it to another society, which shall receive him into membership. After that he shall be responsible to his new society for his conduct including that during the time he held the certificate.

It shall be the duty of the preacher receiving the certificate to notify the preacher who gave it in these words: "You are hereby notified that A. B. has been duly enrolled as a member of this society upon a certificate issued by the society of which you are the pastor. Signed ....."

3. A certificate given to a member of our church who wishes to unite with another evangelical denomination 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 mem-

ber 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."

4. A preparatory member may be transferred to another society by the preacher giving a certificate of transfer in the following words:

"A. B., the bearer, a preparatory member, having been received on the ..... day of ..... in the year ....., and wishing to remove from this society, we hereby certify that ..... is an acceptable preparatory 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."

5. 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 7

### CHARACTER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Public worship in our churches shall be free and non-liturgical in form. Preaching shall be emphasized as a means of edifying believers and converting sinners. ~~It is recommended that all our churches use that type of architecture that gives a central pulpit position for the preaching of the Word.~~ *(Stricken in second printing of the 1960 Discipline, as an editorial statement not enacted by General Conference.)*

#### I. Order of Public Worship

¶ 92. 1. For the establishment of uniformity in public worship on the Lord's Day, the morning and afternoon services shall consist of singing, prayer, reading from the Scriptures and preaching. It is advised that the Lord's prayer be used in concluding the first prayer of public worship, and the apostolic benediction in dismissing the congregation. In the absence of the minister, let there be prayer or class meetings.

2. The order of other services may be arranged as circumstances require. See Section on "The Ritual." (Part IX, page 227)

3. The minister shall insist on reverence and a worshipful attitude before, during, and after service, and shall himself be an example.

#### II. Music

¶ 93. 1. Each church shall select qualified persons, whose character and deportment conform to our standard for members, to lead the singing in public worship and, where instrumental music is in use, to play the instrument.

2. The pastor shall give proper attention to the cultivation of sacred music, and guard against complexity and formality in singing. As singing is a part of divine worship in which all should unite, congregational music shall not be subordinated to special music. Choose hymns proper for the occasion, and seldom sing more than four or five stanzas. It

is expected that the Free Methodist Hymnal shall be used in the morning worship service.

3. The use of instrumental music is left to the decision of the local church or other ecclesiastical unit conducting worship, but change of policy shall require a majority vote and may not be considered twice in the same conference year.

4. The purpose of music in divine service is to inspire and to sustain worship. Therefore, participation in musical exercises, vocal and instrumental, shall seek to contribute to reverent and exalted worship and not to the display of talent, however excellent. The primary purpose of musical instruments in divine service is to support and guide the human voice, whether in congregational or special singing. Only man of all earthly creatures can worship, and those responsible for planning the church's program of music and those directing the same will therefore subordinate the instrument to the human voice as a means to the worship of God by the congregation.

### III. Love Feasts

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

### IV. Classes and Class Meetings

¶ 95. 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 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 his soul prospers. (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.

¶ 96. 1. The class meeting shall be separate and distinct



from the usual testimony meeting, and shall be held whenever practicable on the Sabbath day.

2. Where there is more than one class in a society there shall be a general class once a month.

¶ 97. When any member of our church willfully 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**

8. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
9. THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
10. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
11. THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS
12. THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
13. THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM AND CHURCH  
EXTENSION
14. THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD
15. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
16. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE
17. THE OFFICIAL BOARD
18. THE CIRCUIT MEETING
19. THE SOCIETY MEETING

## CHAPTER 8

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

"It is desired that all things be considered 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 labor." John Wesley, *Large Minutes*.

¶ 100. The General Conference shall be composed of the bishops and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, at their last sessions prior to the session of the General Conference, except that conferences held within three months of the General Conference may elect their delegates the year before. For further directions see Pars. 63-66.

¶ 101. Mission conferences may send delegates to the General Conference as provided in Par. 203, Sec. 2, Par. 210, Sec. 6 (3), Par. 228, Sec. 1, and Par. 237, Sec. 1.

¶ 102. The next session of the General Conference shall be held in June, 1964, or as near that time as may be determined by the Board of Administration, in accordance with the Constitution, Par. 67, which prescribes also the procedure for calling extra sessions.

¶ 103. The officers to preside at the sittings of the General Conference, the number of members required for a quorum, and the method of voting are defined in the Constitution, Pars. 68 and 71-72.

¶ 104. 1. Each General Conference shall elect by ballot one or more traveling elders as bishops, a secretary, an editor of *The Free Methodist*, and shall elect or authorize the Board of Administration to employ an editor of Sunday-school literature, a missionary secretary, a general Sunday-school secretary, a superintendent of Free Methodist Youth, and a general evangelistic secretary. It may elect one or



more general evangelists and one or more missionary bishops. The duties and official relations of missionary bishops shall be confined to the fields to which they are elected.

2. All general officers, departmental executives and promoters, elected or employed, shall serve under the Board of Administration, through the appropriate commission, to whom they shall be directly amenable.

3. The General Conference shall elect one traveling elder and one layman from each of the General Conference administrative districts, who, with the bishops and the secretary of the General Conference, shall constitute the Board of Administration. The elective members of the Board, a majority of whom must be members of the General Conference electing them, shall first have been nominated by the delegates from their General Conference administrative districts. In making the nominations the delegates of a district shall vote for the minister and the layman upon the same ballot.

¶ 105. The General Conference may, if it so desires, elect as its secretary one who is not a member of that body. The secretary shall continue in office until his successor is elected and shall be custodian of the General Conference records and journals. He shall also keep a record of conscientious objectors reported to him by the annual conference secretaries as ordered in Par. 85, Sec. 2.

¶ 106. The General Conference is the only legislative body in the church. It alone has the power to authorize a denominational referendum or survey of opinion. It shall have full power to make rules and regulations for our church, under the limitations and restrictions described in Paragraphs 75-78.

¶ 107. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually the sum apportioned by the Board of Administration, as provided in the general service plan. Should any conference be deficient in its assessment during the quadrennium, the deficiency shall be deducted from the expenses payable to its delegates to the General Conference.

¶ 108. It is the inalienable right of any annual conference,

district quarterly conference, society, 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 be subject to the rules of that body.

¶ 109. The annual conferences shall be grouped in twelve General Conference administrative districts as follows: No. 1—Genesee, East Ontario. No. 2—Oil City, West Ontario. No. 3—Susquehanna, Centenary, Ohio, Maryland-Virginia. No. 4—Pittsburgh, New York. No. 5—Southern Michigan, North Michigan. No. 6—North Indiana, East Michigan. No. 7—Wabash, Illinois. No. 8—Kentucky and Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, Ozark, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Carolina, and Florida. No. 9—Colorado, Kansas, West Kansas, Dakota, West Iowa, Nebraska. No. 10—North Minnesota, Northern Iowa and Minnesota, Iowa, Central Illinois, Wisconsin. No. 11—Oregon, California, Arizona-Southern California. No. 12—Saskatchewan, Alberta, Columbia River, Washington.



## CHAPTER 9

### BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

¶ 110. 1. The Board of Administration shall consist of the bishops, the secretary of the General Conference, twelve traveling elders and twelve lay members elected in the manner prescribed in Paragraph 104, Sec. 3. Termination of membership in the Free Methodist Church shall automatically terminate membership on the Board of Administration. 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 the Board; but should there be no bishop to serve, then the Board of Administration shall elect an elder from its members to preside.

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

¶ 111. 1. The Board of Administration shall have general organizational, promotional, and supervisory powers over all the activities of the church during the intervals between General Conference sessions. 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, to remove for cause any of its members or any of the General Conference officers during the interim between General Conference sessions, and to fill 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 shall have power to organize itself into four or more commissions and assign

its work to the several commissions, notwithstanding anything hereinafter set forth.

A committee composed of the bishops and an equal number elected from the Board of Administration shall nominate the members of the respective commissions.

4. The Board of Administration shall elect an investment committee of 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 treasurer of these church funds shall be a member of this committee. No member of the committee shall be eligible to borrow directly or indirectly or to participate in the benefits of any money borrowed from the funds of the church. The investment committee shall not invest the trust funds of the church in any investments except such as are lawful for the investment of trust funds in the state in which the Free Methodist Church may be incorporated.

5. The Board of Administration shall employ a general church treasurer; a director of finance, who shall be the general director of tithing and who shall supervise the work of the annual conference secretaries of tithing in harmony with Paragraph 244, Sec. 5; a publisher, who shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church; and such other officers or employees as the General Conference orders.

6. The Board of Administration shall elect from its membership one minister and one lay member from each commission who with the Board of Bishops shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Board of Administration. The duties and powers of the Executive Committee shall be defined by the Board of Administration. This committee shall be responsible for general co-ordination of the work of the Commissions, and the departments including budget co-ordination and control.

The acts of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

¶ 112. The secretaries of the departments of the church shall meet with the commissions to which their work is assigned.

¶ 113. 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.

¶ 114. 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.

## CHAPTER 10

### THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

#### I. Its Powers

¶ 120. 1. The Administrative Commission shall consist of the number of persons as directed by the Board of Administration. (Par. 111, Sec. 3).

2. This commission shall make all apportionments and administer funds for the bishops' salaries and for 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 Administrative 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 they 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 Administrative 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 Administrative 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, wherein the court has delivered a verdict against the church, the prosecution may, upon a written recital of the irregularities, apply to the Administrative Commission or to the General Conference for a writ of review, and it shall be the province of that body receiving the application to review the proceedings of the lower court



Par. 121      **THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

as recited, and if the reviewing body finds the alleged irregularities to exist, the case may be remanded, but only once, for a new trial.

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

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

8. The Administrative Commission shall constitute the Board of Benevolences of the church.

¶ 121. Deficiencies of any conference in the payment of its claims assessed in the general service fund, above the amount deducted in accordance with Paragraph 107, shall be prorated to the various general funds according to the ratio of the amounts of the apportionments. These deficiencies shall be deducted from benefits receivable by that conference as the Board of Administration may determine.

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 them to the conferences which are deficient and publish them in his annual report to the Board of Administration.

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

**II. Conference Claimants Fund and Social Security for Ministers**

¶ 123. *General*

The Free Methodist Church of North America hereby adopts the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance (hereafter called Social Security) Program as its financial plan for support of its retired preachers and retired licensed missionaries, or their widows and orphans, and widows and orphans of ordained preachers and retired missionaries.

The Conference Claimants Fund plan in effect prior to June 1, 1955, shall (with changes noted herein) be continued for a sufficient time to carry out the obligation of the church to its retired preachers, missionaries, etc., now

## PLAN FOR CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS Par. 124

covered by the plan and to those covered by the plan with effective and contributive service who hereafter retire prior to qualifying for social security.

No further contributions, based on income, are to be made by preachers and missionaries to the Conference Claimants Fund.

No retired preacher, missionary, etc., shall receive benefits from the Conference Claimants' Fund who qualifies for benefits from Social Security under the terms of that section of the law allowing ministers to be classified as self-employed for Social Security purposes. \*

It is recommended that each preacher and missionary take the necessary steps to obtain Social Security coverage and when he has made two years' payments to Social Security he shall certify such fact to the General Church Treasurer and he may elect to either withdraw an amount equal to his full Conference Claimants' Fund contributions and relinquish all claims under the Conference Claimants' Fund or he may elect to retain his coverage under the Conference Claimants' Fund plan until he arrives at the age of 65 at which time he shall receive a refund of his contributions to the Conference Claimants' Fund reduced by any amount drawn in benefits and shall have no further claim under the Conference Claimants' Fund plan.

It is recommended that each society, circuit, conference or other organization responsible for a preacher or missionary's salary obligate itself to contribute to said preacher or missionary, in addition to said salary, an amount equal to at least one-half of his annual contribution, or assessment for social security, as a "self-employed" minister.

¶ 124. Funds which have been collected for the benefit of retired ministers 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, previously known as the Conference Claimants' Fund, are di-

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\*Needed adjustments may be made by the Board of Administration to meet problems involved in the transition to Social Security during the current quadrennium.



vided into the Permanent Endowment Fund and the Administrative Fund.

1. The Permanent Endowment Fund shall consist of funds and investments now held and known as the Permanent Endowment Fund, and gifts, bequests, legacies and annuities which may be received for this fund, and amounts transferred by appropriate action from the Administrative Fund.

2. 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 the general service fund levied by the Board of Administration for the Conference Claimants' Fund.

¶ 125. *Administrative Organization*

1. 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 them.

(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 claimants and apportion the amount pro rata upon the entire membership of the church.

2. 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 proceedings of the General Board and make a report of them to the General Conference.

(2) To receive, audit, classify, file, and be custodian of the Claimants' Applications, the Certificates of Income, and the list of certified claimants.

(3) In the interim of the meetings of the General Board to receive and pass upon emergency claims, subject to action by the board.

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

(5) To keep a record of all claims allowed and payments made on them.

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

(7) To perform such other duties as shall devolve upon him as executive secretary.

3. 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, however, may elect the executive secretary if it so desires.

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

(3) To receive emergency claims in the interim of annual conferences and recommend them directly to the General Board of Conference Claimants. These emergency claims shall be only temporary and must be submitted to the next session of the annual conference for recommendation to the General Board.

(4) It shall be the duty of the executive secretary of the annual conference board to receive all Claimants' Applications; see that they are properly filled out with all necessary information; and transmit them to the general executive secretary after they have been properly acted upon. He shall also certify annually all the claimants in the conference to the General Executive Secretary.



¶ 126. *Classification of Claimants*

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

1. Retired preachers of the traveling connection whose wives are living.
2. Retired preachers of the traveling connection who are bachelors, spinsters, unmarried widowers or unmarried widows.
3. Unmarried widows of retired preachers or preachers of the traveling connection.
4. Orphans of preachers or retired preachers of the traveling connection.
5. 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.

¶ 127. *Schedule of Benefits to Claimants*

Benefits to claimants shall be paid according to the following schedule, and no claim shall be allowed in excess of or contrary to the regular disciplinary allowance. For those who began 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.

1. The allowance to claimants who come under Classification 1 in Par. 126 shall be at the rate of \$12.50 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$450.00 per year.
2. The allowance to claimants who come under Classifications 2 and 3 shall be at the rate of \$8.75 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$315.00 per year.
3. For those coming under Classification 4 the Annual Conference Board of Claimants shall estimate an amount, not to exceed \$45.00 per annum, for each child under the age of sixteen years.
4. For those coming under Classification 5, the amount allowed shall be recommended by the Commission on Mis-

## PLAN FOR CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS Par. 128

sions in accordance with the schedules in this Section.

5. For those who already had effective service records at the time of their annual conferences in 1935 and who retired thereafter, the allowance shall be based upon the number of years of effective service prior to the end of the conference year in 1935, provided that not more than 25 such years may be counted for those in Class 1 in Par. 126, nor more than 28 years for those in Classes 2 and 3, and upon the number of years of effective and contributive service thereafter, up to the maximum number of years allowed altogether as stated in schedules 1 and 2.

6. The allowance for those who come under Classification 3, and 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 schedule in this section.

7. For those who were eligible as claimants under any classification in Par. 126 at the close of the conference year in 1935, the allowance shall be figured at \$10 per year of effective service for Classification 1 and \$7 per year for Classifications 2 and 3; provided, however, that the amount of the claim shall not be less than the amount received during the conference year 1934-35 nor more than the maximum allowance under the law in effect prior to the General Conference of 1935; and provided further, that no Class 2 or 3 claimant shall be eligible to receive more than \$200.

### ¶ 128. *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 the full traveling connection. By "effective and contributive service" is meant the time actually employed in "effective service" during which he contributes his ratable portion of the amount shown on his Certificate of Income.

(1) A member of a conference attending school can be rated 100% effective only when appointed to a circuit by disciplinary provision and devoting not less than two days



per week regularly to the appointment while school is in session and full time otherwise.

(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 the following conditions: that not more than ten years have elapsed since his location, that he has remained a member of the Free Methodist Church during the time of location, that the conference which granted the certificate of location recommends the restoration, and that the restoration is to enable him to return to effective service.

(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 retired, 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, his years of service on probation may be counted in his service record upon the recommendation of his annual conference, provided he has fulfilled the other requirements for effective and contributive service.

(5) If, subsequently to the General Conference of 1931, a minister marries while a member of an annual conference and before he is retired, the claim allowed his widow shall be based only upon the years she labored with him in effective and contributive service.

2. (1) Claimants shall receive benefits only so long as they remain members of the Free Methodist Church.

(2) No minister shall be eligible as a claimant until he has reached the age of sixty-five years except when, in the opinion of the General Board of Conference Claimants, mental or physical disability disqualifies him for service.

(3) Widows of preachers and retired preachers shall receive benefits from the Conference Claimants' Fund only so long as they remain single.

3. (1) Each claimant must file with the Executive Sec-

retary of the annual conference Board of Claimants, in time for action at the annual conference, an original Claimant's Application in duplicate on forms provided by the General Board of Conference Claimants, containing such information as the board deems necessary.

(2) Each claimant shall have the right to appear in person or by counsel before the Annual Conference Board of Claimants to present his case, and to appeal an irreconcilable difference between himself and his Annual Conference Board to the General Board of Conference Claimants, where final disposition shall be made.

4. All claims shall be paid from the general treasury in equal quarterly payments beginning January 2 of each year. 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 generally assessed claims. Any amounts so withheld shall not be in excess of deficiencies as provided in Par. 121.

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

### III. Church and Parsonage Aid

¶ 129. 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 in rebuilding partially or totally destroyed buildings of any Free Methodist society, district or conference or residence of retired preacher owned by an annual conference.

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

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

5. The amount of aid given any society shall not be more



than one half of the net loss, and in no case shall exceed \$1,500. 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, the allowance shall be paid for each building.

6. 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 of all retired preachers, to the extent of one half of their net loss, but in no case to exceed \$350.

7. All applications for aid shall be in accordance with forms furnished by the Administrative Commission. Loss report must be filed within sixty (60) days of loss.

8. The adjustment of any claim shall be made by the Administrative Commission.

9. It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge of a circuit to raise annually for church and parsonage aid the sum provided in the general service fund for each member in full relation and forward it through the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the general society.

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

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

11. In an emergency, the Administrative Commission shall have power to make a special call for funds to meet the special need.

¶ 130. Any Free Methodist society, publishing house, minister, or recognized school or benevolent institution, desiring additional aid from this fund, other than that allowed under the preceding sections, may receive it on the following conditions:

1. Each applicant shall contribute to the Church and Parsonage Aid fund the amount stipulated by action of the Board of Administration.

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

3. This special aid shall be limited to \$20,000 on church, parsonage, or allied buildings; \$3,000 on household goods of ministers or retired ministers; and \$2,500 on campground buildings.

4. A society which takes advantage of this "special provision," shall in addition have the benefits provided for under Paragraph 129.

5. In case of loss, the Church and Parsonage Aid Society shall have the option either to replace what is destroyed or pay in cash the aid to which the applicant is entitled. Claim for any loss must be filed within sixty (60) days of loss.

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 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 Administrative Commission.

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

9. When a loss has been sustained by an applicant, then the Church and Parsonage Aid Society may send a special representative or employ an adjuster to adjust the claim, 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 for special aid under the provisions of this chapter, that the agreement for special aid shall in no sense constitute a contract of insurance or indemnity, the laws of any state notwithstanding.

11. The Church and Parsonage Aid Society interprets



"parsonage" to mean a dwelling provided for the occupancy of a duly assigned pastor or superintendent. Any other use of the "parsonage" must be reported to the Church and Parsonage Aid Society immediately.

¶ 131. Canadian Conferences. Any Canadian conference may, by voting to do so and by making the contributions provided for in Paragraphs 129 and 130, receive all the benefits allowed the societies and conferences in the United States. All contributions and benefits shall be paid in Canadian currency.

#### IV. Department of Benevolences

¶ 132. 1. It shall be the duty of the commission to inspect the charitable institutions operating in and receiving support from the Free Methodist Church. No benevolent institution shall be approved until it has been officially recommended by its local conference.

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 they qualify for accreditation by 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 upon their financial status, their work, and the general plan and scope of their activities.

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

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

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

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

Deaconess Hospital and Wesley-Roberts Deaconess School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Founded in 1900.

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

The Jolley Homes, Conyers, Georgia. Founded in 1947.

And all others established by the commission.

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

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

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

#### V. The Publishing House

¶ 133. 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 Administrative 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 publisher shall have authority, under the supervision of the Administrative 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 Publisher and the Editor of *The Free Methodist* shall report to the Administrative Commission, annually and to the General Conference.



Par. 133 THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

5. The Free Methodist Publishing House is the denomination's official publishing agency.

## CHAPTER 11

### THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

#### I. Objects, Membership, Officers, Duties

¶ 140. 1. The Free Methodist Church by the Board of Administration and through the Commission on Missions seeks to carry the Gospel of Christ to the world. By education, medical service and evangelism, the Church, in obedience to the teachings of Christ, attempts to share the blessings of the Gospel as widely as possible in the lives of individual persons in society.

2. (a) The Commission on Missions shall consist of the number of persons as directed by the Board of Administration and two members elected by the Woman's Missionary Society. (See Par. 111.3)

(b) To represent the missionaries on the field, the Board of Administration shall arrange for one or more area representatives who shall serve as non-voting participants on the Commission on Missions and shall serve as supervisors in their areas under the general missionary secretary.

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

4. The members of the Commission shall continue in office until the close of the next session of the General Conference after their election and until others have been elected in their places. The Commission on Missions shall have an annual meeting, a personal notice of which shall be sent to each member; and a notice, signed by the chairman and secretary, shall appear in two issues of *The Free Methodist*.

¶ 141. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The chairman of the Commission shall, with the consent of the majority of its members, make general calls from time to time for funds to meet contingencies on the mission fields.

2. To take charge of all money collected for foreign and



home missions and appropriate it to the purposes for which it has been contributed.

3. The receipts for the fiscal year shall be audited and reported to the Commission. The Commission shall appropriate to the missionary work the receipts, making adequate provision in the budget for unforeseen contingencies which may arise during the year.

4. To publish in *The Free Methodist* and the *Yearbook* annual reports of all its receipts and disbursements. It shall make a full report to the General Conference at its regular session of all money received and disbursed by it, and of the results of such appropriations so far as they can be ascertained.

5. To accept, appoint and license candidates for missionary service.

6. To inquire annually into the usefulness of every missionary, active and on furlough. No missionary shall remain on furlough longer than one year. If, however, conditions arise beyond the control of the Commission or the missionary, furlough or service abroad may be extended until the emergency passes.

7. To leave a missionary without an appointment whenever the Executive Committee recommends it and the Commission thinks best. Any missionary left without an appointment two years in succession shall be discontinued as a missionary and his relation to the Commission on Missions shall cease.

8. To authorize the ordination of missionary candidates whenever it is expedient.

9. To organize conferences on the mission fields as follows:

(1) Provisional Conferences. When an annual conference on the field is in a preparatory stage, it shall adopt in principle the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church together with a constitution adapted to its local situation and peculiar needs, the same to be approved by the Commission on Missions.

(2) Full Conferences. When provisional conferences have made marked advancement in national leadership, evange-

listic outreach, self-government and self-support, and have reached the stage where they are able to operate fully under the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church, the Commission shall recognize such conferences and recommend them to the General Conference for full and equal status with the other conferences of the church.

10. To employ an assistant missionary secretary, if needed, and such other assistance as may be required for the General Missionary Secretary, and to define and assign the responsibilities of those employed.

11. To perform such other acts as are contemplated under the duties of the General Missionary Board.

12. The acts of the Commission on Missions are subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

## II. General Missionary Board

¶ 142. 1. The Board of Administration shall constitute the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an incorporated Body. The General Missionary Board is incorporated and is used for special financial transactions for the Commission on Missions.

2. The objects for which this corporation is formed are:

(1) To receive, hold, pay out, or dispose of any property, of whatever nature and wherever situate as allowed by law, that may be obtained in aid of the general missionary work of the Free Methodist Church.

(2) To acquire real estate or personal property in 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.

## III. The Directors of the Commission

¶ 143. 1. The Board of Administration, at its first meeting after the session of the General Conference, shall elect by ballot, from the membership of the Commission, 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. The Commission on Missions may elect an Executive



Committee whose acts shall be subject to the direction of the Commission.

#### IV. The General Missionary Secretary

¶ 144. 1. The general missionary secretary shall be elected by the General Conference as prescribed in Par. 104.

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 money received and take a receipt for it.

3. He shall have charge of the missionary interests of the church, subject to the orders and under direction of the commission, excepting in a sudden emergency, when he may be at liberty to act without waiting for orders from the commission, provided that such action shall be subject to the approval of the commission.

4. He may, with the consent of the president of the commission and a majority of the members, make general calls for special collections or for donations to provide for particular contingencies 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 it is 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, and whenever else the commission requests him to do so, a full and detailed report to the commission of all business pertaining to both the missionaries and the mission stations.

#### V. The Treasurer

¶ 145. The treasurer shall receive all money collected for foreign and home missions, giving receipts for the same, and shall pay over, upon order of the secretary, whatever sums have been appropriated by the commission. He shall deposit all funds in a national bank or trust company, selected by the commission, in the name of the General Mis-

sionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, to be drawn only upon the order of the secretary and the treasurer.

## VI. Home Missions

¶ 146. 1. All work on the North American continent carried on by the commission among foreign speaking people and others as designated by the Board of Administration shall be called home mission work.

2. Societies organized among these people shall be called "home mission societies." Members shall be received into these societies in preparatory and in full membership on the same conditions as in our regular societies.

3. When in the judgment of the general missionary secretary it is practicable to do so, two or more home mission societies may be organized into home mission districts and home mission conferences.

4. Home mission societies, circuits, districts, and conferences shall have the same general organization and power as those of regular church units. The manner of electing officers shall be subject to the approval of the general missionary secretary.

5. The Commission on Missions shall have complete administrative authority over home mission bodies assigned to its jurisdiction by the Board of Administration.

6. 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.

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 conferences within the bounds of which the societies are located.

8. These societies shall be reported in the annual conferences as "home mission societies." A footnote on the statistical report shall indicate that conference claims are not apportioned to them.

9. Preachers engaged in home mission work shall be ame-



nable to their annual conferences for their Christian character and to the Commission on Missions for their official conduct.

#### VII. Title to Land in Foreign Countries

¶147. 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, or deeded to trustees elected by the board, who may be missionaries, nationals, or both, and the tenure of whose office shall be subject to that board, and in all cases to the laws and regulations of the country where the land is located.

#### VIII. Duties of Preachers in Charge

¶148. It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of a circuit to hold at least one missionary meeting on his circuit during the year, and take a collection and receive subscriptions for the support of foreign and home missions.

#### IX. The Woman's Missionary Society

¶149.1. The Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church is recognized as an auxiliary arm of the General Missionary Board, operating through the Commission on Missions, and is governed by its own Constitution and By-laws.

#### X. Missions and Conferences

¶149.5. The following Conferences and Provisional Conferences are administered by the General Missionary Board through the Commission on Missions, and copies of their constitution and by-laws as or when adopted and approved by the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America, may be secured from the Secretary of the General Missionary Board.\*

The conferences so recognized are:

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\* The General Conference of 1960, in connection with plans for a World Fellowship of Free Methodist Churches, defined two national areas outside North America as general conferences, namely, Egypt and Japan.

Conferences—India; South Africa; Dominican Republic; Pacific Coast Japanese.

Provisional Conferences—Portuguese East Africa; Southern Rhodesia; Congo-Nile; China (Formosa); South America; Mexican; Pacific Coast Latin American.

In addition to the above, the following missions are under the sponsorship of the General Missionary Board: Hong Kong, Transvaal, Philippine Islands, Florida Spanish, Saskatchewan Indians, Los Angeles Chinese, Texas Latin American, Canadian Missions, Kentucky Mountains.



## CHAPTER 12

### THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### I. General Organization and Personnel

¶150. 1. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Education, which has authority over the Commission on Christian Education and its departments. The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of the number of persons directed by the Board of Administration and two elected by the Association of Free Methodist Colleges. (See Par. 111, Sec. 3)

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 are elected in their places.

3. The commission shall meet annually. Notices of meetings shall be sent to members at least one month in advance. The president shall have authority to call a special meeting of the commission in an emergency or upon the written request of three other members of the commission.

4. The acts of the commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

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

6. The commission shall be responsible for the general direction of the program of the church dealing with (a) the Christian education and training of childhood and youth, (b) the guidance and control of organized youth activities, (c) the education and training of 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

## DEPARTMENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS Par. 151

and elsewhere for the training of lay leaders in Christian education and evangelism, (f) bringing under the influence of these activities children, young people, and adults from outside the church membership.

7. The commission shall operate through five departments, as follows:

a. Sunday Schools—Including Sunday schools and all other activities sponsored by the local Sunday school, such as weekday and vacation Bible schools, camp meeting Bible schools, and the publication of literature for workers and students in all such schools.

b. Educational Institutions—Including elementary, secondary, and collegiate institutions.

c. Young People—Including the Free Methodist Youth organization and any other group activity of a church-wide nature for young people.

d. Intermediate Youth—Including the Christian Youth Crusaders and any other similar group.

e. 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. These secretaries shall be employed as follows:

a. The Sunday School Secretary and the Superintendent of Free Methodist Youth by the General Conference.

b. The Educational Secretary, the Director of Intermediate Youth and the Director of Service Training by the Board of Administration on recommendation of the Commission on Christian Education.

### II. Department of Sunday Schools

¶ 151. The Department of Sunday Schools shall function under the general direction of the Commission on Christian Education. A constitution, approved by the General Conference, outlines the objectives, organization, duties and responsibilities of the department. (See Appendix)



### III. Department of Educational Institutions

#### A. Organization and Administration

##### ¶ 158. General Organization

1. The Commission on Christian Education, through the Department of Educational Institutions, shall be responsible for promoting and for helping to maintain adequate opportunity for the elementary, secondary, collegiate and graduate training of the children and young people of the Free Methodist Church. It shall, also, endeavor to insure adequate educational training for the Christian ministry, of missionaries and of teachers. It is recognized, however, that John Wesley Seminary, which, in an affiliated relationship, now provides advanced scholastic opportunity in the area of ministerial and religious education, functions under the Seminary Board of Control, as outlined in Par. 165, Sec. 2.

2. In order to discharge its basic responsibility most effectively, the Department of Educational Institutions shall recognize the following areas of educational service:

- (a) John Wesley Seminary
- (b) Division of Colleges and Secondary Schools
- (c) Canadian Educational Institutions
- (d) Christian Day Schools

3. There shall be an executive officer of the Department of Educational Institutions, known as the Educational Secretary. He shall be employed by the Commission and shall have a voice, but no vote, in all regular meetings of the Commission.

##### ¶ 159. Powers and Responsibilities

The Department of Educational Institutions shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

1. Provide guidance and assistance to the church-related colleges and secondary schools, and their supporting conferences, looking toward an efficient educational program for Free Methodist youth, under the auspices of the church.

2. Set standards, academic and otherwise, which Free Methodist schools are expected to maintain. This shall include an emphasis upon achievement of full accreditation as an immediate objective.

3. Adopt procedures for assigning and, when need arises, to change the boundaries of the supporting areas of any educational institution when it is believed to be for the best interests of the church, the areas, the schools and the students concerned. Such action may be subject to appeal.

4. Take initiative, in cooperation with the various trustee boards, faculties and administrative officers of the Free Methodist Schools in preserving such policies and objectives as will relate those institutions closely to the church.

5. Assist in fostering in these institutions such an atmosphere of Christian dedication, devotion and service as will encourage both faculty and students to live constantly under the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit and stimulate students through positive personal Christian experience, as well as through academic and Biblical studies to give continuing witness to the power of the gospel.

6. Encourage in every department of these institutions the highest educational standards and foster in students the understanding that true Christian education centers in Christ.

7. Review the financial methods of all educational institutions and recommend improvements which seem to be needed for sound business practice and standard fiscal procedures for institutions of learning.

8. Devise ways and means to provide supplementary financial aid to our church schools.

9. Maintain a program, including visits by the Educational Secretary and others, for guidance, fellowship and Christian nurture of Free Methodist students who are attending collegiate, graduate and professional schools not related to the Free Methodist Church.

10. Publish annually in the *Yearbook* the following: (a) a list of all approved educational institutions of the Free Methodist Church under the Department of Colleges and Secondary Schools, (b) the type, or classification, of each school, (c) the highest academic accreditation of each school, including the name of the accrediting agency, (d) a list of the conferences assigned to each school.

11. Assist conference boards of education (whether as a



single board or merged into a conference board of Christian education) in carrying out their responsibilities.

12. Provide and administer a program of scholarships for students in Free Methodist collegiate, graduate and theological institutions. This shall include responsibility for setting up the conditions necessary for a student to qualify for a scholarship, for determining methods for distributing scholarships to the various schools and for selection of recipients.

13. Solicit bequests, money, property and other securities to be used in providing financial assistance to the various educational institutions, to provide funds for the operation of the department, and to build up the Endowment, the Scholarship and the Student Aid Funds.

14. Make surveys, call and hold conferences, and conduct workshops and seminars having to do with any phase of the schools, their problems and their programs, or related to the church's responsibility in the field of education.

15. Prepare and distribute promotional leaflets and other literature throughout the church to interest both youth and adults in attending and supporting our schools.

16. Maintain a file of all ministerial students, undergraduate and graduate, who are under the guidance of any Free Methodist conference, and, for those attending a Free Methodist school, maintain a record of earned academic and professional credits as reported by the institution attended.

17. Engage such personnel, appoint such committees and adopt such regulations as are necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

#### ¶ 160. Annual Conference Boards

1. Each annual conference shall organize within its bounds an annual conference board of education. This board shall consist of at least two ministers and an equal number of laymen to be elected by the annual conference.

2. Its duties shall include reporting to the annual conference and cooperation with the Commission on Christian Education, Board of Trustees and administration of the school to which its conference has been assigned.

#### B. *Division of Colleges and Secondary Schools*

**¶ 161. Guiding Principles**

The educational institutions of the Free Methodist Church are expected to comply with the following standards and to seek to achieve the objectives proposed below:

1. In broad, yet meaningful concepts it may be said that the educational objectives in a positively Christian institution are: Christian Culture, Intellectual Growth, Spiritual Maturation, Physical Development and Vocational Preparation. To varying degrees these goals, in any over-all effort to help students toward self-realization and the maturing of their relationship to God and society, are valid on all levels of study.

2. Two further objectives of every Free Methodist educational institution are the development in each Free Methodist student of

(a) an understanding of and a permanent loyalty to the Free Methodist Church

(b) a sense of call from God either as a full-time Christian worker in the Free Methodist Church or as a Spirit-guided Christian layman dedicated to the growth and spiritual progress of the church. Free Methodist schools are open to young people of all faiths who are in harmony with the required standards of conduct. It is the responsibility of each Free Methodist school to maintain such an atmosphere and to provide such guidance and Christian fellowship that all students in attendance will come to a new appreciation of the Free Methodist Church—its mission, its message, its doctrines and its standards, and will find their lives becoming increasingly aglow with spiritual vision and victory.

3. All Free Methodist educational institutions shall maintain scriptural standards in modesty of person and attire, in the types of amusement permitted and in the use of dramatics.

4. All Free Methodist educational institutions shall give attention to a wholesome and systematic program of physical education. Inter-school games shall be so directed as to express a positive type of Christian witness in the field of athletics and shall be confined to schools of high moral standards and wholesome influence, approved by the presi-



Par. 162 COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

dent and the faculty of the Free Methodist school scheduling the games.

5. The use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited. Membership in social fraternities shall not be permitted.

6. The Board of Trustees of each school shall have the primary responsibility, with the cooperation of the president and faculty, for insuring that the school's objectives, instruction, standards, program and activities, both curricular and extracurricular, are in harmony with the "guiding principles" as herein set forth.

7. Any complaint because of violation of any of these principles shall be directed to the Commission on Christian Education. Should the complaint be found to be valid, the Commission shall apply such penalty to the school found guilty as it deems appropriate. Such school, however, shall have the privilege of appeal, with full hearing, to the Board of Administration of the Church.

¶ 162. School-Church Relationships

1. At least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Trustees of each institution shall be members of the Free Methodist Church. A majority of the trustees shall be elected directly by the supporting conferences, or from nominees presented by such conferences.

2. At least two-thirds of the full-time faculty members must be members of the Free Methodist Church. Only those shall be employed or retained who are in harmony with the doctrines of the Free Methodist Church as taught in the Scriptures.

3. All instruction in the several departments shall be in 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 in the **BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**.

4. (a) The Board of Trustees of all presently existing educational institutions is requested to give serious consideration to having the following statement or its legal equivalent placed in its Articles of Incorporation. "This corporation shall be subject to the rules, regulations and **BOOK OF**

DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America as from time to time adopted by the General Conferences of the Church, in so far as the same do not contravene the laws of the state of incorporation. In the event of dissolution of this corporation the property of the same, if any remains after all prior obligations have been discharged, shall become the property of the Free Methodist Church of North America, to be administered by the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church, and the proceeds therefrom shall be used for educational purposes for the benefit of the conferences of the school's assigned area."

(b) No school shall hereafter be established which does not contain the above provision in its Articles of Incorporation.

5. The president of the institution and the chairman of the board of trustees of each Free Methodist college or secondary school meeting the above conditions shall constitute an "Association of Free Methodist Colleges and Secondary Schools." This organization shall have the privilege of electing two of its members to serve on the Commission on Christian Education. One representative from the Association shall be a president, the other a trustee, each representing a different school. (See Par. 111, Section 3)

#### ¶ 163. Educational Funds

1. *Endowment Fund.* All endowment funds allotted by the general church to educational institutions (including John Wesley Seminary Foundation) and such monies as may be raised or otherwise received for the Education Endowment Fund, shall be held for safe and proper investment by the Investment Committee of the Board of Administration. The income only, from the Fund, shall be distributed annually to Free Methodist schools in the United States according to action taken each year by the Commission on Christian Education. It is understood that the Commission is not required to follow a fixed formula year after year, but when determining allotments may take into account the provisions which appear in Section 5 of this paragraph.

2. *Student Aid Fund.* The Student Aid Fund shall include the offerings received from Sunday schools in connection



Par. 163 COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

with the special observance of Children's Day in June, and special gifts and bequests earmarked for this purpose. Distribution from this fund shall be made annually to the various schools according to relative need and on the basis of the considerations presented in Section 5 of this paragraph. The grants shall be made to the various institutions; these may administer their portions either as direct student grants or as student loans.

3. *Canadian Fund.* The Canadian conferences shall be allowed to retain for the schools of Canada all monies raised for education in their conferences. (See Par. 190, Sec. 4)

4. *Other Funds.* These shall be administered by the Commission on Christian Education.

5. *Allocation of Funds.* When funds are available for direct financial assistance to educational institutions for their operating budget, or for capital outlay, or both, the Commission on Christian Education shall, when determining the appropriation for each school, give due consideration to the following:

(a) Actual current needs of the school as shown in carefully prepared reports. These shall set forth total institutional assets, current and fixed liabilities, operating costs, faculty salaries, student enrollment, enrollment of Free Methodist students, etc. This information shall be presented on forms provided by the Department of Educational Institutions.

b) Effectiveness of the ministry of the school as an agency of the church in advancing God's kingdom, both locally and beyond, outside as well as within the Free Methodist Church.

(c) Level of accreditation attained by the school and the emphasis being placed upon qualifying for further recognition.

(d) Extent of financial support given in recent years to the school by its supporting conferences.

(e) Response by the supporting conferences to suggestions for cooperation with the Department of Educational Institutions in improving the work and good name of their school.

(f) Response by the school itself to suggestion from the

Department of Educational Institutions for cooperative effort looking toward increasing the school's effectiveness.

¶ 164. Canadian Educational Institutions.

Because of the international differences in educational standards and practices, Canadian educational institutions shall operate under the control of the Canadian Executive Board, subject to the "Guiding Principles" set forth in Par. 161. Canadian schools shall be exempt from supervision by the Department of Educational Institutions except upon request of the Canadian Executive Board with reference to special problems.

¶ 165. John Wesley Seminary

1. *Authorization:* The Free Methodist Church shall maintain a theological seminary for the post-college training of candidates for the ministry and other types of Christian service. This institution shall be known as John Wesley Seminary, and shall be incorporated to secure the rights and privileges belonging to such educational institutions.

2. *Control:* The Board of Administration shall constitute the Seminary Board of Control, with a Seminary Executive Board of thirteen members to plan and direct the institution subject to the approval of the Board of Control. The Seminary Executive Board shall be composed of the members of the Commission on Christian Education and the Chairman and one additional member selected by the Board of Control from each of the other three commissions.

3. *Support:* John Wesley Seminary shall be supported by such general assessments, special appropriations and solicitations as shall be approved by the Board of Control.

4. *Affiliation:* The Board of Control may affiliate the institution with such other seminary organizations as it may deem desirable or necessary, provided such institutions are unqualifiedly evangelical and Wesleyan in doctrine as interpreted by the Free Methodist Church.

¶ 166. Christian Day Schools

The Commission on Christian Education shall encourage and promote the establishing of Christian day schools.



Par. 166 COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1. Such schools shall be designated Light and Life Day Schools.

2. The commission shall make available to local churches and annual conferences information concerning existing Christian elementary day schools.

3. Light and Life Day Schools shall make every effort to meet state educational standards.

4. Each annual conference is authorized to establish a Conference Board of Light and Life Day Schools. The president of the conference shall instruct the nominating committee to exercise care in naming to this board persons competent to serve.

5. Responsibility for the operation of Light and Life Day Schools shall rest with a local board of directors, which shall cooperate with the conference board according to principles established by the commission.

6. The commission is authorized to develop a plan for assisting Free Methodist young people attending Free Methodist colleges in preparation for teaching in Light and Life Day Schools.

7. All property of Light and Life Day Schools shall be subject to the relevant disciplinary requirements of Paragraphs 460-469 concerning church property.

¶ 167. Endowment Funds

1. All endowment funds allotted by the general church to educational institutions (including John Wesley Seminary) Committee of the Board of Administration, and the interest accruing therefrom shall be paid annually to the proper representatives of the schools.

2. The income from the permanent endowment fund now held by the commission, amounting to \$100,000, shall be distributed among the schools in the United States as follows: 20% to each of the three senior colleges and 10% to each of shall be held for safe and proper investment by the Finance the four junior colleges.

3. The Canadian conferences are allowed to retain for the Canadian schools money raised for education in their territories. See Par. 190, Sec. 4.

IV. Department of Young People

¶ 168. General Organization

1. The Free Methodist Youth Council shall be amenable to the Board of Administration and report thereto through the Commission on Christian Education.

2. The Free Methodist Youth Council shall consist of five regional representatives and the General FMY Director who shall be chairman.

3. The General FMY Director shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The Free Methodist Youth organization through its General FMY Conference may nominate by ballot. The General Director of FMY shall serve under the direction of the Commission on Education. Any vacancy occurring in the office of the FMY Director shall be filled by the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education. The FMY Council may nominate.

4. For further particulars see the Constitution of Free Methodist Youth Appendix.

V. Department of Intermediate Youth

¶ 169.3. General Organization

1. The Commission on Christian Education shall have charge of the Department of Intermediate Youth.

2. The Commission shall nominate the General Director of Intermediate Youth, who shall promote the work of this Department and report to the Commission.

3. There shall be a general council for the Department of Intermediate Youth consisting of the general director as presiding officer and five members elected from each of the five Sunday school areas by the Commission on Christian Education.

(a) The delegated meeting of Intermediate Youth held in connection with the General Conference may nominate.

(b) The Council shall meet annually for consultation and planning.

(c) Expenses for travel to council meetings and for miscellaneous promotional expenses shall come from operating funds of the Department of Intermediate Youth.



## Par. 170 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TRAINING

¶ 169.6. The Constitution of the Christian Youth Crusaders. See Appendix.

### VI. Department of Leadership and Service Training

#### ¶ 170. General Organization

##### 1. Functions of the Department of Leadership and Service Training

The leadership education work of the church shall be under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education. Through its Department of Leadership and 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.

Promotion of Leadership and Service Training in FMY, CYC and Sunday Schools shall be carried on by the general and local officers of those organizations. Promotional work of the general director and the conference directors of Leadership and Service Training shall be limited to pastors. To insure coordination of effort, the general directors of CYC, Sunday Schools, FMY, Leadership and Service Training, and the Publisher, shall constitute the Leadership and Service Training Council, which shall meet at least quarterly for collaborative planning.

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

A full time Director of the Department of Leadership and 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 Leadership and Service Training throughout the church and shall establish and maintain a system of permanent records for leadership education credits earned. He shall be the executive secretary of the Committee on Publications and shall be responsible for coordinating departmental curricula and materials. He shall develop and keep current graded membership train-

ing materials under the supervision of the Publications Committee. He shall develop and keep current children's church worship materials. He shall also implement such educational projects as the commission may authorize or direct.

3. Finances of the Department

The Department of Leadership and 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 Leadership and Service Training activities.

¶ 171. Conference Organization

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

2. The conference director of Leadership and Service Training shall work under the direction of a conference Board of Christian Education, which will appropriate annually from its funds a suitable amount for the promotion of Leadership and Service Training within the conference.



## CHAPTER 13

### THE COMMISSION ON ÉVANGELISM AND CHURCH EXTENSION

#### I. General Provisions

¶ 180. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Evangelism and Church Extension. The acts of this Commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

1. The Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension shall consist of the number of persons as directed by the Board of Administration.

2. The Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension shall have as its objective the evangelization of the North American Continent (with the exception of Mexico) and such English-speaking areas as shall be assigned to it by the General Conference or Board of Administration.

3. 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.

4. The commission shall have authority to raise funds, employ evangelists, hire field representatives, appoint superintendents and pastors in church extension areas as authorized by the General Conference or Board of Administration, to determine the manner of their support, and to carry on aggressive evangelism throughout the church.

5. In order to function more effectively, the work of the Commission shall operate through three departments, i.e.: The Department of Evangelism, The Department of Church Extension, and the Department of Interracial Evangelism. These departments shall be under the supervision of the bishop of the commission and of the general secretary.

6. The Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension is authorized to set up a Division of Church Architecture. It is authorized to provide church building services including

architecture that will enable our societies to erect functional buildings in harmony with disciplinary standards.

7. The general secretary shall keep the records of the commission, receive and answer all correspondence relative to evangelism in the church, and, together with the bishop who is chairman of the commission, shall have general supervision of the entire evangelistic work, subject to the direction and approval of the commission.

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 the work of the commission into new and old fields, and discover and use available evangelistic talent in our schools, conferences, FMY, and elsewhere, to promote, in cooperation with conference evangelistic boards and district superintendents, an aggressive general program.

## II. The Department of Evangelism

¶ 181. 1. The Department of Evangelism shall work, in conjunction with the annual conference evangelistic boards in holding evangelistic conventions, raising funds for evangelistic work, employing evangelists, and organizing evangelistic campaigns. It shall attempt to coordinate on a church-wide level and promote evangelism in all branches of the church. It shall promote urban, rural and city evangelism. It shall publish literature to aid churches and conferences in all branches of evangelism.

2. It shall be the work of the commission to organize and promote visitation evangelism, community canvass, and such methods of neighborhood evangelism which shall better enable our churches to evangelize their communities.

3. The commission shall supervise the work of the evangelists. It shall aid the Association of Free Methodist Evangelists in organizing convocations. It shall publish literature and disseminate information toward the lifting of evangelistic standards and otherwise increasing the effectiveness of the evangelist.

4. The second Wednesday in January shall be a day of fasting and prayer for evangelism.

5. The Light and Life Men's Fellowship, having the pro-



motion of evangelism as one of its principal objectives, sustains an auxiliary relationship to the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension, and may select a representative to serve as a member of the commission.

6. There shall be a Conference Promoter of Evangelism to be elected by the Conference Board of Evangelism.

7. The local society may have a Committee on Evangelism.

### III. The Department of Church Extension

¶ 182. The Department of Church Extension shall aid in the planning, developing and building of new churches in the areas assigned to it by the Board of Administration.

2. It shall work with the conferences in building up through aggressive evangelism and extension services both the old and the new churches contained within their boundaries.

3. Churches may receive financial aid from the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension through grants and loans. Such churches must qualify under conditions set up by the commission.

4. Should a church which has received aid from the funds of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension be sold, an amount equal to that received as aid shall be repaid to the commission, unless it be used on the same circuit and for the same purpose, or used in a relocation of the society.

### IV. Church Extension Areas

¶ 183. A. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension to evangelize such areas among English-speaking peoples as may be assigned by the Board of Administration to the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension; to organize societies and establish churches and organize church extension districts; to aid and supervise building projects and, generally, to assist, organize and supervise work in such areas until organized into regular annual conferences or integrated with existing regular annual conferences.

B. Development and Administration

1. Areas within the bounds of any annual conference

which are wholly or largely undeveloped may be designated as Church Extension Areas by the Board of Administration or Administrative Commission when such action is recommended by the Bishop of the area, the Commission on Evangelism and by the conference or conferences whose territory is involved. Church Extension Areas may be formed within the bounds of Canadian conferences in the manner described, and elsewhere in the Dominion when such is approved by the Canadian Executive Board. Church Extension Areas outside the North American Continent may be assigned to the Commission on Evangelism or the Commission on Missions by the Board of Administration or the Administrative Commission.

2. Societies organized in these areas shall be called Church Extension Societies. Reception of members and organization of societies shall be as prescribed in the Discipline. Membership of such societies and the statistical report of such societies shall be listed in the *Yearbook* with the conference embracing their area. General Service Fund apportionments for such societies may be waived, or adjusted, as the Board of Administration shall determine.

3. The Church Extension Societies of an area shall comprise a Church Extension District which, for the purpose of membership, shall maintain an associate relationship to the conference whose territory embraces the area. Such a district shall be under the supervision of the Bishop of the area and the Commission on Evangelism. It is understood that the conference whose territory embraces this Church Extension District shall take such financial responsibility for the program as it may determine.

4. Superintendents of Church Extension Districts shall be appointed by the Bishop of the area in consultation with the Commission on Evangelism. The superintendent shall be counselled and directed in his work by the Commission on Evangelism and shall give an annual report of his work to the Commission.

5. Pastoral appointments to Church Extension Societies shall be made by a committee consisting of the Bishop of the area, the Superintendent, the General Secretary of Evange-



lism and two laymen elected by the Church Extension District.

6. A Church Extension District may be merged with a regular annual conference and become an integral unit of the same when such action is approved by vote of the societies or conferences involved and upon recommendation of the Bishop of the area and the Commission on Evangelism.

7. When in the judgment of the Bishop of the area and the Commission on Evangelism a Church Extension District has qualified for regular annual conference status, it shall be so organized according to the Discipline.

8. Wherever a change in conference boundaries or the creation of a conference may be involved in the foregoing sections, these changes shall also comply with the Disciplinary Paragraphs 331-9 and 471.

#### V. Church Extension Loan Fund

¶ 184. 1. The Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension shall have a fund to be known as the Church Extension Loan Fund. The purpose and use of this fund shall be to loan money to our churches which are endeavoring to build sanctuaries, parsonages and Christian education buildings.

2. This fund shall be promoted by the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension. Loans shall be investigated and approved by representatives of the commission.

3. Loans from the Church Extension Loan Fund shall be administered by the Investment Committee and their decision shall be final.

4. Monies for this fund shall be borrowed from investors and shall in turn be loaned to qualifying churches at rates of interest as determined by the Board of Administration.

5. A note shall be given to each investor and it shall be signed by the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

6. The general church treasurer shall carry this fund in a separate account from all other funds of the church. All monies shall be paid through his office and he shall keep records and papers of same.

7. This shall be a non-profit organization. All monies reverting to this fund, or not voted for operating expenses of the agencies administering the funds, shall go into the fund to increase the loan fund capital.

8. A percentage of the interest earned on loans, as determined by the Board of Administration, shall be transferred to the operating agencies to meet the expenses involved in handling the loan fund.

9. Loans from other sources shall be added to this fund as determined by the Board of Administration.

## VI. The Department of Interracial Evangelism

¶ 185. 1. All work among racial minorities on the North American Continent, with the exception of Mexico, that may be assigned to the Commission by the Board of Administration, shall be under the supervision of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension through its Department of Interracial Evangelism, except in cases where conferences carry on organized work, they may elect to work under the guidance of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension.

2. The organization of local churches, districts and conferences shall be carried on in the same manner as that of Church Extension Areas.

## VII. Finance

¶ 186. The Department of Evangelism and Church Extension shall receive its financial support from the following sources:

1. A church-wide offering taken on a Field Day during the church fiscal year.

2. The department shall be privileged to send deputational workers from the Commission, as well as from the church extension districts, to our churches, conferences, camp meetings and general gatherings to take offerings and to solicit special gifts for this work.

3. Each conference shall raise and remit to the general church treasurer for the use of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension an amount equal to 10 per cent



of the receipts of the Conference Evangelistic Board, except that received for church extension projects.

4. During the year the Commission shall have the privilege of soliciting enlistments for the Total Enlistment League, for the building of new churches in North America.

## CHAPTER 14

### THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD

¶ 190. 1. There shall be a Canadian Executive Board. The Canadian Executive Board of the Free Methodist Church in Canada shall be elected by the Canadian conferences in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, and shall have the powers as set forth in their Constitution and By-Laws and the Dominion Act of Incorporation of 1959.

2. The Canadian Executive Board shall constitute a board of general and home missions for the Dominion of Canada.

3. The Canadian Executive Board shall co-operate with the General Conference in collecting in the Canadian conferences the annual assessment for bishops' salaries and General Conference delegates' expense and entertainment fund. All other assessed claims collected in the Canadian conferences shall be retained and administered by the Canadian Executive Board.

4. The Canadian conferences shall be permitted to retain all money raised within their bounds except those parts of the General Service Fund otherwise assigned in Sec. 3. All general funds so held, except those which may be directly related to any of the co-operating conferences, those raised for the Commission on Missions and for the Sunday School Department as provided for in the Sunday-school Constitution, those the Canadian Executive Board may contribute to the Commission on Evangelism, and those which any Canadian conference wishes to use in taking advantage of the provisions of Par. 131, shall be administered by the Canadian Executive Board.

5. The Canadian Executive Board relinquishes all claim to the funds raised in the United States for conference claimants, general missions, church extension, charities, education, general evangelism, and church and parsonage aid.

6. The Free Methodist Church in the United States shall



## THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD Par. 190

make payment to all claimants who at the time of the General Conference of 1923 were receiving appropriations from the superannuate fund of the Canadian conferences and to the first two preachers who thereafter became claimants in these conferences; and the Canadian Executive Board assumes responsibility for all later claimants in the Canadian conferences.

7. Preachers who, after the General Conference of 1923, transfer from the Canadian 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 territory.

## CHAPTER 15

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(See John Wesley's admonitions preceding Par. 100)

¶ 240. Each annual conference shall be composed of all the traveling, supernumerary, and retired preachers who have been duly received into full membership within its bounds, lay delegates elected by the several circuits, as provided in Par. 62, and women evangelists as provided in Par. 360, Sec. 4. Probationers in the conference are members without vote.

¶ 241. There shall be the following annual conferences, to wit: Genesee, Illinois, Susquehanna, Southern Michigan, Kansas, Northern Iowa and Minnesota, New York, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Michigan, Ohio, Central Illinois, Texas, Missouri, West Kansas, Dakota, Pittsburgh, California, East Michigan, Louisiana, Oregon, West Iowa, Wabash, Colorado, North Minnesota, Nebraska, Arizona-Southern California, Ozark, Columbia River, Washington, West Ontario, East Ontario, Kentucky and Tennessee, Oil City, Oklahoma, Georgia and Carolina, Florida, Maryland-Virginia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, North Indiana, Centenary, and others organized as hereinafter provided.

¶ 242. A new society, organized near the boundary line between two conferences and in a conference which has no organized work within forty miles, shall be permitted to decide for itself to which of the two conferences it shall belong.

¶ 243. 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.

¶ 244. 1. In the absence of the bishop and of the elder whom he may have appointed, the conference shall elect,



by ballot, an elder from its own number to preside. All other conference officers must be members of the church within the bounds of the conference.

2. It shall elect, by ballot if it wishes, a secretary who shall continue in office until a successor is elected. His duties are as follows:

(1) To record in a suitable book the proceedings of the conference, excluding anything not actually conference business.

(2) To keep, in a book to be preserved with the journal, the original or so-called rough minutes as approved by the conference.

(3) To keep on file the reports adopted by the conference and record in the journal only financial and such other reports as the conference may order.

(4) To be custodian of the conference records and journal.

(5) To transcribe from the annual conference records all the decisions of disciplinary law rendered by the president, giving the number of the pages upon which those decisions are recorded, and forward the transcript promptly to the Secretary of the General Conference and, if there are no such decisions, to send a statement to that effect to the Secretary.

(6) To send the conference records to the General Conference.

3. It shall elect a treasurer who shall be bonded. In case of a vacancy the district superintendents of the conference may appoint a treasurer to act until the next conference session. He shall remit quarterly all funds due the general church treasurer. The general church treasurer shall, immediately after the conference session, notify the conference secretary of any deficit.

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 tithing by:

(1) Setting a date when each pastor shall preach on this subject and informing him of it.

(2) Arranging for the distribution of literature by the pastors on their charges.

(3) Providing cards to be used by each pastor to secure pledgers to the tithing system. The pastor shall tabulate results and forward them to the tithing secretary to be used as a part of his annual report.

(4) Making such other provisions as he may judge best to create interest.

(5) Making a report at the close of each conference year to the General Director of Tithing and to the annual conference.

6. The annual conference shall elect a standing committee on missions to cooperate with the General Missionary Board in presenting the interests and support of the home and overseas missionary work. The Woman's Missionary Society, the Light and Life Men's Fellowship and the F.M.Y. may each elect a representative to the committee. Attention should be given to ministerial and lay representation.

¶ 245. 1. Each annual conference shall have a standing Board of Ministerial Training, the personnel of which may be the members of the Stationing Committee with additional members as deemed advisable by the electing body, the total membership not to exceed twelve members nor to be less than four with due regard to a proper division of membership on the Board between lay members and ministers. This Board shall be invested with the responsibility of carefully screening the candidates for reception into the conference or advancement in conference relation or ordination. The Board shall guide and counsel those who are received, that they may be able to meet all the demands of their holy office.

2. It shall be the duty of this Board through the year to serve as a planning committee, and as a counseling body for the superintendents, or superintendent. It shall also be the duty of this Board to assist in the matter of manning the work.

3. The Board shall, in addition, provide opportunity for expression of each pastor in the matter of his appointment, shall make careful study of the problem of manning



the work and shall relay all such information with recommendations to the Stationing Committee.

¶ 245.5. An annual conference may appoint a Committee on Ministerial Relations. Only the case of a minister accused of dissemination of false doctrine or immoral conduct may be referred to a Committee on Ministerial Relations.

This committee shall act only as a committee of preliminary investigation, to determine if there is a probable cause for such accusation and report such findings to the conference. The committee's report upon a particular case must, except with the consent of the accused to expunge it, be placed in the conference records, with a statement of the findings and the final disposition.

¶ 246. 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.

¶ 247. An annual conference is not a legislative body. It cannot enact laws, nor can it interpret the DISCIPLINE by resolutions or reports and bring ministers or laymen to trial for violation of them.

¶ 248. Each annual conference shall elect one or more elders as superintendents to man the work, and may elect one or more pastors who are elders to serve as assistants to the superintendent.

The territory embraced by each annual conference shall be divided into districts, and over each district one of the elders shall be appointed by the conference as district superintendent.\* The conference may instruct a superintendent to work under the general direction of an advisory committee, provided that there be no infringement of the disciplinary powers of the superintendent.

¶ 249. 1. The district superintendents and an equal number of lay members of the conference (one from the districts of each superintendent), to be elected by ballot the first day of the session, shall, together with the president of the conference, 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, it may, if it so desires, 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 each year.

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.

3. A preacher may be appointed to a circuit without having charge of it; the administration of it shall then devolve upon the district superintendent and the official board.

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

¶ 250.1. Any preacher not regularly in effective relationship to the ministry of the Free Methodist Church may be granted the supernumerary relationship or leave of absence by his conference on the recommendation of the stationing committee. After two years on leave of absence, a preacher who is not restored to effective relationship automatically shall become supernumerary unless, upon recommendation of the stationing committee, he is located or is continued on leave of absence. After two years in supernumerary relationship or two years on leave of absence, a preacher may be located, on recommendation of the stationing committee.



One so located, either from leave of absence or supernumerary relation, may be restored to the traveling relationship only by the conference that located him. The published appointment of preachers on leave of absence shall designate the reason for the leave.

¶ 251. 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.

¶ 252. An ordained woman deacon in an annual conference married to a preacher who is also a member of an annual conference becomes an ordained local preacher.

¶ 253. 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 the board are outlined in the plan for conference claimants. (See Par. 125, Sec. 3, and Par. 128, Sec. 3, for duties of the annual conference, relating to care of superannuate preachers.)

¶ 253.1. Each annual conference shall elect a standing administrative committee of not less than four members to act as the executive committee of the conference in the interim of meetings of the annual conference to care for routine business and items specifically delegated to it by the conference within the limits of the DISCIPLINE.

¶ 254. 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, provided that it make provision and be responsible for the support of all the laborers which it employs.

¶ 255. 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 Par. 181, Sec. 9 (3). No preacher, however, shall be granted an evangelist's relation to the conference unless he states in writing that he intends to devote at least 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 that relation the following year.

No preacher shall be granted an evangelistic relation unless he has served at least five years in the pastorate, except by the approval of the stationing committee and the conference board of evangelism.

Evangelistic appointments made beyond the time of the ensuing annual conference are subject to the action of the conference.

¶ 256. 1. Each annual conference shall elect a conference advisor of F. M. Y. The conference F. M. Y. may nominate.

2. Each annual conference shall elect a member of F. M. Y. to the board of conference evangelism.

¶ 257. The educational work of the conference shall be coordinated by the election of a Board of Christian Education which shall include: the conference Sunday school secretary, the FMY director, the CYC director and the director of Leadership and Service Training as ex-officio members and not less than two ministers and two laymen elected on rotating tenures and the conference superintendent or one of the district superintendents chosen by the conference. It shall be the duty of this board to direct the work of the Sunday School, the CYC and the Leadership and Service Training in the conference.

The Board of Christian Education may nominate the conference Sunday school secretary, the CYC director and the director of Leadership and Service Training to be elected by the annual conference.



¶ 258. 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 retired preachers?
11. Who have been received by transfer, and from what conferences? (It is the duty of the conference receiving a preacher by transfer to send notice of his reception to the secretary of the conference from which he has transferred.)
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 301-306, 310-311 and 345, Sec. 2. Let the president call attention to these portions of the DISCIPLINE.)
17. Who have died this year?
18. What is the number of church members? (Gain or loss of membership in a society as reported in the statistical forms refers to full members only.)
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?
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 Sunday schools? What has been raised in the Sunday 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 last session prior to 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?

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



## CHAPTER 16

### THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

¶ 260. 1. The district conference shall be composed of the traveling preachers, the members of the official boards of the district, president of the district WMS, district CYC and Men's Fellowship promoters, district FMY advisor, and district conference trustees who are members of the church and live within the bounds of the district. A preacher holding a certificate of standing from his annual conference retains his rights and membership in his district conference.

2. Four sessions of the district conference shall be held each year, in connection with the general district 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 of the district conference, the district superintendent may call a special session. (For exceptions, see Par. 340, Sec. 4.) A district conference may order a session to be held outside its geographical limits when two or more districts unite in district or conference camp meetings or conventions. The last district conference of the year may fix the time and the place of the first meeting of the ensuing year.

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

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

5. The district conference shall have the right to review the records of the official boards of the district at its discretion or on demand of the district superintendent, and to pass

upon whatever is not in harmony with the DISCIPLINE or with parliamentary law.

6. The district conference shall

- (1) Hear complaints.
- (2) Try appeals.
- (3) Grant and renew licenses to preach. (See Paragraphs 261, 350-353.)

(4) License band workers.

(5) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference for admission on probation as traveling preachers.

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

(7) Recommend suitable local preachers to the annual conference to receive ordination as deacons and elders.

(8) Elect a district advisor of the F. M. Y. The district F. M. Y. may nominate.

(9) In co-operation with the district superintendent, appoint and hold camp meetings as the interests of the cause of God may require. It may set the time of the camp meeting of the following year.

¶ 261. The district conference shall take cognizance of all the local preachers in the district licensed by the district conference in harmony with Par. 350, and shall inquire into the gifts, labors, and usefulness of each by name.

#### Order of Business for District Conference

¶ 262. 1. Call to order by district superintendent or, in his absence, by the secretary.

2. Devotions.

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

4. Election of secretary.

5. Election of treasurer.

6. Election of auditor.

7. Reading of the minutes of previous session.

8. Financial report of district superintendent.

9. Report of treasurer.

10. Report of committees.



11. Is there any unfinished business?

12. Is there any new business?

13. Are there any complaints?

14. Are there any appeals?

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

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

17. Reports from preachers on condition of their churches, Sunday schools, instruction in Christian living and church membership (see Par. 345, Sec. 25), the number of subscribers to *The Free Methodist*, and the use of Free Methodist Sunday-school literature, with statements that the permanent records on their circuits are up to date.

18. Reports of evangelists and deaconesses.

19. Report of district advisor of the F. M. Y.

(Questions 20 to 28, last session of year only)

20. Are there any licenses to be renewed? (All licenses previously granted should be renewed at the last session of the conference year. A recommendation of the official board is required for the renewal of a local preacher's license.) Local preachers'? Evangelists'? Are there any deaconesses to be recommended to the annual conference for renewal of licenses or for permanent licenses?

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

22. Are there any women evangelists to be recommended for seats in the annual conference?

23. Are there any evangelists to be recommended for annual conference licenses?

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

25. Are all the local elders, local deacons, evangelists, and deaconesses licensed by the annual conference, blameless in life and faithful and efficient in service? (All preachers, evangelists and deaconesses should retire while their characters or their licenses are under consideration. Evangelists licensed by the annual conference shall make a

report of their work to the district conference, and in case of failure to do so, the district conference may recommend to the annual conference that the license be revoked.)

26. Annual report of the district board of trustees.

27. Are the corporate seal, record books and valuable documents of the district conference deposited for safe keeping? If so, where?

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

29. When, and where, shall our next session be held?

30. Reading and approval of minutes.

31. Adjournment.



## CHAPTER 17

### THE OFFICIAL BOARD

¶ 270. 1. An official meeting, composed of the pastors, local preachers, exhorters, evangelists, deaconesses, stewards, class leaders, Sunday school superintendents, advisor(s) of the local Free Methodist Youth, director of the local Christian Youth Crusaders, president of the local Woman's Missionary Society, president of the local Light and Life Men's Fellowship, treasurer of the society, financial secretary, and trustees of the local church property shall, whenever practicable, be held on each circuit once a month. It is understood that the officials designated above have a seat on the official board only when members of the church in full relation, and, in the case of all local officials, members on the circuit.

2. The preacher in charge shall be chairman of the official meeting, except as provided for in Par. 340, Sec. 5, and in his absence a chairman shall be elected.

3. The official board shall elect a secretary and a treasurer. The secretary shall keep, in a suitable book provided for that purpose, faithful minutes of the proceedings of the official board and of the circuit meetings, and shall record all marriages and baptisms. The treasurer shall keep a record of all money raised on the circuit and of the manner in which it is expended, and give a full report of it at the annual circuit meeting. It is recommended that the Official Board elect two tellers, at least one of whom shall, with the treasurer, count each offering, and together with the treasurer he/they shall fill in a form stating the date, the amount of the offering, and the purpose for which it was received. The treasurer shall retain all such forms, and they shall be available for the auditor when he makes the annual audit of the treasurer's accounts.

It is also recommended that a financial secretary be elected if the size of the congregation and amount of funds handled

make it advisable. Duties of the financial secretary shall be defined by the official board.

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

5. It is recommended that the official board elect from the members of the church a budget or finance committee, of which the pastor and the treasurer shall be members, to prepare for the consideration of the board an estimate of the amount needed for the support of the preachers and for the other expenses of the circuit.

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 urged to give regularly (weekly, monthly, or quarterly) according to his means.

7. The official board shall provide a permanent book in which the pastor shall enter the information prescribed in Par. 345, Sec. 7.

8. The official board may set up a committee to coordinate the educational work of the church consisting of the pastor, the Sunday-school superintendent, the FMY director, the CYC director, and the director of Leadership and Service Training.

#### Suggested Order of Business

##### ¶ 271. 1. Devotions.

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 converts and probationers receiving instruction in Christian living and church membership according to Par. 345, Sec. 23?

c. Are there any whose probation has expired?

d. Have any been received into full connection?



- e. Have any died?
- f. Have any been otherwise removed?
- (3) Are there any violating our rules of church membership who will not be reprov'd?
- (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 preacher's license? Are there any local preachers to be recommended for renewal of licenses?
- (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 advisor(s) of the F. M. Y.
  - d. Report of the director of C. Y. C.
  - e. Report of the President of Light and Life Men's Fellowship.
  - f. Report of board of stewards.
  - g. Report of board of trustees.
- (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 Par. 93 being observed?

9. Reading the minutes.

10. Adjournment.



## CHAPTER 18

### THE CIRCUIT MEETING

¶ 280. 1. Every circuit shall have, within three months of the annual conference, an annual circuit meeting, of which the preacher in charge shall be chairman, without vote, and the secretary of the official board, secretary. The meeting shall be announced in each society at least ten days before it is held. Absentee voting is not permitted.

2. At this meeting the members in full relation on the circuit who are sixteen years of age and over (see Par. 88, Sec. 2) shall from their number elect by ballot delegates to the annual conference according to the provisions in Paragraph 62. No person in preparatory membership or on probation in an annual conference is eligible to be a delegate. If, however, a delegate is received into the conference on probation, he does not lose his seat as delegate.

3. The annual circuit meeting shall decide the number of stewards to be elected by each society. Where there is but one society the suggested orders of business for the circuit meeting and the society meeting may be combined. Election of trustees shall be as specified in the Charter or By-Laws or by the State law. Vacancies shall be filled by the society in which they occur.

4. At this meeting the trustees shall present a full report of the church property.

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

6. The circuit or society may vote by ballot without debate at the annual circuit or society meeting "yes" or "no" upon the continuance of the pastor. Such vote shall not be counted, but shall be placed in a plain envelope, sealed in the presence of the circuit or society, and immediately forwarded by the secretary of the annual circuit or society meeting to the district or conference superintendent, who

shall inform the stationing committee on the results of this vote.

**Suggested Order of Business**

**¶ 281. 1. Devotions.**

(Secretary of the official board acts as secretary.)

2. Calling of the roll.
3. Report of treasurer of official board, Par. 270, Sec. 3.
4. Election of tellers.
5. Election of delegates to the annual conference.
6. Election of reserve delegates.
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.



## CHAPTER 19

### THE SOCIETY MEETING

¶ 290. 1. The society meeting shall be composed of the members of the society in full relation. Those under sixteen years of age are ineligible to vote. (See Par. 88, Sec. 2.)

2. The preacher in charge shall be chairman of the meeting without vote. Minutes of the society meetings shall be kept in the record book of the official board. When there is but one society on a circuit, the secretary of the official board shall be the secretary of the society.

3. The society meeting shall recommend suitable persons for exhorter's, evangelist's, and deaconess' licenses and for band workers; elect stewards to the number fixed by the circuit meeting; elect Sunday-school superintendents; elect, when necessary, a committee to try members; decide the propriety of incorporating; elect trustees, subject to the statutes of the territory in which the society is located; and elect (the F. M. Y. may nominate) the F. M. Y. advisor(s).

4. The preacher in charge or, in his absence or his 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.

#### Suggested Order of Business

¶ 291. 1. Devotions.

2. Roll call.

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

5. Election of tellers.

6. (1) Election of a treasurer. (2) Election of an auditor of the accounts of the church treasurer, the Sunday-school treasurer, the F. M. Y. treasurer, and other accounts.

7. Election of Sunday-school superintendent. The preacher in charge may nominate. (See Par. 152, VIII, 2.)

8. Election of Sunday-school officers and teachers, who with the pastors and the superintendent, constitute the Sunday-school board. (See Par. 152, VIII, 3.)

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

10. Election of advisor(s) of F. M. Y.

11. Election of a Christian Youth Crusaders Committee and a Christian Youth Crusaders 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). (See Par. 461.)

16. Election of class leaders. Each class may elect its own leader. The preacher in charge may nominate.

17. Miscellaneous business.

18. Approval of minutes.

19. Adjournment.





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



## **CHAPTERS**

- 20. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK**
- 21. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES**
- 22. DEACONS AND ELDERS**
- 23. BISHOPS**
- 24. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS**
- 25. PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE**
- 26. SUPERNUMERARY AND RETIRED MINISTERS**

## CHAPTER 20

### QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK

#### I. The Call to Preach

¶ 300. Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach.—1. The following questions shall be asked the candidates, 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 district 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

¶ 301. Be diligent. Never be unemployed; never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

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

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

Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best



construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 302. 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

¶ 303. 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.

¶ 304. 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?

¶ 305. 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 practice 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 practicing 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?

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

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

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

Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin? Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense, imagination, honor? Are you temperate in all things? Instance, in food? Do you use only that kind and that degree which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this. Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary. Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? Do you use only that kind and degree of drink which is best both for the body and soul? Do

you choose and use water for your common drink? And only take wine medicinally or sacramentally? Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous to nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby? Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see his eye continually fixed upon you? Never can you use these means but a blessing will ensue. And the more you use them, the more you will grow in grace.

#### IV. Matter and Manner of Preaching

¶ 307. 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.

¶ 308. 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

¶ 309. 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

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

We can but just touch on a few particulars. How little faith is there among even professing Christians! How little



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

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

¶ 311. 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 longsuffering."

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

¶ 312. 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 knowl-



edge you can procure, and all the grace you can obtain.

¶ 313. 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.

¶ 314. 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 practice 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.

¶ 315. 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 practices. Show no respect to persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing.

### VII. Employment of Time

¶ 316. 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

¶ 317. We should be deeply sensible, from what we have



known, of the evil of division in principle, spirit, or practice, 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

¶ 318. 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 21

### MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES

#### I. Reception on Probation

¶ 320. 1. A local preacher or evangelist who has been duly recommended by his district conference may be received on probation by an annual conference after satisfactorily meeting the preliminary admission requirements (a preliminary course for those pursuing the Correspondence Course as indicated in Par. 505, Sec. 1-b; or enrollment as a bona fide student in a Free Methodist College with a view to becoming a Free Methodist minister for those pursuing the college or seminary course as described in Pars. 501 and 502), and when so received he shall have from the annual conference a certificate of his relation signed by the president and the 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 such natural gifts and graces as to promise at least a fair degree of success in the work of God, and who has the recommendation of two thirds of the stationing committee.

2. Women may be received on probation and into full membership and be ordained deacon, on the same conditions as men, provided always that this 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. Upon being received on probation a woman automatically loses the seat in conference she may have had under Par. 360, Sec. 4.

3. No candidate 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 he has been approved by the Board of Bishops. This shall be construed to apply likewise to a candidate whose wife has been divorced from a



## Par. 321 MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES

husband still living when the question of admission comes before the conference.

4. A preacher on probation in an annual conference is no longer a member of a society to be reported with the local preachers whose licenses are renewed by a quarterly conference. Instead he holds his membership in the annual conference and is counted with the preachers; but he is not entitled to vote.

5. A probationer shall be allowed a maximum of four years to complete the course of study required for admission into the conference in full membership (See chapter 46). Should he fail to complete the course of study in that time, his status as probationer may be continued only upon recommendation of the conference Board of Ministerial Training.

### II. Reception into Full Membership —

¶ 321. 1. A traveling preacher may be received into full membership and be reported as having a seat in the conference after having been employed in the regular itinerant work two successive years subsequently to his reception on probation and after satisfactorily completing the required course of study (Par. 503, Sec. 2) 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?

2. For restrictions upon the admission of divorced persons, see Sec. 3 of the preceding paragraph.

### III. Reception from Other Denominations

¶ 322. 1. Ministers from other evangelical churches who desire to unite with our church may be received according to our usages, provided that they give satisfactory answers to the questions which we propose to our own laymen and ministers before receiving them into full membership; and that they satisfy an annual conference of their being in orders, of their agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government, and usages, and of 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 living, or if his wife has a divorced husband living.

### IV. Ordination Credentials

¶ 323. 1. 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.

2. An ordained minister in good standing who unites with another church or is granted permission to withdraw from the Free Methodist Church, shall deposit his parchments with the secretary of the conference and receive a receipt for them.

3. A minister who is expelled from the church, or is allowed to withdraw under charges, forfeits his parchments. If he refuses or neglects to deposit them with the secretary of the conference from which he has separated, the conference shall by official action declare them forfeited.



## Par. 325. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES

### V. Termination of Conference Membership

¶ 324. Conference membership may be terminated by:

1. Voluntary location.
2. Location through action of the conference under the provisions of Par. 250.
3. Location under Par. 252 of an ordained woman deacon whose husband is a member of an annual conference.
4. Ceasing to travel or to do the work assigned, without proper consent. See Par. 329.
5. Withdrawal with consent of the conference (see Par. 257, Sec. 12).

A minister who leaves the church after complaints have been lodged against him and who regains membership by any means, shall not be allowed to exercise any of the functions of the ministerial office until he has given satisfaction to the conference to which he belonged at the time of leaving the church.

### VI. Transfer of Membership

¶ 325. 1. To transfer to another annual conference a minister must have a certificate of standing from either his district or his annual conference. This certificate expires with the first roll call of the ensuing annual conference.

2. Only an annual conference can give a certificate of standing to a minister intending to join another denomination. Membership in the conference and the church terminates upon the giving of such a certificate.

3. A conference minister who unites with another denomination without having requested or received from our church proper credentials of withdrawal may, upon satisfactory evidence of that fact, be declared withdrawn by a majority vote of the conference.

## CHAPTER 22

### I. DEACONS AND ELDERS

¶ 327. Traveling Deacons: 1. A minister who has been employed in the regular itinerant work for two successive years after his reception on probation and who has satisfactorily completed the course of study for probationers (See chapter 46), may be constituted a traveling deacon by a majority vote of the conference, and the laying on of hands of the president. In foreign mission fields, 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.

¶ 328. 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 who has satisfactorily completed the course of study for traveling preachers (See chapter 46), shall be constituted a traveling elder by a majority vote of the conference and by the laying on of the hands of the president and of some of the elders present.

2. In time of war the Board of Bishops shall have authority to elect to elder's orders an ordained deacon who has completed only a part of the two-year time requirement of Par. 503, Sec. 1, if he is an approved candidate for the chaplaincy in the army or the navy of the United States and has been recommended by his quarterly conference.

3. 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.



¶ 329. No elder or deacon who, except in case of sickness, inability, or other unavoidable circumstances, ceases to travel without the consent of the annual conference, certified under the hand of the president of the conference, shall exercise the peculiar functions of his office or even be allowed to preach among us; nevertheless, the final determination of the case rests with the annual conference. (See Par. 406.)

## CHAPTER 23

### BISHOPS

¶ 330. 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, unless the General Conference decides upon a lesser number of bishops, 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 and to counsel and formulate plans for the work of the church.

c. To group the conferences into administrative areas, equal in number to the number of bishops, 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.

d. To give consideration, in arranging the schedule of the annual conferences, to the appointment of the bishops to preside at the annual conferences in each administrative area for two or more years in the interim between General Conference.

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

1. To visit each conference in their respective administrative areas during the year, and, as far as possible, call the pastors and conference leaders together to counsel and advise them in the promotion of the spiritual and temporal interests of the church in accordance with the plan of the Board of Bishops.

2. Upon the request of a group of contiguous conferences within an area, to form an administrative cabinet, of which the bishop shall be chairman. The cabinet shall be composed of the conference superintendent, or one district superintendent, and one layman from each conference, to be elected by the annual conference. Each conference should care for the travel expenses of its respective members.



The administrative cabinet in each area shall have authority to nominate a conference superintendent for any given conference within the area when asked by a majority vote of that conference to do so.

The administrative cabinet in each area shall be authorized to subsidize the salary and/or travel expense in the case of any conference superintendent when it is deemed necessary for more efficient service. The cabinet shall not subsidize salaries or travel expenses in any conference which has more than one superintendent.

3. To oversee the spiritual and temporal interests of the church, and to labor to promote its purity, peace and prosperity.

4. To establish new societies.

5. To receive and suspend preachers, according to the provisions of the DISCIPLINE.

6. To change a preacher from one district to another presided over by a different superintendent, with the consent of the preacher to be removed, of the district superintendents, and of a majority of the official board of the circuit from which he is to be removed.

7. 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 his district conference.

8. To cite a preacher for trial for insubordination or maladministration, according to Par. 430.

9. To form new conferences in the intervals of general conferences, as the needs of the work demand, subject to the approval of the General Conference; provided, that no new conference shall be formed without the consent of the conferences whose territory is affected, nor without the consent of two thirds of the members of the Administrative Commission; and that no new conference shall be organized with less than five preachers in full membership and one hundred full lay members within its bounds.

10. To preside at the sessions of the General Conference,

of the Board of Administration, and of the annual conferences, and at the trial of appeals taken from district or annual conferences, and to decide all questions of law therein, subject to an appeal to the General Conference.

A bishop's decision upon a point of law arising in annual conference proceedings shall be the rule until reversed by the General Conference or by the Judicial Council on appeal of the General Conference.

When a bishop is requested by an annual conference of which he is president to rule upon a point of law not arising in conference proceedings, the question shall be presented in writing, together with a full written explanation of the circumstances out of which the question has arisen and, if there be any, statements by the opposing parties in the dispute; all this information shall later be placed in the hands of the General Conference when the bishop's decision is referred to it. The bishop immediately upon ruling shall appeal to the other bishops for their opinions; and the ruling shall become binding upon them only after they have been notified that at least two of them have concurred in writing and until reversed by the General Conference ~~or the Judicial Council on appeal of the General Conference~~. e?

11. To receive from one whom they have appointed to hold an annual conference a comprehensive written report of all the administrative proceedings which arise in that conference.

¶ 332. 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 belong.

¶ 333. A bishop may elect to retire when he reaches the age of sixty-five years. Otherwise, he shall retire upon the election of his successor at the end of the General Conference nearest his seventieth birthday. When a bishop, or a former bishop, reaches the age of retirement and retires, he shall have the title of Bishop Emeritus, provided he has served the church as a bishop for a minimum of six years.

¶ 334. A bishop shall receive a retirement credit of 5 per cent of the salary rate in effect for bishops at the date of



his retirement for each year of his service as a bishop, not to exceed a total of 60 per cent.

No retirement credit shall accrue for services after twelve years. A bishop need not be in office when he reaches retirement age and retires, to be eligible for these retirement benefits.

When a bishop or former bishop retires he shall receive a claim for the amount of his accrued retirement credits as set forth above and shall be entitled to draw up to 60 per cent of the current salary of bishops—the amount being determined by his accumulated percentage credits times the current salary rates for bishops. The difference between the regular retirement claim, or social security claim arising by reason of his ministerial service, and the amount called for in this provision shall be made up from the bishops' salary fund.

## CHAPTER 24

### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

¶ 340. 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 charge of circuits without preachers; and to have general oversight of the work on his district.

2. To see that the permanent record book of each society is kept up to date and that all other parts of the DISCIPLINE are enforced.

3. To visit every circuit on his district whenever he judges it expedient. He is required to visit a circuit when in an emergency the official board requests him to do so. He shall then have power to call an official board, a society, or a circuit meeting and preside over it. The circuit sending for him shall pay his traveling expenses.

4. To hold four district meetings on his district during the year, except when the annual conference decides by a two-thirds vote that the work can be better served by fewer such meetings; and to report at each the growth and progress of the work on the district.

5. To hold services on each circuit once in three months, except that for the reason and by the method outlined in Sec. 4 the number of meetings may be reduced to one or more during the year. With the consent of the pastor, he may appoint a supply. A traveling superintendent may hold an official board, a society, or a circuit meeting in connection with such services.

6. To labor as an evangelist upon his district when directed to do so by the annual conference.

7. To maintain close contact with the young ministers under his care for the purpose of counsel and encouragement.

8. To appoint, receive, suspend, and change preachers in his district or districts in the interval of the annual conference; provided that he shall not change a preacher contrary



to his wishes unless by the request of two thirds of the members of the circuit, and that a preacher shall not be appointed to a circuit without the consent of the official board of that circuit. Nor shall he, without the consent of the annual conference, employ a preacher who has been rejected by that conference.

9. To see that deeds of lands upon which it is proposed to build churches or parsonages are properly made out and recorded, or that good and sufficient bonds or contracts are given before the buildings are begun.

10. To divide a circuit in the interval of the annual conference, if in his judgment the interests of the work require it and the preacher in charge and the official board consent. He may not appoint a preacher to serve two circuits at once, but he may unite an unsupplied circuit with another with the consent of the official board of the former.

11. To give the bishop all the necessary information of the state of the district and co-operate with him in setting goals and framing plans.

¶ 341. 1 Traveling superintendents shall be elected by ballot in open conference without debate or petition, and shall be assigned to districts either by conference vote or by appointment of the stationing committee, as the conference shall decide. (See Par. 248.)

The stationing committee shall nominate any stationed superintendent or assistant to the superintendent.

2. A conference may appoint a superintendent to more than one district at the same time. By a two-thirds vote of the conference, the term of a district or conference superintendent may be fixed for three years. He may be recalled by a like vote by any succeeding annual conference.

3. a. Should a vacancy occur in the office of district superintendent between conferences, the bishop who presided at the last session (or who was to have presided), or his successor, shall have power to fill it, subject to the approval of the ensuing district conference. Should the vacancy be filled after the last regular session of the district conference for the conference year, the secretary of the district conference shall have power to call a special session

for the sole purpose of confirming the appointment.

b. Should a vacancy occur in the conference superintendency between conferences, the bishop who presided at the last session, or who was to have presided, or his successor, shall call an adjourned sitting of the annual conference, authorizing the conference secretary to notify the members of the conference, the delegates, and the reserve delegates of the time and place of such sitting at least ten (10) days prior to the sitting, for the purpose of filling the vacancy and any other necessary business.

4. No minister shall serve in the office of superintendent in the same conference for a term exceeding eight years except when, by a two thirds vote by ballot the conference shall extend the limit for not more than three years.

5. A superintendent may be elected from among the ordained elders from anywhere within the denomination, when the bishop and/or nominating committee elected by the annual conference nominates the superintendent, with the previous consent of the one nominated. When one who is not a member of the annual conference in which he is elected accepts office, he shall transfer his membership to said conference.

¶ 342. The superintendent shall be a member of the quarterly conference on the district which he serves; should he be appointed to two or more districts, the stationing committee shall fix his quarterly conference relation.

¶ 343. The 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 the district conference. A stationed superintendent shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed. The district shall assist when necessary. A conference or district budget is recommended for the traveling superintendent's support.



## CHAPTER 25

### PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

¶ 345. The duties of a preacher who has the charge of a circuit are: 1. To look after the spiritual and temporal interests of the church or churches to which he is appointed.

2. 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 the action is approved by the official board.

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

4. 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 Par. 371, Sec. 4.)

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

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

7. To take an exact account of all members, including every one whose name is on a society roll, keeping the names of local elders, deacons, and preachers properly distinguished, and deliver it to the annual conference, that their number may be printed in the minutes.

8. To enter the following information in the permanent record book furnished him by the official board as prescribed in Par. 270, Sec. 7:

(1) A complete and up-to-date account of all baptisms, weddings, and funerals;

(2) A list of the names and addresses of all members of the societies, with time and method of reception of each and time and reason for termination of membership.

9. To report quarterly to the official board the entries

made in the record book during the quarter.

10. To leave to his successor a particular account of the circuit, with the permanent record book and a list of the subscribers to our periodicals.

11. To give an account of his circuit at every session of the district conference, with the statement that the detailed records of his circuit are up to date.

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

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

14. To meet the societies and classes; to visit the sick; to visit all members and probationers on his circuit, at least once in three months, and all members of his congregation whenever practicable; to preach out of doors wherever an attentive congregation can be found; to raise money for the purchase of tracts and attend to their distribution upon his circuit; to see that all the collections ordered by the conference are raised in full.

All members shall make their contributions toward the General Service Fund to the circuit from which they were last reported to an annual conference. Such contributions shall not be considered personal assessments nor is the payment of them a condition of membership.

15. 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.

16. To recommend everywhere decency and cleanliness.

17. 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.

18. To see that the trustees are elected and that the real estate belonging to the church is secured according to the laws of the state.

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

20. 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



Par. 345 PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

upon all and to preach upon systematic and proportionate giving, encouraging our people to tithe their incomes.

21. To send the name and address of any person of his constituency who shall move from his community to the pastor or district or conference superintendent of the Free Methodist Church in the district or conference to which such person moves.

22. To execute all the rules fully and strenuously against frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies, secret societies, labor and capitalistic organizations contravening Par. 84, and to suffer none to remain in our church who are found guilty thereof.

23. 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 and the official board.

24. To provide for the culture of converts by such instruction and encouragement as will help them go on into a definite experience of entire sanctification and to inform junior and preparatory members of the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of membership, using particularly the *Catechism*, the *DISCIPLINE*, the history of the Free Methodist Church, and such other materials as the church provides, and forming classes for the purpose wherever practicable, but in no case neglecting to see that each person receives this care.

25. To remind the Sunday School Board of the urgency of using Free Methodist Sunday-school curriculum materials in every Sunday-school class and to promote the use of the denominational magazine by every member.

26. To arrange the appointments so that the local preachers will have regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

27. To perform the following duties on special occasions:

(1) To hold one or more missionary meetings on his circuit during the year, Par. 148.

(2) To observe Christian Education Day. Par. 158, Sec. 5.

(3) To hold a Children's Day service the second Sunday in June. See Sunday-school Constitution.

PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE Par. 346

(4) To preach a sermon on practical charity. Par. 132, Sec. 6.

(5) To read Wesley's sermon on evil speaking. Par. 315, Sec. 2.

(6) To read the General Rules once a year in every congregation and once a quarter in every society. Par. 345, Sec. 17, above.

(7) To see that a fast is held in every society on Friday preceding every quarterly meeting.

(8) To foster Sunday schools and child evangelism.

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



## CHAPTER 26

### SUPERNUMERARY AND RETIRED MINISTERS

¶ 347. 1. A supernumerary preacher is a minister whose efficiency is temporarily impaired, and whose relationship is fixed by a vote of his conference on recommendation of the stationing committee. He shall not have any claim on the superannuated fund. His district conference relation shall be determined by the stationing committee. (See Par. 349.)

2. When a preacher has held the supernumerary relationship for three consecutive years, he shall be located by his annual conference, the stationing committee to fix his place of membership.

¶ 348. A retired 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 stationing committee. His district conference relation shall be fixed by the stationing committee.

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

## CHAPTER 27

### LOCAL PREACHERS

¶ 350. 1. No person shall be licensed as a local preacher until he has been previously licensed as an exhorter and has been recommended by his official board; has been examined by the district conference or the district superintendent in regard to his soundness in doctrine; has shown evidence of piety, gifts, and usefulness; and has given satisfactory answers to all the questions found in Par. 300: "Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach," who shall state whether his call is to the itinerant ministry or to serve in a local capacity.

2. To have his license renewed, a local preacher must have a new recommendation from his official board, and have made satisfactory reports to his district conference on his spiritual life and his activities as a local preacher.

3. A district conference may revoke a local preacher's license for violation of the conditions of it.

4. The examination of local preachers may be oral.

¶ 351. A local preacher shall be eligible to the office of deacon after he has preached four years from the time he received a license, has obtained a recommendation from the district conference certifying his Christian character and his usefulness as a preacher, and has passed an examination in the prescribed course of study. The years a woman spends as an evangelist shall not count on the time required for ordination as local deacon.

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

¶ 353. Every local elder, local deacon, or local preacher shall have his name enrolled in the district conference



journal and shall be amenable to his district conference for his Christian character and the faithful performance of his ministerial office. He shall have his name recorded on a class paper, and shall meet in class. In neglect of these duties, or neglect to pass an examination in the prescribed course of study, the district conference, if it judges proper, may deprive him of his ministerial office. No ordained local preacher, however, shall be deprived of his ministerial functions without due form of trial and conviction.

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

¶ 355. 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.

¶ 356. Among our unordained preachers only those in charge of circuits by the appointment of a stationing committee may solemnize marriage, and they only in those states whose laws permit unordained preachers to perform the ceremony. They shall also have the right to administer the ordinance of baptism.

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



## **CHAPTERS**

- 27. LOCAL PREACHERS**
- 28. EVANGELISTS**
- 29. EXHORTERS**
- 30. DEACONESSES**
- 31. BANDS AND BAND LEADERS**
- 32. CLASS LEADERS**
- 33. STEWARDS**

## CHAPTER 28

### EVANGELISTS

¶ 360. Evangelists are a class called of God to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Christ abroad in the land, but not necessarily called to pastoral charges or to government in the church.

1. Any brother or sister in good standing in the church, feeling called to this work, may, upon the recommendation of the society, upon due examination according to Par. 300, entitled "Examination of those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach," and upon passing an examination (which may be oral) in the course of study for local preachers, be licensed by the district conference.

2. Those who labor successfully as evangelists for four years may, upon recommendation of the district conference, be granted a license by the annual conference, good until revoked by that conference.

3. A licensed woman evangelist may be received into an annual conference as a traveling preacher under the conditions prescribed in Par. 320, Sec. 2.

4. A woman evangelist who has been licensed by the annual conference and has served two successive years under appointment as pastor, may, upon recommendation of her district conference and upon the vote of the annual conference, have a voice and a vote in the annual conference and be counted with the preachers in the transaction of conference business. This relation shall continue only so long as she receives appointment as pastor and is not married to a member of an annual conference.

5. No evangelist shall appoint or hold meetings where they will interfere with the regular work of any circuit or station, without the consent of the pastor and the district superintendent.

6. General Evangelists are amenable to the annual conferences to which they belong.



## CHAPTER 29

### EXHORTERS

¶ 361. 1. Exhorters are laymen licensed by the official board of a circuit or station to conduct informal services, to exhort, and otherwise to promote revivals and advance the kingdom of God. They are helpers to the pastor and hence should qualify themselves to aid in various departments of Christian work on the charge.

2. No person shall be licensed as an exhorter until recommended by the society of which he is a member after having lived among the members a sufficient time to enable them to know that his religious experience, his spirit, his general deportment, and his gifts are such as to commend him to people generally.

3. He must give evidence of an experiential knowledge of God, of fair intelligence, and of aptness to learn in the school of Christ. It is hoped that those who serve God and the church in this relation will grow in knowledge, grace, and efficiency, so that the church may feel warranted in calling them into its higher ministries.

## CHAPTER 30

### DEACONESSSES

¶ 363. 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. Women 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. A candidate for deaconess' license must first be recommended to the district conference by the society of which she is a member.

4. The district conference, after examination into her gifts, graces and usefulness, 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, good for one year only unless renewed.

6. Having been recommended by the district conference and licensed by the annual conference for two years in succession, at least one year of which shall have been spent in practical deaconess work, and having passed an examination (which may be oral) in the prescribed course of study, a deaconess may receive from the annual conference a license which shall be good until revoked by the annual conference.

7. Each deaconess shall be a member of and amenable to the district conference within the bounds of which she



holds her church membership, and shall report her work annually to it.

8. The garb of a deaconess shall be a dark gray or black dress and a 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 her support shall be determined by the annual conference which licensed her.

¶364. The Wesley-Roberts Deaconess School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a recognized deaconess training school for Christian young women desiring to take the course outlined in the DISCIPLINE, Paragraphs 510-511, in connection with a practical course in nursing and city mission work.

## CHAPTER 31

### BANDS AND BAND WORKERS

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

2. The rules and regulations of bands shall be subject to the approval of the annual conferences to which the leaders belong, or within which they hold their 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 district conference from year to year as band workers.



## CHAPTER 32

### CLASS LEADERS

¶ 371. 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. Any member of the society, whether or not the nominee of the pastor, 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 33

### STEWARDS

¶ 372. 1. The stewards should be persons of solid piety, who are members of the Free Methodist Church, 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.

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

¶ 373. 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 meetings on their circuit conducted by the conference or district superintendent. 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 business meeting of the society preceding the annual conference.





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



## **CHAPTERS**

**34. CHURCH TRIALS**

**35. INSOLVENCIES AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

## CHAPTER 34

### CHURCH TRIALS

#### I. Object of Church Discipline

¶ 400. The great object of church discipline is to reclaim and restore erring members. This should be steadily kept in view in every step 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.

¶ 401. In all cases of personal trespass and in others 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."

#### II. General Directions

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

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. Any member charged with immoral conduct or violation of our rules is entitled to a speedy trial, unless the complaint is otherwise disposed of. Both accuser and accused shall be entitled to the assistance of such counsel as they may select from the lay members or ministers of the church. In the trial of a traveling preacher the conference may appoint further counsel as it may deem proper. The accusers shall be responsible for the expense of their own counsel,



unless he 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. Whenever it is for the best interests of the church and the convenience of witnesses, and whenever the parties so stipulate, a case may be referred to one person appointed by the bishop or other presiding officer to try it without a committee; and when so referred, his decision shall have the same effect as that of a trial committee of an annual conference or of another appointing body, and be subject to the same right of appeal and for writ of review.

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

7. 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. The appellate court must confine itself to the grounds of the appeal but is entitled to all relevant information that will throw light upon the appeal as presented.

8. When the appellate court grants a new trial, the case may either be remanded to the original court for a new trial or (with the consent of both parties) tried *de novo* (that is, by the appellate court itself).

9. Penalty shall be deferred pending the hearing of an appeal, except that a suspended minister shall not in the meantime exercise his ministerial office, nor during a period of penalty after conviction.

10. In the trial of appeals the court shall either affirm or reverse the verdict rendered in the former trial, or remand the case for a new trial; in a new trial no person shall be eligible as a juror who voted in the first trial.

11. Persons expelled after such forms of trial 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 been expelled.

¶ 403. In all trials, either the plaintiff or the defendant may request a change of venue, and shall present in writing the reasons for the request; and if the presiding officer shall, after duly considering the grounds upon which the request is made, be convinced that conditions and circumstances render a fair and impartial trial reasonably doubtful in the body before which the action has been commenced, he may order the change of venue and name another body before which the case shall be tried.

### III. Trial of Preachers in Full Membership

¶ 404. The neglect of duties required by the Word of God, the indulgence of sinful tempers, words or actions, or the dissemination of false doctrine, shall subject a preacher to private reproof by the officer of the church having the oversight of him; and, in case of persistence after proper admonition and labor, to trial and suspension from ministerial functions or expulsion.

¶ 405. 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.

¶ 406. Any traveling preacher who, in violation of Par. 329, willfully neglects or refuses to do the work assigned him by his annual conference, except in case of sickness or other unavoidable circumstance, 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, which shall have final determination of the case and power to render the suspension final.

¶ 407. If a charge of immorality or of unchristian conduct is brought against a 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.

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

¶ 409. Each annual conference shall have original jurisdiction over every preacher belonging thereto, and shall have power to reprove, suspend (for a period of not more than one year, after which period he has legally satisfied the charges against him and is again entitled to a seat in the conference), locate for inefficiency or want of usefulness, or expel, according to the nature of the case and as justice may require. This shall not be so construed as to deprive traveling preachers of the ten-days' notice provided in Par. 405, except in the case of a preacher charged with gross immorality who voluntarily absents himself from the session of his annual conference.

¶ 410. All cases brought before an annual conference, either by complaint or by appeal, may be, and must be if the defendant prefers, referred to a committee of not less than four from each branch, which, in the presence of the president of the conference or of an elder whom he may appoint with the consent of both parties, shall, either during the session of the conference 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.

¶ 411. In all cases of trial and conviction of traveling preachers, an appeal to the ensuing General Conference or the court of appeals, as the appellant may choose, shall be allowed, if he signifies at the time of verdict, or within thirty days after he has been notified thereof, his intention to appeal.

¶ 412. 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.

#### IV. Form of Procedure

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

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

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

- ¶ 414. 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. Should it be deemed proper to allow the prosecution to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.  
15. Instructions of the presiding officer upon 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. Surrender and Restoration of Credentials

¶ 415. 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 conference of his amendment, and procure a certificate from the district conference of the charge where he resides or from another 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 conference may restore them.

2. When a local elder or deacon is expelled, the district superintendent shall require of him the credentials of his ordination, to be filed with the papers of the annual conference; 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 district 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 asked to do so, he thereby forfeits them and, at its first session thereafter, his annual conference should declare them forfeited.

## VI. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Probation

¶ 416. A preacher on probation in an annual conference shall be accountable for his moral and Christian conduct to the district 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. After confession of flagrant sin, however, he can be allowed by the annual conference to withdraw from the church under complaint. If a preacher on probation is discontinued for cause and has his membership fixed on a circuit by the stationing committee, he is thereby cleared, so far as the annual conference is concerned, of all charges that may have been brought against him.

## VII. The Trial of a Local Preacher

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

But if, for any reason, the superintendent is unable to preside, or if he is personally so related to the case as to be disqualified for presiding, the bishop who last presided at the annual conference shall appoint another elder to preside.

¶ 418. If a charge of gross immorality is brought against a local preacher or evangelist in the interval of the sessions of the district conference, the superintendent shall call a committee of not less than five members of the district conference, which shall have power to suspend until the next session of the district conference.

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

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

¶ 420. 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 Lay Member

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

¶ 421. 1. The neglect of duties required by the Word of God or indulgence of sinful tempers, words or actions, or the violating of conditions of church membership, shall subject the offender to private reproof by the official members of the church having oversight of him, and, if he persists



after proper admonition and labor, to summary proceedings to terminate membership, trial, and censure or expulsion. In any determination of the case, however, the action may be suspended by the committee, and he may be placed on probation, with status of preparatory membership, for not more than one year.

2. Whenever it becomes necessary to appoint a committee to admonish and labor with an erring member, if after admonishment and labor he persists in his way, he may be cited by that committee to appear before the official board to show cause why his membership should not be terminated. In no event shall his membership be terminated until the official board by ballot vote of two thirds of the total membership has so ordered.

3. Should it become necessary to cite a member to show cause why his membership should not be terminated, let the committee appointed to admonish and labor issue the citation and attach thereto a statement of the charge constituting the error. The citation should state the time and place he is to appear before the official board. The citation must be served on the member personally or by registered mail not less than ten days before the hearing. Should the official board find good cause for the termination of his membership, or should he fail to appear, his membership in the church may be terminated at the expiration of thirty days. If, however, within thirty days after the final action of the official board he request a trial, it shall be granted.

## 2. NOTIFICATION OF TIME AND PLACE OF TRIAL

¶ 422. 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 he demands an earlier trial. He shall also, at least ten days prior to its election, be notified of the place of the election of the committee to try the case.

### 3. ELECTION OF TRIAL COMMITTEE

¶ 423. 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 lay 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.

¶ 424. If the society shall refuse to appoint such a committee, the district conference shall appoint a committee to try the case, and if, after conviction, the member appeals to the district conference, no member of that committee shall be eligible to sit as a juror in the trial of the case.

### 4. PRESIDING OFFICER

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

### 5. RIGHT OF APPEAL

¶ 426. Any member who has been tried and convicted by a committee, shall be entitled to an appeal to the next district 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. Should he be tried and convicted by the district conference, he shall have the right of an appeal to the ensuing annual conference, provided that within thirty days of having been notified of the verdict he files the appeal and that he has complied with the other requirements of this paragraph.

### 6. RESTRICTIONS UNDER PENALTY

¶ 427. A member under penalty for unchristian conduct shall not be permitted to exercise any official functions,



except that of trustee in states where the civil law does not, for such a reason, permit the suspension from office of a trustee. He shall vacate all offices (except that of trustee as explained above) and surrender all credentials, to be held during the period of the penalty by the secretary of the body which issued them.

#### 7. RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

¶ 428. 1. A person placed on probation in accordance with the provisions in Par. 421, Sec. 1, may, at the expiration of the probation, have his membership restored upon recommendation of the official board, a three-fourths vote of the society, and satisfactory answers to the questions in Par. 87.

2. A member who has been expelled and later proved innocent may be restored to membership by vote of the society from which he was expelled.

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

¶ 429. 1. The Board of Administration shall have the power to cite a society, a district conference, or an annual conference to appear before it to show cause, if any it has, why it should not be declared in a state of insubordination when reliable information reaches the board that the accused body is openly in a state of insubordination and disobedience. Notice of the order to show cause shall be given in a clear and definite statement of the facts constituting the state of insubordination so that the accused body may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon the secretary of the accused body. Should the Board find it guilty or should it admit guilt, the Board shall have the power to suspend it of all rights and of recognition as a Free Methodist body until the ensuing General Conference, which shall have final disposition of the case.

2. Should the convicted body reform and pledge its loyalty to the church and the DISCIPLINE and show contrition for its insubordination, the Board of Administration shall have the power to reinstate it.

## X. Citation of Preacher to Show Cause

¶ 430. 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 should not be declared in a state of insubordination and maladministration when the bishop has reasonable cause to believe that the preacher is in a state of insubordination or in violation of the DISCIPLINE, or when he has been accused of willful neglect in the administration of the DISCIPLINE or refusal of work assigned to him by the annual conference.

2. Should the preacher be so cited, he shall be furnished with a statement of facts purporting to constitute the insubordination and maladministration, stating time, place, and action. The citation shall show the date, hour, and place where he is to appear, and the names of the members of the committee appointed by the bishop. Should the committee find him guilty of maladministration and insubordination, or should he 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 should the conference take no action, or refuse to take action, 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 preachers, and if he is found guilty, the committee shall have the power to censure, rebuke, or expel him according to the terms of the DISCIPLINE.

Paragraphs 429 and 430 shall not be so construed as to deprive the accused of the right to challenge for cause any person appointed to sit on the trial committee.



## CHAPTER 35

### INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

¶ 440. In a dispute between two or more lay members concerning the payment of debts, or other matters not involving personal character, which cannot be settled by the persons concerned, the preacher in charge of the circuit shall inquire into the circumstances and recommend a reference, consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff, another chosen by the defendant, and a third chosen by the first two, the three arbiters being members of the church.

¶ 441. Should one of the disputants be dissatisfied with the judgment given, he may appeal to the ensuing district conference, which may for sufficient reason grant a second arbitration, in which 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 that judgment shall be excluded from the church.

¶ 442. If any member of the church shall refuse, in case of debt or other dispute, to refer the matter to arbitration, when recommended by his pastor, or shall enter into a lawsuit with another before such measures are taken, he shall be expelled by a regular trial according to the DISCIPLINE, unless the case be of such a nature as to require or justify a process of law.

¶ 443. When a complaint is made against any member of the church for nonpayment of debt and 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 should he refuse to comply, he shall be expelled; but in that event he may appeal to the district conference, the decision of which shall be final; and in case the creditor complains that justice is not done him, he may lay his grievance before the district 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 district conference, the creditor may have recourse to the civil courts without affecting his membership in the church.

¶ 444. To prevent scandal, when any member of the church fails in business or contracts 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 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 he is amenable shall appoint the committee of inspection.





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



## **CHAPTERS**

- 36. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS**
- 37. CHURCH PROPERTY**

## CHAPTER 36

### SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS\*

#### I. Support of Bishops

¶ 450. The salaries of our bishops shall be raised by the general service fund.

#### II. Support of District Superintendents

¶ 451. The superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is appointed, as provided for in Par. 343, each circuit contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the annual or district conference. A stationed district superintendent shall be supported by the circuit or charge to which he is appointed.

A home purchased for the superintendent can be rented to others only if he consents and receives the rental.

#### III. Support of Preachers in Charge

¶ 452. 1. It shall be the duty of the finance committee recommended in Par. 270, Sec. 5, to prepare, after consulting with the preacher in charge, an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of the preacher or preachers stationed with them, and to present the estimate to the official board for action.

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.

4. If a pastor refuses to occupy the parsonage, the official board may, without his consent, rent it to others but must pay him the money received from it.

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\* For the support of retired ministers, see Plan for Conference Claimants, Pars. 123-128, and for bishops, Par. 334.



Par. 453      SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS

IV. Support of Evangelists

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

## CHAPTER 37

### CHURCH PROPERTY

#### I. Trustees—Election and Duties

¶ 460. Any board of trustees in the Free Methodist Church, whether conference, district, or local, shall consist of not less than three nor more than nine persons of whom two thirds shall be members of the Free Methodist Church who shall be so organized as to properly discharge their duties.

¶ 461. 1. Boards of trustees shall be elected by their respective bodies: conference trustees by the annual conference, district trustees by the district conference, circuit trustees by the annual circuit meeting, and local trustees by the society.

2. Trustees of property of an extinct, unincorporated society embraced within a circuit shall be elected by the annual circuit meeting.

3. Trustees shall be elected only in a manner allowed by the laws of the state in which the election is held, and shall hold office for a term fixed by the body electing them and until their successors are elected.

¶ 462. When for a period of one year a duly elected trustee refuses by his action to attend legally called meetings of the board of trustees, the body electing him shall declare his place on the board vacant and at once elect a successor to fill the unexpired term; and whenever a member of the Free Methodist Church who holds the office of trustee is dismissed by letter, withdraws from the church, is expelled, or moves beyond the bounds of the body which elected him, that body may declare his place vacant and at once elect a successor to fill the unexpired term, except where either of such declarations is in conflict with the law of the state.

¶ 463. A board of trustees is subject at all times to the direction and control of the body which created it and to



the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church. Local trustees are subject to the official board as well as to the society. When action of a board of trustees is required, it can be exercised only by official vote of the board in a regularly called meeting.

¶ 464. 1. The office of trustee is a responsible one, and its duties are to be taken seriously. A board of trustees shall have and hold in trust any and all property committed to it. It shall see that titles are good; that deeds are drawn in harmony with the laws of the state; that they contain the trust clause given in Par. 466; that they are immediately recorded; and that abstracts and other valuable papers are safely stored. The board of trustees shall be responsible to the electing body for the general oversight of the property committed to it, and, when so directed by the electing body, shall supervise expenditures for repairs, improvements, and alterations. A board of trustees may be appointed the building committee for a new building.

2. Annually and whenever else the chairman of the electing body may require, the president of the board of trustees shall make to the electing body a report of all business transacted, including a statement of the financial and material condition of all property entrusted to it.

3. Prohibitive measures. A board of trustees shall not accept a deed which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, his heirs, or assigns. A board of trustees shall not permit church property to be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered for current expenses. 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 board of trustees.

## II. Incorporation and Deeds

¶ 465. Before an annual conference, district conference, a circuit, or a society purchases real estate, let a reliable lawyer be consulted. Provide him with a copy of our DISCIPLINE for reference, and wherever the law of the state or

territory will permit, proceed to incorporate. The articles of incorporation, wherever the law will permit, should provide that the corporation 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 that church in so far as they do not contravene the laws of the state, and that the secular affairs of the corporation shall be managed by trustees elected according to the provisions of this chapter. When incorporation is complete the deed shall be made out directly to the owning body in its corporate name and shall without exception contain the trust clause given in the following paragraph.

¶ 466. 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 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 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."

¶ 467. Whenever it becomes advisable and the electing body so authorizes, the trustees may sell or encumber or otherwise dispose of or convey church property by securing the consent of the superintendent of the district in which the property lies and of the Board of Directors of the Free



Methodist Church of North America; provided that in all cases the proceeds of such sale or encumbrance shall be used for the purchase or improvement of property for this same corporation or trustees, or held subject to the order of the annual conference in which the property lies.

¶ 468. Whenever any property is no longer used for church purposes and is declared abandoned by the annual conference, the trustees, if any remain, shall sell it and turn over the proceeds of sale to the annual conference. Should the local trustees refuse to do so, their offices shall be declared vacant by the annual conference and shall be replaced by the Conference Board of Trustees. If no such trustees remain, the trustees of the annual conference shall take possession of the property by due process of law. The annual conference may authorize the conference board of trustees to sell and convey such property, the proceeds of sale to be used as the conference may direct, in accordance with the civil law.

### III. Erection of Churches

¶ 469. 1. All our houses of worship must be built plain and neat, and no more expensive than is absolutely required for comfort, convenience, and stability, and with all seats free. Let the architecture and interior arrangements of our churches be planned and constructed to contribute to a distinctively evangelical simplicity and reverence in worship which makes the preaching of the Word central in the service. It is understood that we will build in keeping with prevailing architecture of the surrounding area and with such attractiveness as to commend the gospel to the community.

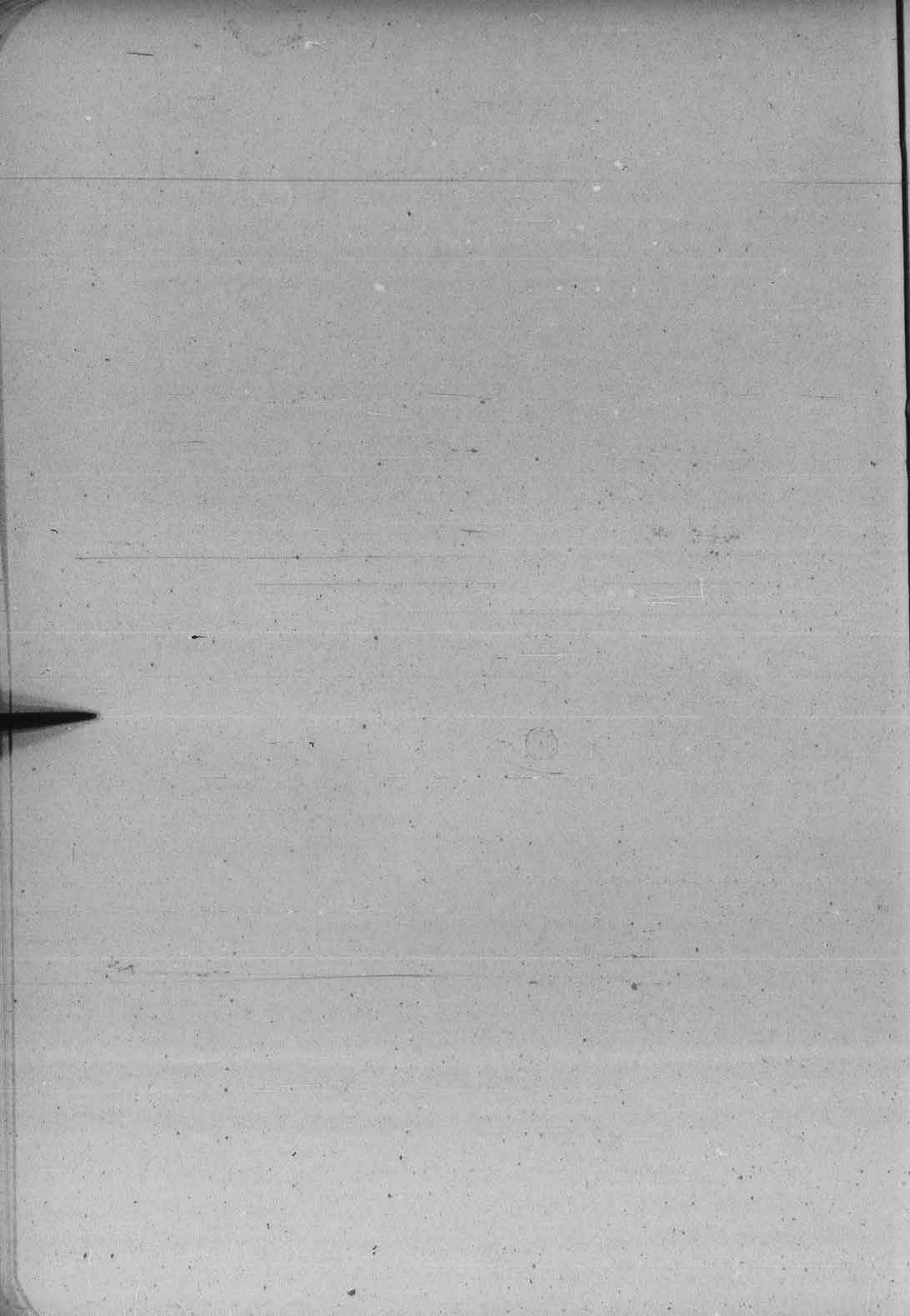
2. No step shall be taken involving pecuniary liability in erecting houses of worship or parsonages, or in purchasing church property of any kind, until the financial plan be approved by the proper conference boards as determined by the annual conference.

3. No houses of worship, parsonages, or other church buildings shall be erected on leased ground, except on reservations or in other places where it is impossible to secure a deed in fee, or without the unanimous consent of

the 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 this committee's approval in writing both of the location and the plan of the building and of the title of the property. A society which selects a location or erects a church building without such consent shall not receive aid from the Church Extension and Aid Society. This committee shall make sure that proper accommodations have been made for the Sunday school before giving its approval.





**PART VIII**  
**CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**



## **CHAPTER**

### **38. CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

## CHAPTER 38

### CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

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

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, and thence east to the state line. It shall include also Beloit, Wisconsin, and Davenport, Iowa.

3. Susquehanna (1862).<sup>\*</sup> The Susquehanna Conference shall embrace the counties of Tioga, Sullivan, and Bradford, in the state of Pennsylvania, and all that part of the state of New York east of the Genesee Conference and north of a line beginning at Great Bend, Pennsylvania, and running due north to the Delaware and Hudson railroad, thence east along that railroad to Oneonta, and thence due east to the state of Massachusetts; but not including the villages situated immediately upon that portion of the Delaware and Hudson railroad. This conference shall also include Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and the province of Quebec.

4. Southern Michigan (1865). The Southern Michigan

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<sup>\*</sup>The Susquehanna Conference in August, 1960, ceded the area of its Saratoga and Maine Districts, which, on October 27, 1960, was duly organized as the Centenary Conference.



Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Michigan in the two southern tiers of counties; the part of Eaton County south of a line running east and west five miles north of Charlotte; and the parts of Oakland and Macomb Counties east of Novi Road and south of a line running east and west one mile north of Twelve Mile Road.

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 Cloud county; thence due north to the Nebraska state line. It shall include the city of Hutchinson.

6. Northern Iowa and Minnesota (1872). The Northern Iowa and Minnesota 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 to the east line of South Dakota, including Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, and Lac qui Parle counties in Minnesota, and that portion of Iowa not included in the Iowa, West Iowa and Dakota conferences.

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.

8. Iowa (1875). The Iowa Conference shall include that portion of the state of Iowa (except Davenport) lying east and south of the following lines: Beginning at the southeast corner of Decatur county, thence north to Hamilton county, thence along the east line of Hamilton and Wright counties to the northeast corner of Wright county, thence east to Clayton on the Mississippi River. It shall also include the city of Des Moines according to its corporate limits of 1898.

9. Wisconsin (1875). The Wisconsin Conference shall include the state of Wisconsin except Beloit.

10. North Michigan (1876). The North Michigan Con-

ference shall embrace that portion of the state of Michigan lying north of the Southern Michigan Conference and west of a line running north and south parallel with the eastern boundary of Eaton County, 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.

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

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

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.

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.

15. West Kansas (1883). The West Kansas Conference shall include all of the state of Kansas not in the Kansas Conference.

16. Dakota (1883). The Dakota Conference shall embrace the state of North Dakota; that part of Montana lying east of the 110th meridian; and all of South Dakota except that portion included in the Nebraska Conference.

17. Pittsburgh (1883). The Pittsburgh Conference shall include all that part of Pennsylvania lying west of the Susquehanna River and bounded on the north by a line running west along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, excluding Carlisle, to Fulton County, thence along the northern boundary lines of Fulton, Bedford, Cambria, Indiana and Armstrong counties, directly west across Butler County to the Lawrence County line thence south to the northern boun-



dary of Beaver County. It shall also include all the towns from the Pennsylvania state line to Bridgeport, Ohio, on the west bank of the Ohio River. It shall also include the state of West Virginia.

18. California (1883). The California Conference shall embrace all the state of California lying north of San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Inyo counties, and the state of Nevada.

19. East Michigan (1884). The East Michigan Conference shall embrace all that part of Michigan lying north of the Southern Michigan Conference and east of a line running north and south parallel with the eastern boundary of Eaton County. It shall also include the towns of Grayling, Frederick, Gaylord, and Vanderbilt, in Crawford and Otsego counties.

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

21. Oregon (1885). The Oregon Conference shall include all of the state of Oregon not in the Columbia River Conference, and Clark county, Washington.

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, and Dakota county, Nebraska.

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 and running east to the city of Wabash; thence south to the north boundary line of Madison county; thence following north and east boundary line of that county to southeast corner; and thence east to Ohio state line; that part of Illinois bounded by a line running west from Fowler, Indiana, to a point six miles west of the Champaign branch of the Illinois Central railroad, thence southwest parallel with that railroad to the south line of Shelby county, and thence along the Springfield branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to Shawneetown; and Jefferson County, Kentucky.

24. Colorado (1886). The Colorado Conference shall em-

brace the state of Colorado, the state of Utah, and that part of New Mexico lying west of the 106th meridian.

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.

26. Nebraska (1890). The Nebraska Conference shall include the state of Nebraska, except Dakota county; all the state of Wyoming; and six counties in South Dakota bounded by a line commencing at the southeast corner of Shannon county and running north to the White River and east along it to its junction with the Missouri River; thence along the Missouri River to the south line of South Dakota.

27. Arizona-Southern California (1891). The Arizona-Southern California Conference shall embrace all of the state of California not embraced in the California Conference, and the states of Arizona and Hawaii.

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.

29. Columbia River (1896). The Columbia River Conference shall include that part of the state of Washington east of Okanogan, Grant, and Benton counties, and that part of Oregon east of Gilliam, 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.

30. Washington (1896). The Washington Conference shall include all of the state of Washington (except Clark county) west of the Columbia River and the eastern boundaries of Grant and Okanogan counties; Alaska; and that part of British Columbia west of a line running from the southern border north following the crest of the Monachee Range to Mount Robson and further extend along the crest of the Rocky Mountain Range to the border of the Yukon territory.

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.

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

33. Kentucky and Tennessee (1896). The Kentucky and Tennessee Conference shall include the states of Kentucky, except Jefferson County, and Tennessee.

34. Oil City (1899). The Oil City Conference shall include all of northwestern Pennsylvania west of a line described as the western and southern boundaries of Tioga County, the eastern and southeastern boundaries of Lycoming County to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, and south along the Susquehanna River to, and including, Harrisburg. The southern boundary, beginning at the intersection of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the Susquehanna River, runs west along the Turnpike, including Carlisle, to the Fulton County line, thence along the northern boundaries of Fulton, Bedford, Cambria, Indiana and Armstrong counties, directly west across Butler County to the Lawrence County line, thence south to the northern boundary of Beaver County and west to the Ohio line. The western boundary is the Ohio state line north of Beaver County, with the exception of the area around the cities of Conneaut, North Kingsville, and Ashtabula, Ohio.

35. Oklahoma (1899). The Oklahoma Conference shall include all of Oklahoma.

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

37. Georgia and Carolina (1913). The Georgia and Carolina Conference shall include the states of Georgia and North and South Carolina.

38. Florida (1913). The Florida Conference shall include the state of Florida.

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

40. Alberta (1914). The Alberta Conference shall include the province of Alberta and all that portion of the province of British Columbia not in the Washington Conference.

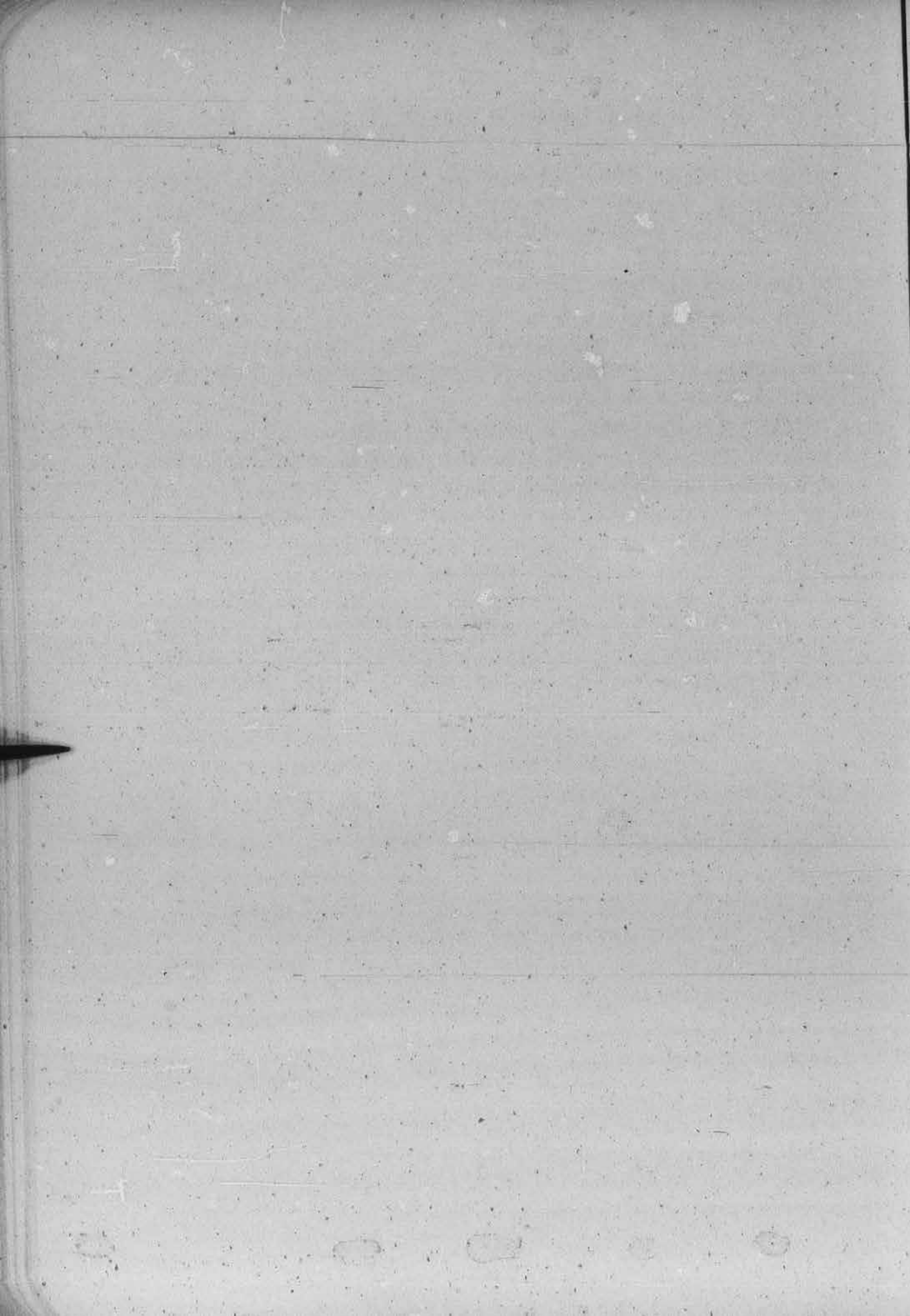
41. North Indiana (reorganized 1922). The North Indiana Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Indiana lying north of the Wabash Conference.

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

43. Maryland-Virginia (1939). The Maryland-Virginia Conference shall include all of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

¶ 471. Any question of boundaries that may arise in the interim of the General Conference, shall be referred to the Administrative Commission.





**PART IX**  
**THE RITUAL**



## **CHAPTERS**

- 39. BAPTISM**
- 40. THE LORD'S SUPPER**
- 41. MARRIAGE**
- 42. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD**
- 43. ORDINATION SERVICES**
- 44. DEDICATION OF CHURCHES**

## CHAPTER 39

### BAPTISM

¶ 480. 1. Adult persons and the parents or guardians of every 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.

#### 1. Of Infants

[The minister coming to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following:]

¶ 481. Dearly beloved, inasmuch as our Saviour, 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 fullness 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 the 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 shall not 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 or guardian 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.

## BAPTISM OF CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE Par. 481.5

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 Children Under Twelve

¶ 481.5. In lieu of the questions to parents or guardians in Par. 481, the following may be asked candidates for baptism who are under twelve years of age:

1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and do you desire to be baptized in His name?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you intend by this act to testify to all the world that you are a Christian and will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Answer: I do.

3. Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do.



4. Trusting God to help you, will you resist temptation always and keep from doing those things which you know to be sinful or displeasing to God?

Answer: I will.

5. Will you attend the church services, and do those things you know a Christian should do?

Answer: I will.

### III. The Affirmation of Baptismal Vows for Junior Members

¶ 481.6 Dearly Beloved, In your infancy your parents presented you at the altar of the church for the Sacrament of Baptism. That service was one of both dedication and consecration. Your parents dedicated you to the Lord and took vows in your behalf. They promised to teach you from the Word of God and to train you in the way that you should go.

God in His goodness has brought you to years of responsibility, and you now desire to acknowledge before God and His church the covenant then made on your behalf, to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to consecrate yourself to Him, and thereby to bind yourself anew to His service.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has said, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Question: Do you confess your faith in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, and do you promise with the aid of the Holy Spirit to be Christ's faithful disciple to your life's end?

Answer: I do.

Question: Have you read and considered the vows taken for you in baptism and do you affirm them with a humble and contrite heart, putting your whole trust in the mercy of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to make diligent use of the means of grace, to share faithfully in the worship and service

of the church, to give of your substance as the Lord may prosper you, and to give your whole heart to the service of Christ and His kingdom throughout the world?

Answer: I do.

NOTE. Adults having been baptized in infancy should re-affirm their baptismal vows according to Paragraph 87 of the DISCIPLINE.

#### IV. Of Those of Riper Years

¶ 482. 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 Saviour 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 fullness 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 40

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The use of individual communion cups is recommended, wherever practicable.)

#### I. General Directions

¶ 483. 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 practice 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:]

¶ 484. 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 Saviour 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 41

### MARRIAGE

[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:]

¶ 485. 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 commanded 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.

[Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall deliver this charge:]

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If these solemn vows be kept inviolate, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home you establish will abide in peace.

[Then shall the minister ask the man]

M., wilt thou have this woman to be your 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 yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

[The man shall answer]

I will.

[Then shall the minister say unto the woman]

N., wilt thou have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

[The woman shall answer]

I will.

[Then shall the minister ask:]

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

(Answer: I do)

[Then shall the minister say]

Since it is your desire to take each other as husband and wife, you will indicate the same by joining your right hands, and by repeating after me the marriage vow.

I, (Man's Christian name) take thee, (Woman's Christian name) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

I, (Woman's name) take thee, (Man's name) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

[Then may the minister say:]

Henceforth you will no longer be twain but one. Your paths will be united; your responsibilities will increase, but your joys will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest in your relations one to the other, and with God with whom you make this covenant. By coming into this temple of God (Alternate: By seeking the ministry of the church), you hereby recognize that this covenant is more than a legal contract, being a bond of union made in heaven, into which you enter discreetly and reverently.



[Then, the couple kneeling, the minister shall say:]

Let us pray.

[Here may be offered the following prayer, or an extemporaneous prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer.]

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let thy blessing descend and rest upon these thy children, whom we bless in thy name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honor and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt nor decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as thy gifts to be employed in thy service. May they so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the couple arise and the minister shall instruct them to join their right hands, and he placing his on top of theirs shall say:]

Forasmuch as M. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their troth each to the other, and declared the same by joining hands; (Alternate: by authority committed unto me as a minister of the Church of Christ) I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let ~~not~~ man put asunder. Amen.

[Then shall the minister add this blessing:]

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, 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 you may live together in this life, that in the ~~world to come~~ you may have life everlasting. Amen.

## CHAPTER 42

### THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

¶ 486. 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 Saviour, 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 Saviour, 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 43

### ORDINATION SERVICES

#### I. Ordination of Elders

[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:]

¶ 487. 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 Saviour, 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 an 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 an 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 Saviour, 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 will 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

[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:]

¶ 488. 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

CK  
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 Saviour, 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 to 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 Saviour, 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 44

### DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

[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:]

¶ 490. 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**  
**MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**



## **CHAPTERS**

- 45. CENTRAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING**
- 46. PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS**
- 47. LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS**
- 48. COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES**
- 49. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS**
- 50. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

## CHAPTER 45

### MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

#### Central Board of Ministerial Training

"God's call to the ministry is a call to adequate preparation for the ministry, for self-improvement is an important element of self-dedication. Spiritual qualifications are indispensable to the gospel ministry and can never be replaced by any professional training, but the two are not incompatible.

"Today training beyond high school is considered necessary in most vocations. A college education, therefore, is important for the person who is looking toward the ministry of the Free Methodist Church. The Central Board of Ministerial Training urges that a Free Methodist college be given first choice in the planning of his undergraduate training. Advantages of such choice will be found in an early acquaintance with the organization and doctrines of the church, personal friendships within the framework of the church, and the development of loyalty to the church through a growing understanding and sharing of its responsibilities.

"We urge all Free Methodist ministerial candidates to continue their studies, immediately following graduation from college, under the guidance of John Wesley Seminary Foundation.

"We believe that students receive unique and outstanding values when they take their studies under denominational guidance in an institution in the Wesleyan tradition. In such situations students are confirmed in the great doctrinal principles of their faith. They learn the methods that are most relevant for their future work. They prepare themselves for their greatest possible contribution to the church and the kingdom of God."

¶ 500. 1. The responsibility for setting up or approving and supervising the various programs in the church for the



Par. 500      BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING

education and training of ministers shall rest with a Central Board of Ministerial Training.

2. This board shall consist of the Chairman of the Commission on Christian Education (who shall be ex-officio chairman); one additional bishop; the chaplain director of John Wesley Seminary Foundation; the presidents (or their appointees) of four of the Free Methodist Colleges in the United States and Canada approved for ministerial training, to be selected by the Board of Administration; and three additional members to be named immediately following General Conference by the Board of Administration.

3. The Executive Secretary of the Department of Educational Institutions shall be the secretary and executive officer of the board. He shall work with the various schools and colleges in their ministerial training programs and cooperate with the several conferences in their ministerial guidance activities, and be responsible for keeping the central file of credits of all ministers in conference relationship throughout the church, who are amenable to the respective Conference Boards of Ministerial Training.

4. The specific responsibilities of the Central Board of Ministerial Training shall be to cooperate with the Commission on Christian Education in:

(a) Approving, in cooperation with the Department of Educational Institutions, the various schools which offer theological and collegiate training for prospective Free Methodist ministers.

(b) Approving correspondence courses for candidates who fail to get required courses while in regular college attendance.

(c) Being an appeal board, to make final decision in specific cases where the candidate feels his case has been handled unfairly by any school or agency other than his own conference. (Each annual conference has final authority in a given case, including the educational requirements.)

(d) Defining standards for uniform procedures for reporting the work done at, under the supervision of, or evaluated

by, approved schools and agencies, and to keep a complete file of such reports.

(e) Specifying activities and setting up standards for their evaluation having to do with itinerant credit which may be earned through supervised practical service.



## CHAPTER 46

### PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS

¶ 501. Courses of study for ministerial students attending church colleges.

1. All the senior colleges of the Free Methodist Church are expected to offer the four-year theological curriculum approved by the General Conference for ministerial candidates. Graduation from this curriculum carries the regular Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in religion. Each approved college has freedom, within the limits of the liberal arts program to determine its academic requirements for the degree. However, the Church establishes certain minimum requirements in an approved theological curriculum.

2. Completion of the first two years of the four-year course in an approved school shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as deacon, providing the following minimum requirements in religion are included:

Biblical Studies	6 semester units
Theology and Church History	6 semester units
Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine and Electives	6 semester units
Minimum total	18 semester units

3. Graduation from an approved four-year course with a major in religion shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as elder provided such course includes the following requirements in religion:

Biblical Studies	12 semester units
Theology and Church History	12 semester units
Professional and Practical Studies (including Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine)	12 semester units
Minimum total	36 semester units

¶ 502. Courses of study for ministerial students attending approved theological seminaries.

1. It is recommended that wherever feasible ministerial

candidates who are college graduates should continue their professional training on a graduate level under the supervision of John Wesley Seminary Foundation, or in any other church-approved theological seminary or approved affiliation. Such a course should be a standard three-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Divinity degree or its equivalent.

2. Completion of the first year of this three-year seminary course on the part of students with little or no undergraduate credit in religion shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as deacon. Completion of the entire three-year course will satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as elder.

3. Those who enter the seminary from any of our schools after completing the standard four-year theological course with a major in religion will have already met the educational requirements for ordination as deacon and elder.

¶ 503. Itinerant credit for ministerial candidates in approved schools.

1. One of the standard requirements for ordination as deacon by the Free Methodist Church throughout its history has been the completion of two years service as a regular assigned pastor. This requirement of itinerant service is in addition to the academic requirements and satisfying an annual conference that the candidate is in agreement with the church and doctrine, discipline, government, and usages, and also that he possesses the needed gifts, graces and promise of usefulness. A further requirement of two years of pastoral experience is required of a deacon before he can be ordained an elder. Because of the postponement of entering the active pastorate for several years on the part of a ministerial student to go through college and seminary, the church has made provision whereby students in approved schools under certain conditions may meet a considerable portion of this requirement of itinerant service by earning what is called "Itinerant Credit" while in school.

2. Each year of supervised practical service by a regular student in the course of study for traveling preachers in an approved Free Methodist school shall be equivalent to one



year of itinerant service as required for ordination as deacon or (within the limitation stated in Paragraph 503, Section 2-d) as elder under the following conditions:

(a) The candidate must have been received on probation in an annual conference.

(b) He must be under church supervision and report regularly to his district conference, which shall carefully examine him upon his call, his doctrine, and his other qualifications.

(c) He must have favorable recommendations from his superintendent and from the Conference Board of Ministerial Training.

(d) He may not earn more than three years of itinerant credit during his four years in college. He may not be ordained deacon even though he has earned two or more years of credit in supervised practical service unless he:

(1) has completed at least two years of a four-year course with an approved major in religion, or

(2) has previously had at least one year of pastoral experience. He may not be elected to elder's orders until he has had one year of pastoral experience in the Free Methodist Church.

(e) John Wesley Seminary Foundation students may not earn, through supervised practical service, more than three years of itinerant credit during both college and seminary training.

(f) The Central Board of Ministerial Training shall define activities in which practical service may be rendered for itinerant credit, and set up standards of judging accomplishments therein. Credits must be earned in accordance with these standards.

¶ 504. Exceptional cases.

1. College graduates without majors in religion who do not attend seminary may meet the educational requirements for ordination through the correspondence program outlined in Paragraph 505.

2. Candidates who discontinued college before graduation may make up deficiencies through the Correspondence Program.

3. High school graduates are expected to follow the program outlined in Paragraph 501. If the situation requires it the Conference Board of Ministerial Training may grant permission to high school graduates to follow the correspondence program.

4. Provision is made whereby, under special conditions involving an exceptional candidate who enters the ministry in later years, a person may be permitted to meet the educational requirements for ordination as a traveling deacon, as follows: a. satisfactory completion of course of study for local preachers who wish to be ordained elders. (See Paragraphs 506-509.) b. unanimous approval of the Conference Board of Ministerial Training. c. a three-fourths vote of the annual conference.

¶505. Correspondence program for exceptional cases.

1. Preliminary requirements for reception on probation:

(a) Basic Studies: A four-year high school course.

(b) Professional Studies: The candidate may qualify by completing the following courses by correspondence: Introduction to Christian Doctrine (including the doctrines of holiness), and Introduction to Free Methodism.

2. A probationer in preparation for ordination as deacon may meet the educational requirements through correspondence courses as follows: English Composition and Speech—8 semester hours; History—3 hours; Psychology—3 hours; Bible Study—6 hours; Systematic Theology—3 hours; Church History—3 hours; Practical Theology—6 hours.

(a) A probationer shall complete a minimum of two years of itinerant service to become eligible for deacon's orders.

3. A deacon may meet the educational requirements for ordination as elder through correspondence course as follows: Social Science (excluding History)—6 hours; History (United States or Canadian)—3 hours; Philosophy and Ethics—5 hours; Bible Study—6 hours; Theology (including the Doctrine of Holiness)—5 hours; Church History—3 hours; Church Administration—2 hours; Pastoral Care—2 hours.

(a) A deacon must serve two years after ordination to become eligible for elder's orders.



## CHAPTER 47

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS

#### I. For Local Preachers Who Are to Be Examined by the District Conference

##### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 506. 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.

*The Story of Our Church*—Howland.

Wesley's *Sermons*, Volume I, sermons 1 to 15 inclusive.

##### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 507. 1. *The Book We Teach*—Weatherspoon.  
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

(The examination of local preachers who wish to be ordained shall be conducted by the annual conference. Let the examining committees and the candidates be present at the seat of conference for examinations not later than the first day of the session. Candidates not present at that time forfeit their right to examination for that year. Examiners shall report the standing of candidates in each book according to a scale of ten, six being passing.)

- ¶ 508. 1. *Handbook of Theology*—Field, first half; or *Divinity*—Ralston, pages 9 to 191.

2. *The Heart of the Old Testament*—Sampey.

Collateral reading:

*History of the Free Methodist Church*—Hogue, Volume I.  
*The Path of Prayer*—Chadwick.  
*The Dynamic of Service*—A. Paget Wilkes.

III. For Local Deacons Who Wish to Be Ordained Elders

- ¶ 509. 1. *Handbook of Theology*—Field, second half; or  
*Divinity*—Ralston, pages 329 to 543.  
2. *The Life of Christ*—Stalker.  
3. *A Brief Life of Paul*—Olmstead.

Collateral reading:

*History of the Free Methodist Church*—Hogue, Volume II, chapters 1 to 12 inclusive and chapter 21.  
*Secret Societies*—Brown.  
*The Way to Pentecost*—Chadwick.



## CHAPTER 48

### COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSSES

#### FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 510. 1. *Free Methodist Discipline*.  
2. *The Book We Teach*—Weatherspoon.  
3. *American Red Cross and Home Hygiene*.  
Collateral reading:  
1. *The Way to Pentecost*—Chadwick.  
2. "A Corn of Wheat"—Root.

#### SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 511. 1. *Theological Compend*—Binney.  
2. *Plain Account of Christian Perfection*—Wesley.  
Collateral reading:  
1. *The Path of Prayer*—Chadwick.  
2. *The Story of Our Church*—Howland.  
3. *The Dynamic of Service*—A. Paget Wilkes.  
4. *Fishers of Men*—Roberts.

The examination of deaconesses shall be conducted by the annual conference board of examiners, and may be conducted orally. A deaconess having completed the foregoing two-year course is eligible to be licensed by the annual conference, according to Par. 363, Sec. 6.

## CHAPTER 49

### COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS

¶ 512. The following course of reading for class leaders is recommended by the General Conference in the belief that it will meet a general need throughout the church, and that the few inexpensive volumes therein named will not only edify all class leaders who will carefully read them, but also increase 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*

*The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life—Smith.*

*Story of Our Church—Howland.*

*Possibilities of Grace—Lowery.*

*The Dynamic of Service—A. Paget Wilkes.*

*The Path of Prayer—Chadwick.*

*"By My Spirit"—Jonathan Goforth.*

*The Way to Pentecost—Chadwick.*



## CHAPTER 50

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

¶ 513. 1. There shall be a Publications Committee to represent and serve all the agencies of the Church which may desire to designate or develop for publication, books, pamphlets, papers, and various curricula for use in the Church or any of its agencies.

2. The Publications Committee shall be composed of a representative from each of the Commissions. Two members shall be laymen, two ministerial. The Committee shall organize immediately following the General Conference and designate one of its members as chairman. The department heads and publisher shall be included as consulting members without vote.

3. The Publications Committee shall meet annually and at other times upon the call of the chairman. The Committee shall meet to hear the recommendations of the various departments, and to review, coordinate, and approve materials and publication and arbitrate when necessary.

4. The coordinating executive secretary of Leadership and Service Training shall serve as executive secretary for the Publications Committee and as the liaison agent between the departmental heads and the Publications Committee to assist in the formation of recommendations to the Publications Committee, and shall request the chairman to call a meeting when necessary.

5. Each commission or department shall bear the travel expenses of its representative.

**PART XI**  
**APPENDIX**



## **CHAPTERS**

- 51. INCORPORATION**
- 52. MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS**
- 53. SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION**
- 54. FREE METHODIST YOUTH CONSTITUTION**
- 55. CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS CONSTITUTION**
- 56. FORMS**

## CHAPTER 51

### 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:

¶ 520. 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.

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

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\* Editor's Historical Note (1943). 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 the 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.



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

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\* Editor's Note (1943). 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.



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 The Free Methodist Church of North America as from time to 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

### BY-LAWS OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

#### ARTICLE I

##### Members

¶ 530. 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 at a time and place to be fixed by the Board of Administration or a committee designated by them.

The annual meeting of the members and of the Board of Directors may be held either in or out of the state of incorporation, as fixed by the Board of Administration or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Notice of the annual meeting of members shall be given 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 the FREE METHODIST DISCIPLINE 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 subsequent to the 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 authorized 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 resignations 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 subsequent to the 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 on or after the 15th day of October and on or before the 15th day of November, the time and place to be fixed by the Board of Directors.

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, or published in *The Free Methodist* for not less than two weeks prior to such 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 cor-



poration; 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 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

Section 13: The directors of this corporation shall serve without compensation except for 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.

Section 15: The business of the Board of Directors may be conducted by mail. Any matter submitted by the secretary to the members of the Board shall, when approved by a majority of the Board and recorded in the minutes of the Board by the secretary, be a legally approved act of the Board.

### 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 except the treasurer. The General Church Treasurer shall be the treasurer of the corporation.

### 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.

## Form of Bequest

¶531. 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 52

### MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS

¶ 560. 1. *Roberts Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the General Conference, the annual conferences, and all other official bodies of the church.

2. A delegate to an annual conference or the General Conference is not a member until he is present with his credentials and has been seated.

3. The Friday preceding each quarterly meeting, each annual conference, and each General Conference shall be observed by our people as a day of fasting and prayer.

4. A general officer may retire when he reaches the age of seventy years. Otherwise he shall retire after the election of his successor at the end of the General Conference nearest his seventy-fifth birthday. (See Pars. 333, 334 for further particulars upon the retirement of bishops.)

5. Each general officer, superintendent, pastor, and evangelist shall make to his annual conference a financial report of his receipts from the field. This report shall be published in the statistical tables of the conference.

6. The proper officers shall publish in the *Yearbook* annually full and detailed statements of the assets, liabilities, net worth, and financial standing of the various church boards and of the Publishing House.

7. A minister's district conference relationship is fixed by his annual conference; he cannot, therefore, be a member of a district conference in another annual conference in which he may be supplying work.

¶ 561. Special Days to Be Observed.

1. Children's Day. Par. 152, IX-3.

2. Day of fasting and prayer for general evangelism. Par.

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¶ 561. Special Days to Be Observed.

1. Children's Day. Par. 152, IX-3.

2. Day of fasting and prayer for general evangelism. Par.



181, Sec. 4.

3. Day of fasting on Friday preceding the session of the annual conference and of the General Conference. Par. 560, Sec. 3.

4. Men and Missions Day.

## CHAPTER 53

¶ 600. The constitution of the Department of Sunday Schools.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I

##### Name

The name of this organization shall be Department of Sunday Schools of the Free Methodist Church of North America. It shall be organized in general, conference, and local bodies, and shall be amenable to the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education.

#### ARTICLE II

##### Theme

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

#### ARTICLE III

##### Objectives

1. To promote the teaching ministry of the Great Commission.
2. To promote the knowledge of the Bible through systematic reading, study and memorization.
3. To bring to a saving knowledge of God all members of the organization.
4. To build numerically and strengthen spiritually the Free Methodist Church.
5. To cooperate in bringing about a spiritual revival through the Sunday schools of all churches, resulting in a national return to the faith.
6. To provide training for Christian service.
7. To provide Christian fellowship, such as the organized class, outings, and other social activities.
8. To provide a channel through which the community may be reached with Christian teaching.



## ARTICLE IV

## General Conference Convention

1. There shall be a meeting of the Convention of the Department of Sunday Schools held at the General Conference, composed of the general Sunday school council and a delegate elected by each annual conference board.

2. The general Sunday-school secretary shall be its presiding officer, with the area promoters as co-chairmen.

3. The general church treasurer shall be treasurer of the Department.

## ARTICLE V

## General Secretary

1. The General Sunday-School Secretary shall be elected by ballot by the General Conference. The Sunday-school quadrennial body shall nominate two or more by ballot.

2. He shall be the executive officer of the Department of Sunday Schools and shall promote the Sunday-school interests of the church under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the General Sunday School Secretary to promote the sales of the Sunday-school supplies of the Publishing House.

## ARTICLE VI

## Council

1. There shall be a general Sunday School Council consisting of:

- a. The chairman of the Commission on Christian Education.
- b. The general Sunday-school secretary who shall be its presiding officer.
- c. Area promoters, elected following the General Convention by the Commission on Christian Education. The Convention body may nominate.
- d. One layman from each of the areas to be elected at the time of and by its convocation.

2. Council vacancies shall be filled by the Commission on Christian Education. The council may nominate.

3. The council may meet semi-annually when necessary to initiate general Sunday-school promotion. The expenses of such meetings shall be borne by the general operating fund of the Department.

## ARTICLE VII

### Conference Organization

1. The Sunday-school work of the conference shall be directed by the Conference Board of Christian Education as provided in Paragraph 257 of the DISCIPLINE. The treasurer of the Board of Christian Education shall be treasurer of the Sunday-school funds.

2. The duties of the Conference Board of Christian Education as related to the Sunday school shall be to:

- a. Supervise the Sunday-school work of the conference in harmony with the direction and advice of the Commission on Christian Education through the
- b. Encourage the organization and maintenance of a Sunday school in every society in the conference and establish new Sunday schools wherever practicable.
- c. Plan for at least two institutes each year in every local society in cooperation with the pastor and the society.
- d. Arrange for a Sunday-school convention on each district of the conference in cooperation with the district superintendent.
- e. Arrange for a conference Sunday-school convention once a year and active participation in regional Sunday-school conventions.
- f. Elect a delegate to the quadrennial meeting.

3. The conference Sunday-school secretary shall administer the work outlined by the conference Board of Christian Education.

4. A District Board of Christian Education may be organized wherever desirable.



## ARTICLE VIII

## Local Organization

## 1. Local Sunday-School Board.

- a. A local board shall be composed of the pastor and all the regularly elected officers and teachers of the Sunday school.
- b. The officers of the board shall be president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, to be elected at the beginning of each conference year.
- c. It is recommended that the Sunday-school board appoint a promotion committee consisting of the pastor, superintendent, assistant superintendent and at least two other persons. This committee shall act as a planning committee and should meet frequently. It should have charge of the promotion of the expansion of the Sunday school, both within the school itself and in community visitation evangelism. It should make recommendations to the Sunday-school board.
- d. The board shall meet regularly for the purpose of transacting special or current business, and reports shall be made by the teachers and department superintendents at the quarterly or semi-annual meeting, as the board may decide.

The following order of business shall be observed in general:

- (1) Devotions
- (2) Calling of the roll
- (3) Reading of the minutes of previous meeting
- (4) Quarterly report of the secretary of the Sunday school
- (5) Report of treasurer. Reference of treasurer's account to the church auditor
- (6) Report of superintendent
- (7) Report of department heads
- (8) Report of teachers
- (9) Report of committees
- (10) Unfinished business

(11) Questions to be considered:

- (a) Is the Sunday school properly graded?
- (b) Is the Sunday school using Free Methodist curriculum materials?
- (c) Are the teachers and officers supplied with the *Sunday School Journal*?
- (d) Has the tithe been sent to the treasurer of the Conference Sunday-school Board, according to Article X, Section 1, of this constitution?
- (e) It shall be the duty of the board to promote the use of Free Methodist curriculum materials in every Sunday-school class.

(12) New business and appointment of committees

(13) Reading of the minutes

(14) Adjournment

2. The superintendent shall be elected by ballot at the annual society meeting. The preacher in charge may nominate.

3. Officers and Teachers.

- a. A committee consisting of not less than three nor more than five persons shall be elected by ballot at the annual society meeting to serve with the pastor and Sunday-school superintendent as a Sunday-school nominating committee.
- b. The committee shall nominate the officers and teachers of the Sunday school.
- c. The nominations shall be submitted for a vote at a regularly called meeting of the society. The form of ballot as set forth in the *Handbook for Sunday School Workers* is recommended.
- d. Officers and teachers shall hold office until their successors are elected. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the Sunday-school board.

4. In organizing new schools, the pastor or pastors in charge and the Sunday-school superintendents shall appoint the officers and teachers.



5. Planned workers' conferences shall be held during the year. See *Handbook* for guidance.

## ARTICLE IX

### Duties of the Pastors

It. shall be the duties of the pastors to:

1. Report to each session of the district conference the status of their Sunday schools and the extent to which they have discharged their duties to them and report on the usage of Free Methodist curriculum materials in the Sunday school.

2. Report to the annual conference the exact statistical status of their respective Sunday schools including the number of officers and teachers, active enrollment of all departments, and the average attendance for the conference year.

3. Arrange for the Sunday schools under their charge to observe Children's Day in June. As a part of this service, an offering shall be received for the Student Aid Fund, the amount so received to be forwarded directly to the treasurer of the conference. This fund shall be used by the Commission on Christian Education as directed in Paragraph 159, Section 12 of the DISCIPLINE.

4. Preach on the subject of Sunday schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once during the year; establish and maintain branch Sunday schools wherever there is an opening, and in such schools employ members of the church as officers and teachers as far as practicable.

5. Enforce faithfully upon the parents and Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; preach to the children, and see that the Church Catechism is taught them either in Sunday school or in special meetings appointed for that purpose.

6. Pay special attention to the children, speaking kindly to each of them 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.

## ARTICLE X

### Finance

1. It shall be the duty of each Sunday-school board to forward each quarter the tithe of all money raised for Sunday-school purposes to the treasurer of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the conference Board of Christian Education to remit to the General Church Treasurer for general Sunday-school promotion, two and one-half per cent of all money raised in the conference for Sunday-school purposes, as reported in the annual statistics of the conference. The treasurer of the conference Board of Christian Education shall remit quarterly, final adjustment to be made at the close of the fourth quarter of the year.

3. The balance of the tithe received from the local Sunday schools shall be used for conference Sunday-school promotion.

4. An offering shall be received the Sunday of National Sunday School Week in each Sunday school for general Sunday-school promotion and it shall be forwarded to the General Church Treasurer.

5. The Board of Administration, upon joint recommendation of the Commission on Christian Education and the Publishing House Board shall determine the amount to be paid the Department of Sunday Schools based upon Sunday-school curriculum sales within the denomination.

## ARTICLE XI

### Reference Book

1. The *Handbook for Sunday School Workers* shall be the official reference book for the Department.

## ARTICLE XII

### Amendments

1. This constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the quadrennial body, subject to the approval of the General Conference.



## CHAPTER 54

### ¶610. Constitution of Free Methodist Youth (As Amended, June, 1960)

#### ARTICLE I

##### Name

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 Free Methodist Youth, a department of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

#### ARTICLE II

Slogan: "United to Make Christ Known"  
Motto: "Others"

#### ARTICLE III

##### 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 baptism of the Holy Spirit, to encourage growth in grace, and to prepare them for efficient membership in the Free Methodist Church;
2. To inspire, enlist, and train the young people to win the lost youth of their generation;
3. To study the needs of the various fields and become intelligent supporters of the full missionary program;
4. To encourage Christian stewardship and raise money for projects sanctioned by the general authorities of the church in ways consistent with the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### The Local FMY

##### Section A: Membership

1. Active members shall be young people of good moral

character who desire to unite for worship, instruction, and service under the direction of the Free Methodist Church.

2. Active members shall be 15 to 35 years of age inclusive. Persons fourteen years of age, when attending Senior High School, or where no organized Christian Youth Crusader chapter exists on the local, may be members of FMY.

3. Persons over thirty-five years of age may be honorary members upon the payment of dues. Where there is no organized Christian Youth Crusader chapter on a local church society, persons thirteen years of age may be honorary members.

4. That there be a flexibility as to the lower age level of FMY in exceptional cases to allow the faster-maturing, older junior high youth to be advanced into FMY upon agreement of the pastor and CYC and FMY directors.

#### Section B: Teen Director and Young Adult Promoter

1. It shall be the duty of each church society to elect a Teen Director of FMY and a Young Adult Promoter, who with the pastor, shall become responsible for the respective organizations on the local society; and they, together with presidents (president) shall be responsible for the promotion of the local societies (society). The respective organizations may nominate by ballot.

2. The Teen Director and Young Adult Promoter shall be members of the Free Methodist Church over twenty-five years of age. When elected they shall become members of the Official Board and report regularly to that body.

#### Section C: Officers

1. The officers of the Teen FMY organization shall be president, vice-president, secretary and/or treasurer, and the promoters of the three phases of FMY, (Promoter of Enlistment, Promoter of Training, and Promoter of Outreach,) and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program.

2. The officers of the Young Adult FMY organization shall be president, vice-president, secretary and/or treasurer, and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program.



3. The presidents must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

4. Where there is a single organization local society, the officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary and/or treasurer, the promoters of the three phases of FMY and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program.

#### Section D: Meetings

1. A weekly service shall be held, if possible, on Sunday evening.

2. A business meeting of each age organization shall be held at least once in three months. Each age organization shall decide at its first meeting how many shall constitute a quorum.

3. All activities of the FMY shall conform to Christian standards as expounded in God's Word and interpreted in the Discipline of the Free Methodist Church.

4. Unsaved persons shall not be engaged as leaders of religious services.

#### Section E: Funds

1. Money shall be raised by tithes and offerings to support the approved financial interests of the church and the FMY. All FMY funds shall be raised in accordance with the principles of Christian stewardship and not by merchandising to support the church.

2. Each age organization of the local shall be responsible for raising its share of the Youth Fund as apportioned by the Coordinating Council, which shall be used for operating expenses of the general FMY. Honorary membership dues shall be applied on the Youth Fund.

3. All money raised by the age organization(s) except for local operating funds shall be forwarded directly to the conference (district) FMY treasurer.

#### Section F: Committees

1. Each age organization shall have its own program committee. The program committee shall be composed by the vice-president of the organization as chairman, and such members as are elected by the officers for that organization.

2. A nominating committee shall be elected to bring in nominations prior to the election of officers. This committee shall also submit nominations from its organization to the church society nominating committee for the offices of Teen Director and Young Adult Promoter.

3. The president is an ex-officio member of all committees.

4. The Teen Director shall be an ex-officio member of all committees in the teen-age organization.

5. The Young Adult Promoter shall be an ex-officio member of all committees in the young adult organization.

#### Section G: Voting

1. All active members shall have the power to vote.

2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

3. No honorary member may be elected to office by FMY except for president. When elected, he shall have the power to vote.

#### Section H: Delegated Bodies

The local FMY may, in a combined meeting of the organizations, by ballot, elect active members as delegates to the annual FMY conference or convention. Delegates must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

#### Section I: The Youth Councils

1. There shall be a Teen Council in each society which shall direct the teen-age activities of the society. This council shall be responsible to the official board. Members shall be the pastor, Director, a Sunday-school board representative, and all regularly elected officers.

2. There shall be a Young Adult Council in each society which shall direct the Young Adult activities of the society. This council shall be responsible to the official board. Members shall be the pastor, Young Adult Promoter, a Sunday School Board representative, and all regularly elected officers.

3. Where there is one local organization, the Council shall be composed of the pastor, Director, Young Adult Promoter, Sunday School Board representative, and all regularly elected officers.



**Section J: Coordinating Council**

1. There shall be a Coordinating Council in each society which shall coordinate the youth activities of the organizations. This council shall be responsible to the official board through the Board of Christian Education where one exists.

2. The Coordinating Council shall be composed of the pastor, the Young Adult Promoter, the Teen Director, a Sunday School Board representative, and the presidents of the two organizations when elected.

3. It shall be the duty of the Coordinating Council to determine the number of organizations to be formed in the local FMY.

**ARTICLE V**

**The District FMY**

(Where deemed advisable the organization of a Youth Council on the district level shall be encouraged. The provisions of Article V apply only to districts which have such organizations.)

**Section A: Membership**

Membership in a local society shall constitute membership in the District FMY.

**Section B: Director and Promoter**

1. The district conference shall elect a district FMY Director and a Young Adult Promoter, who with the superintendent, shall become responsible for the organization of the district FMY. The district FMY may nominate these by ballot.

2. The Director and Promoter shall be members of the Free Methodist Church over 25 years of age.

3. Both Director and the Young Adult Promoter shall report to the district conference.

**Section C: District Superintendent**

The District Superintendent of the church shall be a member of the District Youth Council.

**Section D: Officers**

1. From the designated list in Article IV, Section C, Par.

4, such officers may be elected as are necessary for the effective promotion of the district FMY. The president when elected shall become a member of the conference FMY Council.

2. Where no district organization exists, a district promoter may be elected and shall become a member of the conference FMY Council.

3. All officers shall be members of the Free Methodist Church.

#### Section E: Meetings

Business meetings shall be held at the time and place of the district meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

#### Section F: Funds

The treasurer shall keep a record of all money received from local treasurers and forward it to the conference treasurer.

#### Section G: Committees

1. The District Youth Council shall be composed of the regularly elected FMY officers, the FMY director, the young adult promoter, and the district superintendent. This Council shall direct the activities of the district FMY and be responsible to the district conference.

2. The program committee shall be appointed by the youth council.

3. A nomination committee shall be elected to bring in nominations prior to the election of officers.

4. As deemed necessary, the Young Adult Promoter, with the District Superintendent, shall select the necessary persons to promote the young adult program. The chairman of this committee shall be the Young Adult Promoter.

#### Section H: Voting

1. All active members shall have the power to vote.

2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.



## ARTICLE VI

## The Conference FMY

## Section A: Membership

Membership in a local society shall constitute membership in the conference FMY.

## Section B: Director and Promoter

1. Each annual conference shall elect a conference FMY Director and Young Adult Promoter, who with the superintendent, shall become responsible for the organization of the conference FMY. The conference FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. The Director and Young Adult Promoter shall be members of the Free Methodist Church over 25 years of age.

3. Both Director and Young Adult Promoter shall report to the annual conference.

## Section C: Conference Superintendent

1. The annual conference shall elect from the district superintendents of the conference one to serve on the FMY Council. The FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. Where there is a conference superintendent, he shall serve on the FMY Council.

## Section D: Officers

1. The officers of the conference FMY shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, promoters of the three phases of FMY, and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program.

2. All officers shall be members of the Free Methodist Church, residing within the conference and shall have had at least one year of experience as a local officer.

3. Officers shall be elected by the annual business meeting.

4. The Youth Council shall fill all vacancies.

## Section E: Meetings

The meetings of the conference society shall be held at the time and place of the annual conference or at the annual FMY convention.

### Sections F: Funds

1. The approved financial interests of the church and FMY shall be promoted by the conference FMY.
2. Final responsibility for raising the Youth Fund lies with the conference FMY.
3. Funds may be raised for conference projects.

### Section G: Committees

1. The conference Youth Council shall be composed of the regularly elected officers of the conference FMY, the district presidents (or promoters), the FMY Director, the Young Adult Promoter, and one of the conference (district) superintendents. This committee shall direct the activities and promote the interests of the FMY throughout the conference.
2. Each conference FMY shall nominate one or more of its members who is a member of the Free Methodist Church and submit the nomination to the Annual Conference to be considered for membership on the Conference Evangelistic Board.
3. A nomination committee shall be elected by the delegated conference body or the Youth Council to submit nominations prior to the election of officers. Not more than two members of the Youth Council may serve on this committee. The superintendent and FMY Director shall be ex-officio members of the nominating committee.
4. As deemed necessary, the Young Adult Promoter, with the District or Conference Superintendent, shall select the necessary persons to promote the young adult program. The chairman of this committee shall be the Young Adult Promoter.

### Section H: Voting

1. The delegates and conference officers specifically designated in Article VI, Section D, Paragraph 1, shall compose the voting body of the FMY annual conference or convention.
2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.
3. The quorum shall be determined at the first business



session of the annual FMY conference or convention.

### Section I: Delegated Bodies

1. After the third year of the quadrennium each annual conference or convention shall elect one or more delegates to the General FMY Conference.

2. Representation to the General FMY Conference shall be based on the average active membership of the conference for the first three years of the quadrennium. The number of delegates shall be determined as follows: 1-500 members, one delegate; 501-1000 members, two delegates, and so forth.

3. Delegates to the General FMY Conference shall be active members of the FMY and members of the Free Methodist Church residing within the conference the year prior to the election, and intending to reside there the year following the quadrennial meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### The General FMY Conference

#### Section A: Membership

1. There shall be a General FMY Conference, composed of the conference delegates and the Regional Representatives, which shall convene at the seat of the General Conference.

2. The members of the FMY on the mission fields shall have the right to elect a fraternal delegate to the General FMY Conference, or, when this is not possible, the General Missionary Secretary may appoint a representative, provided that this shall not obligate the general FMY treasurer to pay the traveling expenses.

3. Those provisional conferences which full participate in the FMY program shall be granted, on the approval of the General FMY Council, regular delegates.

#### Section B: General Director

1. A general Director of the FMY shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The General FMY Conference may nominate by ballot.

2. The general Director shall serve under the Commis-

sion on Christian Education and shall report annually to that body.

#### Sections C: Officers

1. The presiding officers of the General FMY Conferences shall be appointed by the General FMY Council from the Council or from the delegated body.

2. The General FMY Conference shall elect a secretary who may appoint one or more assistants.

3. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the general FMY.

#### Section D: Committees

A nominating committee, composed of two members from each region (nominated by the delegates and the Regional Representatives from their region), shall be elected by the General FMY Conference at the first sitting.

#### Section E: Elections

The General FMY Conference shall elect five active members of FMY to be known as Regional Representatives. Each region shall nominate by caucus one member who resides within the United States boundary of its region. Canadian delegates shall by caucus nominate a resident of Canada as the fifth member. They shall be members of the Free Methodist Church residing within the area from which they are elected the year prior to the election and intending to reside there the year following the General FMY Conference. They shall be between the ages of 21 and 35 inclusive when elected.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### The FMY Council

1. The FMY Council shall consist of the five Regional Representatives and the General FMY Director, who shall serve as chairman.

2. The Council shall establish broad policies concerning the activities of the general FMY during the interim of the General FMY Conferences.

3. The Council shall report to and be directly amenable to the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education.



4. Any vacancy occurring in the office of the General FMY Director shall be filled by the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education. The FMY Council may nominate.

5. Any vacancies occurring in the offices of Regional Representatives shall be filled by the General FMY Council and confirmed by the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education. In the event a Regional Representative moves from the region he is serving, the General FMY Council shall select a replacement from that region.

6. The operating expense of the general FMY as incorporated in their approved budget, shall be paid from funds raised by the FMY. The Commission on Christian Education shall approve the FMY budget and determine the percentage to come from each fund subject to the approval of the Board of Administration. All money raised for general church interests shall be channeled through the local, district (where such exists), conference and general FMY treasurers.

7. The Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education shall employ two General Representatives of FMY, who shall work under the direction of the General Director. The General Director may nominate.

## ARTICLE IX

### Order of Business

1. Devotions.
2. Calling of the roll.
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Committee and officer reports and discussions.
6. New business.
7. Programs, addresses, and other activities.
8. Reading and correcting minutes.
9. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE X

### Rules of Order

Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the standard of parliamentary usage.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

The constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the FMY Quadrennial Body, subject to the approval of the General Conference.



## CHAPTER 55

### ¶ 620. 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

##### Objectives

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 wherein those who are or become Christians receive training and experience in winning others to Christ.

#### ARTICLE III

##### Membership

1. Members shall be young people of junior high ages, grades seven, eight and nine (or ages twelve, thirteen and fourteen), who desire to unite for activities, instruction and worship under the director of Christian Youth Crusaders.
2. Where practicable, a junior division of Christian Youth Crusaders may be established for grades four, five and six (or ages nine, ten, and eleven); and a primary program for grades one, two, and three (or ages six, seven, and eight).  
There may be a flexibility as to the lower age level of FMY in exceptional cases to allow the fast-maturing, older

junior high youth to be advanced into FMY upon agreement of the pastor and CYC and FMY directors.

## ARTICLE IV

### Organization and Control

1. The Christian Youth Crusaders shall be under the general direction of the Commission on Christian Education, and promotional activities connected therewith shall be carried on by the Director of Intermediate Youth, to be chosen by the Commission.

2. a. Each annual conference shall elect a director of the Christian Youth Crusaders who shall be in charge in promoting the year-round CYC program. He shall be a member of the conference Board of Christian Education and shall be nominated by that board.

b. The Conference Board of Christian Education may appoint a CYC camping director who shall supervise the camping program for the CYC ages in the conference. He shall work in cooperation with the conference CYC director and the conference Board of Christian Education.

3. A district director may be elected by the district quarterly conference.

4. Each society shall elect a Christian Youth Crusaders committee of interested adults whose duty shall be to nominate a Christian Youth Crusaders director and to give support in every practical way to local Christian Youth Crusaders activities.

5. Each society shall elect a Christian Youth Crusaders director. The director must be a member of the Free Methodist Church and regularly attend Sunday school and church. He shall work under the direction of the official board and in cooperation with the Sunday-school board and the pastor.

6. The local Christian Youth Crusaders director shall be a member of both the official board and the Sunday-school board.

7. It shall be the duty of the director of each local Christian Youth Crusaders chapter to function as provided by the general Christian Youth Crusaders manual.



## ARTICLE V

## Officers

1. The local Christian Youth Crusaders shall elect from its membership a leader known as the Marshal. The director may nominate. The Marshal shall be a member and regular attendant of the Free Methodist Sunday school.

## ARTICLE VI

## Meetings

1. Christian Youth Crusaders shall have three types of meetings, the Sunday-school class, a Sunday afternoon or evening meeting, and a week-day or week-night meeting. 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 or evening may be devoted to prayer, visiting the sick, any other appropriate Sunday service project, to study or to discussion under the guidance of the director.

c. The week-day or week-night meetings shall be designed to develop the members physically, socially, spiritually and mentally, with one night each month stressing Free Methodist missions.

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

1. Each Christian Youth Crusaders member shall pay an annual registration fee which is to be sent to Christian Youth Crusaders headquarters.

2. Money for local needs may be met by collections from

members, by offerings from interested adults, or by appropriations from local church boards.

3. A self-denial offering for missions is to be received the last meeting of each month.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Materials

1. The Department of Intermediate Youth shall provide manuals, printed matter, and materials to assist the organization in all phases of this work. Manuals shall be approved by the Committee on Curriculum before publication.



## CHAPTER 56

### ¶ 650. FORMS

#### 1

#### APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO SELL OR MORTGAGE CHURCH PROPERTY OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Name of Circuit .....  
.....  
..... District  
..... Conference

#### Questions to be Answered

1. Has the society given authority to the trustees to sell or mortgage the property? .....

2. What are the reasons for selling or mortgaging? .....

3. What disposition of the proceeds of the sale or mortgage is intended .....

4. Is the title clear? .....  
If not, what is the character of the title? .....

5 (a) Is the property deeded "to the society in its corporate name," or to individual trustees? (See Par. 465.)

(b) If incorporated, what is the corporate name? Quote from the Articles of Incorporation.

(c) Give from the deed the exact name or names in which the property is deeded.

(d) If possible, attach a copy of the deed, which will answer a and c.

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 466.) .....

7. (a) Is there a reverting clause in the title? .....

(b) If so, quote it .....

8. Give the names of the present board of 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, and whether parsonage or church. ....

10. Give legal description of property to be sold or mortgaged, copying from the deed. (If deed or copy is sent, that will be sufficient.) .....

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 if mortgaged to improve? .....

\*14. I approve of the sale mortgage as proposed.

..... Minister in Charge  
Address .....

..... District Superintendent  
Address .....

..... Sec. of Official Board

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\* Cross out *sale* or *mortgage* as the case may require. This form may at any time be changed at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America.



Address .....

Description:  
.....  
.....

2

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

3

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 the Free Methodist Church.*

Done by order of the Official Board of the ..... Circuit, ..... Conference.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....

..... President  
..... Secretary

4

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*

5

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE TO PREACH

We, the members of the Official Board of .....  
 charge, ..... District, hereby recom-  
 mend ..... 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 the Official Board.

..... *President*  
 ..... *Secretary*

6

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 es-  
 tablished doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by the  
 Free Methodist Church.

By order of the District Conference of the .....  
 District, ..... Conference.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ....., 19....  
 ..... *President*  
 ..... *Secretary*

7

RENEWAL OF LOCAL PREACHER'S LICENSE\*

*This certifies* that the license of ..... as a  
 LOCAL PREACHER in the FREE METHODIST CHURCH is hereby

\* The candidate's official board must previously have recommended  
 renewal of his license.



renewed for one year, subject to the requirements of the  
DISCIPLINE.

Done by order of the District Conference of .....  
District, ..... Annual Conference, in ses-  
sion at ....., this ..... day of .....  
19....

..... *President*

..... *Secretary*

---

8

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDERS

*This certifies* that ..... is hereby recommended by  
the District Conference of ..... District to the  
..... Annual Conference as a proper person to  
be ordained ..... according to the provisions of the  
DISCIPLINE, he having served for four consecutive years as a  
local preacher (or deacon).

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference of .....  
District, this ..... day of ..... 19....

..... *President*

..... *Secretary*

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9

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*This certifies* that ....., a local  
preacher, and member of the District 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 District Conference of .....  
District, ..... Annual Conference, in ses-  
sion at ..... this ..... day of  
..... 19....

..... *President*

..... *Secretary*

## 10

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE—ADMISSION ON PROBATION—  
LOCAL PREACHER

*This is to certify* that ....., 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 that he is hereby authorized to act in that capacity, according to the FREE METHODIST DISCIPLINE, 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 the Free Methodist Church.

Done at its annual session, held at ....., the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....President

.....Secretary

## 11

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 that ..... is hereby authorized to act in that capacity according to the FREE METHODIST DISCIPLINE, 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 the Free Methodist Church.

Done at its annual session, held at ....., the ..... day of ....., 19....

.....President

.....Secretary



## 12

## 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 to being transferred to the ..... Conference.

Done by the ..... 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 the ..... 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.

## 13

## CERTIFICATE OF STANDING

*This certifies* that ..... has been an ordained ..... in good standing and of general acceptability in the ..... Conference of the FREE METHODIST CHURCH, and is granted this certificate with a view of joining another evangelical denomination. His membership in this conference and church is terminated upon the issuance of this certificate.

Done by the ..... Conference at ..... on ..... 19....

..... *President*

..... *Secretary*

This certificate can be delivered only upon the surrender of the minister's parchments, for which the secretary must issue a receipt. See Par. 323, Sec. 2.

14

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 the annual conference two years in succession).

Done in annual session at ..... , this ..... day of ..... , 19.....

..... *President*  
..... *Secretary*

15

DISTRICT 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.... teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by the Free Methodist Church.

By order of the District Conference of the ..... District, ..... Conference.

Done at ..... , this ..... day of ..... , 19.....

..... *President*  
..... *Secretary*

16

RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVANGELIST'S LICENSE

*This certifies that* ..... is hereby recommended by the District 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*

## 17

## 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 the Free Methodist Church.*

By order of the ..... Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

Done at ....., this ..... day of ..... 19....

..... *President*  
 ..... *Secretary*

## 18

## RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE DEACONESS' LICENSE

*This certifies that ..... is hereby recommended by the District 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 District Conference of .....  
 District, this ..... day of ..... 19....

..... *President*  
 ..... *Secretary*

19

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

20

PERMANENT DEACONESS' LICENSE

*This certifies that* ....., of ....., having held an annual conference Deaconess License for two years, having served the required time in practical deaconess' work, and having passed an examination in the required course of study, is granted this PERMANENT LICENSE and is hereby authorized to officiate as a DEACONESS in the FREE METHODIST 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

21

LAY DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

*This certifies that* ..... was duly elected 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 RESERVE LAY DELEGATE for the same.



Done at the annual circuit meeting held at .....,  
on the ..... day of ..... 19....

..... President  
..... Secretary

---

22

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 ..... Annual Conference)

Done in the regular session at ....., this day of ....., 19...., and signed by order and in behalf of the ..... Conference.

..... President  
..... Secretary

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.

---

23

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP  
UNDER PAR. 81-4, c

I solemnly declare upon my word as a Christian that it is my definite knowledge that adultery did exist on the part of my former spouse and was a factor in our separation that led to divorce.

Date ..... Signed .....

The above signed statement is to be filed with the Secretary of the Official Board as a condition of consideration by the Official Board of the signer's candidacy for membership in the Free Methodist Church under Par. 81-4, c.

Suggested Form for  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF

\_\_\_\_\_ FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, the undersigned, residents of the State of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Part One, Division Two of Title One of the Corporation Code.)

AND WE HEREBY CERTIFY:

FIRST

The name of the corporation shall be:

\_\_\_\_\_ FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

SECOND

That the primary purposes for which it is formed are religious, charitable, benevolent and educational, and especially:

To conduct religious services, to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and to assist in improving and ameliorating the moral and social conditions of humanity; to purchase, own, sell, or dispose of the same, 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.

THIRD

That the principal office for the transaction of business of said corporation is to be located in the County \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_.



## FOURTH

That the term 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.

The property is irrevocably dedicated to religious, charitable or scientific purposes and upon liquidations, dissolution or abandonment of the corporation ownership will not inure to the benefit of any private person except a fund, foundation or corporation organized and operated for religious, scientific or charitable purposes. The directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the corporation.

## SIXTH

The ecclesiastical affairs of the 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 of the Free Methodist Church of North America, insofar as the same do not contravene or conflict with the laws of the State of Incorporation.

## SEVENTH

That the number of directors of said corporation shall be three (3), and 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
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

That the number of directors may be changed by a by-law duly adopted or amended by the members, authority for which is hereby expressly conferred.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do not try to use this form without the aid of an attorney of your state. If you desire to form a

corporation, take this form to an attorney for his information.

Following the above will have to be the regular certification either by individual, incorporators, or by the President and Secretary of the unincorporated society being incorporated. They must follow the requirements of the local State Law. (JURAT)



# INDEX

References are to paragraphs and subdivisions.

- ABANDONED church property, 468
- ADMINISTRATION, board of—see Board of administration
- ADMINISTRATIVE Commission, 120-133
  - Benevolences, Department of, 132
  - Church and parsonage aid, 129-131
  - Composition, 111(3)
  - Conference claimants plan and Social Security, 123-128
  - Court of Appeals, 120(4-5)
  - Powers of, 120-122
  - Publishing House, 133
  - Social Security, 123
- ADMINISTRATIVE cabinet, 331(2)
- ADMINISTRATIVE districts, 104(3), 109
- ADMINISTRATIVE FUND, 124(2)
- ADORNMENT—see Dress
- AMENDING the constitution, methods of, 76-78
- ANNUAL conference, The, 240-258
  - Administrative Committee, 253.1
  - Admissions, preachers
    - Full membership, 321-322
    - Probation, 320
    - Women, 240, 320(2), 360(3-4)
  - Board of Christian Education, 257
  - Board of Conference Claimants, 125(3), 253
  - Board of Evangelism, 254, 256(2)
  - Board of Ministerial Training, 245
  - Boundaries, 470
  - Committee on Ministerial Relations, 245.5
  - Composition, 62, 240
  - Conference church and parsonage aid society, 129(4-7)
  - Conference year, end, 259
  - Delegates, 62, 240, 280(2)
  - Districts, 61, 248
  - Election to orders
    - Deacons, 327
    - Elders, 328
  - Judicial administration
    - Amenability of traveling preachers, 406-407, 409
    - Appeals to annual conference, 420
    - Citation of an annual conference, 429
    - Credentials declared forfeited, 323(3), 415(3)
  - Licenses, conference
    - Deaconess', 363(1-6), 650(18-20)
    - Evangelist's, 360(2), 650(17)
  - Names of conferences, 241
  - New conferences, formation of, 331(9)
  - Officers, 244, 248, 256, 600
  - Procedure and questions, 258
  - Property, declare abandoned, 468
  - Restrictions, 247

## Appeals

## INDEX

Sunday-school Board, 600(VII)  
Superintendents, district, 248, 340-343, 451  
Stationing committee, 249-251  
Voting, 246

### APPEALS

Administrative Commission as Court of Appeals, 120(4-5)  
General directions, 402  
Judicial Council, 73  
Lay members to district conference, 426, 441, 443  
Local preachers to annual conference, 420  
Traveling preachers  
    To annual conference, 410  
    To Board of Claimants, 128(3:2)  
    To General Conference, 411-412

APPELLATE Court, 120(4-5)

### APPENDIX

Christian Youth Crusaders  
    Constitution, 620  
    Forms, 650  
Free Methodist Youth  
    Constitution, 610  
Sunday school  
    Constitution, 600

ARCHITECTURE, Church, 180(6), 469(1, 4)

ARTICLES of organization and government, 60-73

ARTICLES of religion, 21-43

### AUDITOR

Annual conference, 244(4)  
Official board, 270(3), 271(6)  
Society, 291(6:2)

BAND workers, 260(6:4), 290(3), 291(4:4), 370

### BAPTISM

Article on, 38  
Modes of, 480  
Ritual  
    Adults, 482  
    Affirmation of vows for junior members and adults, 481.6  
    Children, 481.5  
    Infants, 481  
Who may baptize,  
    Deacons, 327(2)  
    Elders, 328(3)  
    Local preachers (unordained), 356

BENEVOLENCES, department of, 132

BENEVOLENT Institutions

Offering for, 132(7)  
See Institutions

BEQUEST, form of, 531

### BISHOPS

Administrative cabinet, 331(2)  
Amenability, 332  
Board of bishops, 330  
Call special sessions of General Conference, 67(2)  
Cite preachers, 430  
Decisions of, 244(2:5), 331(9) (10)  
Duties and powers, 330-331  
    Appoint substitutes to preside at trial of local preacher, 417  
Election, 68, 104(1), 330(1)



- Fill vacancies (district superintendents), 341(3)
- Financial report, 560(5)
- Missionary bishops, 104(1)
- Ordain deacons, elders, 327(1), 328(1-2)
- Preside
  - Annual conference, 244(1), 331(10)
  - Board of Administration, 110(1), 331(10)
  - General conference, 68, 331(10)
- Retirement, 333, 334
- Support, 120(2), 450
- Terms of office, 68, 330(1)
- BOARD, General Missionary, 140
- BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING
  - Central Board, 500
  - Conference board, 245, 320(5), 503(2:c), 504(3)
- BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, 70, 104(2), 110-114
  - Appoints, 111(6)
  - Composition, 110(1)
  - Elects
    - Executive Committee, 111(6)
    - Investment Committee, 111(4)
  - Employs, 104(1), 111(5)
  - Financial statements filed with, 113
  - General board of conference claimants, 125
  - Officers are amenable to, 104(2)
  - Organization, 111(3)
  - Powers, 111(1-2)
  - Report to general conference, 114
  - Rules and regulations, 110(2)
  - Time of meeting, 111(3)
  - Vacancies, how filled, 111(2)
- BOARD OF BENEVOLENCES, 120(8)
- BOARD OF BISHOPS, 330
- BOARD OF CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS, 125
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Commission on Missions, 143
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Free Methodist Church, 467, 530(II)
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Publishing House, 120(3), 133(2)
- BOARD OF EDUCATION, 150
- BOARD OF EVANGELISM, 180
- BOUNDARIES of annual conferences, 183B(8), 331(9), 470-471
- BURIAL service, 486
- CANADIAN conferences and church and parsonage aid, 131
- CANADIAN executive board, 190
- CENTRAL board of ministerial training, 500
- CERTIFICATES, credentials, parchments
  - Lay members
    - Certificates of office to be surrendered under penalty, 427
  - Delegates' credentials
    - Annual conference, 650(21)
    - General conference, 66
    - Transfer of membership certificates, 91
  - Local preachers
    - Entitled to certificate when ordained, 323(1)
    - Forfeiture and surrender, 323(2-3), 415(2, 3)
    - Restoration, 415(2), 650(22)
  - Preachers in full membership
    - Entitled to ordination parchments, 323(1)

## Chaplains

## INDEX

- Forfeiture and surrender, 323(2-3), 415(1-3)
- Location certificate, 650(14)
- Restoration of parchments, 415(1)
- Transfer certificates, 325, 650(12-13)
- Preachers on probation, 320(1), 650(10-11, 22)
- See Licenses and Recommendations
- CHAPLAINS, ordination as elder accelerated, 328(2)
- CHARITIES—see Benevolences, department of
- CHILDREN
  - Affirmation of baptismal vows, 481.6
  - Instruction of, 321(14), 345(27:3)
  - Junior members, 86.1
  - Ritual of baptism of, 480-481
- CHILDREN'S DAY, 345(27:3), 600(IX-3)
- CHRIST
  - Atonement, article on, 40
  - Incarnation, article on, 22
  - Resurrection, article on, 23
- CHRISTIAN conduct, 80-85
  - Dress, 82
  - Labor unions and industrial relations, 84
  - Marriage and divorce, 81
  - Militarism and war, 85
  - Public school activities, 85.1
  - Secret societies, 83
  - Temperance, 80
- CHRISTIAN day schools, 166
- CHRISTIAN fellowship, 86-91
  - Adult membership, 87-90
  - Junior membership, 86.1
  - Preparatory membership, 86
  - Transfer of membership, 91
- CHRISTIAN worship—see Worship
- CHRISTIAN Youth Crusaders
  - Constitution, 620
  - Director of intermediate youth, 620(IV-1)
- CHURCH and parsonage aid society, 129-131
- CHURCH extension
  - Areas, 183
  - Department of, 180, 182
  - Districts, 183B(3, 4, 6, 7)
  - Loan fund, 184
  - Societies, 183B(2, 5)
- CHURCHES and church property, 460-469
  - Aid in rebuilding, 129-131
  - Architecture, church, 180(6), 469(1, 4)
  - Erection and repairing of churches, 180(6), 469
  - Free seats, 13, 466
  - Incorporation and deeds, 464(3), 465-468
  - Loss reports, 129(4, 7), 130(5)
  - Ritual of church dedication, 490
  - Sale of, 464(3), 467-468, 650(1)
  - Title to home mission property, 146(6)
  - Title to land abroad, 147
  - Trustees, local, 280(3-4), 281(8), 290(3), 291(15), 460-464
  - Use by other denominations, 464(3)
- CIRCUIT meeting, 280-281
  - Absentee voting illegal, 280(1)



**Elections**

- Delegates to annual conference, 280(2)
- Sunday-school superintendents, stewards, trustees, 280(3)
- Meetings, annual and special, 280(1, 5), 340(3)
- Order of business, 281
- Pastor to preside without vote, 280(1)
- Pastor's return, vote upon, 280(6)
- Trustee's report, 280(4), 281(8)

**CIRCUITS**

- Appointments to, 249(2-3), 340(8)
- Divided, 340(10)
- Home mission circuits, 146(2, 4)
- Official boards responsible for, 249(3), 270(4), 340(8)
- Pastoral charges, 60-62
- Representation in annual conference, 62, 240
- Superintendent's administration, 249(3)
- Superintendent's services, 340(5)
- Union of contiguous circuits, 89.1

**CLAIMANTS—see Conference claimant's plan****CLASSES and class meetings, 52, 95-97**

- Attendance, neglect of, 97
- General class, 96(2)
- Leaders, 52, 95, 291(16), 371
  - Course of reading for, 511
  - Duties, 52, 95, 371(2-3, 5)
  - Election, 291(16), 371(1)
- Pastor's responsibility for, 345(3, 13), 371(4)

**COMMISSION, administrative—see Administrative Commission****COMMISSION on Christian education, 150-171**

- Composition and organization, 111(3), 150
- Departments
  - Educational institutions, 158-167
  - Intermediate youth, 169.3-169.6, 620
  - Leadership and service training, 170-171
  - Sunday schools, 151, 600
  - Young people, 168, 610

**COMMISSION on evangelism and church extension, 180, 186**

- Church extension
  - Areas, 183
  - Loan fund, 184
- Composition and organization, 111(3), 180
- Departments
  - Church extension, 182-184
  - Evangelism, 181
  - Interracial evangelism, 185
- Finance, 186

**COMMISSION on missions, 140, 149**

- Amenable to board of administration, 141(12)
- Composition and organization, 111(3), 140(2-5)
- Directors, board of, 143
- Duties of pastors for, 148, 345(27:1)
- General missionary board, 142
- Home missions, 146
- Missions and conferences, 149.5
- Powers and duties, 141
- Secretary, general missionary, 104(1), 144
- Title to land in foreign countries, 147
- Treasurer, 140(3), 145, 544
- Woman's missionary society, 149.1

COMMISSIONS, 111(3)

COMMITTEES

- Administrative, conference, 253.1
- Appeals, 402(4-6), 410-412, 426, 441
- Budget committee of a society, 270(5), 452(1-2)
- Debt, to investigate complaint of, 443
- Educational, local, 270(8)
- Executive committee, board of administration, 111(6)
- Investment committee, board of administration, 111(4)
- Ministerial relations, 245.5
- Missions, conference, 244(6)
- Nomination of commission members, 111(3)
- Publications, 513
- Stationing committee, 249-251
- Trial committee, 402(5-6), 406-408, 410, 412, 417-418, 423-424, 426, 430

COMMUNION—see Lord's Supper

CONFERENCE boundaries, 183B(8), 331(9), 470-471

CONFERENCE claimants plan, 123-128

Administration

- Annual conference board, 125(3)
- General board, 125(1)
- General executive secretary, 125(2)
- Appeals, 128(3:2)
- Applications, 128(3)
- Benefit schedules, 127
- Classes of claimants, 126
- Effective service, 128(1)
- Eligibility of claimants, 128(2)
- Payment of claims, 128(4)
- Refunds, 123
- Regulations, 128(1-5)

CONFERENCE superintendent—see Superintendent

CONFERENCE year end, 259

CONFERENCES

- Annual, 240-259
  - See Annual conference
- District, 260-262
  - See District conference
- General, 100-109
  - See General conference
- Home missions, 146(3-4)

CONSCIENTIOUS objectors, 85, 105

CONSTITUTIONS

- Christian Youth Crusaders, 620
- Free Methodist Church, 20-78
  - Articles of religion, 21-43
  - General rules, 50-56
  - Judicial council, 73
  - Membership, conditions of, 45-48, 57
  - Organization and government, 60-78
  - Preamble, 20
  - Restrictive rules, 75-78
  - Special rules, 57
- Free Methodist Youth, 610
- Sunday school, 600

CONSTRUCTIONS of law, 73(2), 120(5), 244(2:5), 331(10)

COUNCIL of F.M.Y., 168(1-2), 610(VIII)



**COURSES of study, 501-511**

- Class leaders, 512
- Deaconesses, 510-511
- Deacons, course for, 503
- Home and correspondence study, 504-505
- Itinerant credit, 503
- Local preachers, 506-509
- Probationers, course for, 505
- Reporting credits, 503(2b)
- Standards and credits, 501
- Traveling preachers, 501-505

**COURT of appeals, 120(4-5)****CREDENTIALS of ordination—see Certificates, etc.****DANCING, 85.1****DEACONESS**

- Amenability of, 363(7)
- Course of study for, 509-511
- Duties of, 363
- Garb of, 363(8)
- Licensing of, 260(6:6), 262(26, 24), 290(3), 291(4:3), 363(3-5), 650(18-20)
- Qualifications, 363
- School for, 132(5), 364
- Support of, 363(9)

**DEACONS, local—see Local preacher****DEACONS, traveling, 327**

- Duties of, 327(2)
- Eldership, eligibility for, 328(1)
- Ordination, 327(1)
- Qualifications, 327(1)
- Ritual of ordination, 488
- Women may become, 320(2)

**DEDICATION of churches, Ritual for, 490****DEEDS and titles, 146(6), 147, 340(9), 464(1), 465-468****DEFICIENCIES in conference payments, 121****DELEGATES**

- Absentees not members, 560(2)
- Annual conference, 9, 62, 240
  - Certificates, 560(2), 650(21)
  - Election, 280(2)
- General conference
  - Credentials, 66, 560(2)
  - Election, 64(2), 65(2), 100
  - Equal representation of laity and clergy, 9, 65(1), 100
  - Lay delegates, 65, 100
  - Limitation on payment of expense, 107
  - Ministerial delegates, 64, 100
- Mission conference delegates, 101

**DEPARTMENTS, 150(7)**

- Benevolences, 132
- Church extension, 182
- Educational institutions, 158-167
- Evangelism, 181
- Intermediate youth, 169.3-169.6
- Interracial Evangelism, 185
- Leadership and service training, 170-171
- Sunday schools, 151
- Young people, 168

## DIRECTORS

- Finance, 111(5), 544
- Intermediate youth, 169.3(2)
- Leadership and service training, 170(2)

DISAGREEMENTS—see Insolvencies and Judicial administration

## DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church

- Members to submit to, 46(2), 87(6)
- Superintendents to enforce, 340(2)

## DISTRICT conference, 260-262

- Citation of, 429
- Composition and organization, 61, 260(1, 3-4), 353
- Judicial powers
  - Appoint arbiters, 441, 443
  - Appoint trial committee, 424
  - Try appeals, 260(6:2), 426, 443
  - Try preachers (local and probationers), 416-419
- Licenses, to grant
  - Band workers, 260(6:4), 262(16)
  - Evangelists, 262(16, 20, 23), 360(1), 650(15)
  - Local preachers, 260(6:3), 262(16, 20), 350
- Ministers' relation fixed, 260(1), 560(7)
- Order of business, 262
- Probationers' relation to
  - Amenability, 416
  - Membership in, 260(1)
  - Trial by, 416-419
- Recommendations to annual conference
  - Evangelists for conference license, 262(23), 360(2), 650(16)
  - Evangelists and local preachers to become probationers, 260(6:5), 262(21), 320(1-2), 590(9, 11)
  - Local preachers for ordination, 260(6:7), 262(28), 351-352, 650(8)
  - Women evangelists for temporary membership, 262(22), 360(4)
  - Women for deaconess license, 260(6:6), 262(20, 24), 363(4), 650(18)
- Reviews official board records, 260(5)
- Sessions, 260(2), 262(29), 340(4)
- Superintendents, district
  - Approves interim appointment of, 341(3)
  - District conference membership, how fixed, 342

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT—see Superintendent

DISTRICTS, annual conference, 61, 248

DISTRICTS, church extension, 183B(3, 4, 6, 7)

DISTRICTS, home mission, 146(3-4)

DIVISION of the house, 72, 246

DIVORCE, restrictions on, 81(4-5), 320(3), 322(2)

See Marriage and divorce

## DOCTRINE

- See Articles of religion
- Faculty of schools to accept, 162(2)
- School instruction to agree, 162(3)

DRESS, adornment, 53, 57(1), 82, 87(4)

## EDITORS

- Free Methodist, 104(1)
- Sunday-school literature, 104(1)

## EDUCATION

- Commission on Christian education, 150-171
- Department of leadership and service training, 170-171



Department of Sunday schools, 151  
See Schools

EDUCATIONAL institutions, department of  
Annual conference boards, 160  
Canadian educational institutions, 164  
Christian day schools, 166  
Educational funds, 163  
Endowment funds, 167  
General organization, 158  
Guiding principles, 161  
John Wesley Seminary, 165  
Powers and responsibilities, 159  
School-church relationship, 162

ELDERS, local—see Local preachers

ELDERS, traveling, 328  
Constituted, how, 328, (1-2)  
Duties and powers, 328(3)  
Qualifications, 328(1), 503, 505(3)  
Ritual of ordination, 487  
See Preachers, traveling

ENTIRE sanctification, 33

Article on, 33

By the Holy Ghost, 10

Experience insisted upon, 7, 46(1), 87(2), 300, 321(1:3-4)

EVANGELISM, commission on, 180-186

EVANGELISTIC boards

Annual conference, 254

Commission on evangelism, 180-181

General board of evangelism, 180

EVANGELISTIC secretary, general, 104(1), 180(7)

EVANGELISTS

General, 104(1), 360(6)

Licensed, 360

Amenability, 360(1)

Course of study, 506-508

Examinations, 360(1)

Licensed, how, 260(6:3), 262(16, 20, 23), 290(3), 291(4:2),  
360(1-2), 650(15-17)

Reception into annual conferences, 240, 320(1), 360(3-4),  
590(11)

Trial of, 417-420

Women, 240, 360(3-4)

Reports, financial, 560(5)

Support, 453

Traveling preacher in evangelistic relation, 255

EXECUTIVE committee, board of administration, 111(6)

EXECUTIVE secretary, educational institutions, 158(3)

EXECUTIVE secretary, general board of conference claimants, 125(2)

EXHORTERS, 361

Duties and qualifications, 361

Licensed, how, 271(8:4-5), 290(3), 291(4:1), 361(1), 590(2-4)

Members of official board, 270(1)

Members of district conference, 260(1)

EXPULSION from membership

Appeal from, 411-412, 426

Conduct leading to, 402(1), 404, 421, 430(2), 442-444

Credentials to be surrendered, 323(3), 415, 427

Privileges denied, 402(11), 427

## Fasting

## INDEX

Restoration of membership and credentials, 415(1-2), 428, 650(22)  
See Appeals, Penalties, Trials

### FASTING

Enjoined, 55, 560(3)  
Special days of, 181(4), 345(27:7), 561(2, 3)

FINANCE, director of, 111(5)

### FOREIGN missions

Commission on missions, 140-149  
Woman's missionary society, 149.1

### FORMS

Applications, certificates, licenses, recommendations, 650  
Bequests, 531  
Transfer of membership (lay), 91(2)

### FREE Methodist Church

Articles of  
Incorporation, 520, 530  
Organization and government, 60-78  
Religion, 21-43  
Constitution, 20-78  
Doctrine and standards, 6-15, 21-57, 80-87  
General rules, 50-56  
Membership, 45-57, 86-88  
Origin and character, 1-15  
Special rules, 57

FREE Methodist publishing house, 133

Board of directors of, 120(3), 133(2)

### FREE METHODIST, the

Editor of, 104(1)  
Number of copies taken, 258(23), 262(17)

### FREE Methodist youth, 168

Conference, 610(VI)  
Constitution, 610  
Council, 168(1), 610(VIII)  
District, 610(VI)  
General, 610(VII)  
General director, 104(1), 168(2-3), 610(VIII:1, 4)  
Local, 610(IV)

Relation to the commission on Christian education, 150(7:c), 168(1)

### Representatives

General, 610(VIII:7)  
Regional, 610(VIII:1, 5)

FREE seats, 13, 75(2), 466

### FUNDS

Administrative, 124  
Canadian, 163(3)  
Church and parsonage aid, 129(6), 130(1)  
Church extension loan, 184  
Conference claimants, 123, 124(2)  
Educational, 163  
Endowment, 159(3), 163(1), 167  
General service (see)  
Permanent endowment, 124  
Scholarship, 159(12, 13)  
Student aid, 159(13), 163(2)

GENERAL board of conference claimants, 125

GENERAL board of evangelism, 180



- GENERAL church treasurer,
  - Duties of, 145, 150(5)
  - Employed, how, 111(5)
- GENERAL conference, 63-72, 100-109
  - Administrative districts, 109
  - Composition, 63, 100-101
  - Delegates, 63-65, 100-101, 104(3)
    - Credentials, 66
    - Election of, 64(2), 65(2), 100, 104(3)
    - Limitation on payment of expense, 107
  - Memorials, petitions, protests, 108
  - Nomination of board of administration members, 104(3)
  - Powers and restrictions
    - Elects board of administration, 70
    - Elects general officers, 68-69, 104(1)
    - Hears appeals and petitions, 108, 411-412
    - Makes laws for the church, 69, 106
    - Restrictive rules, 75
  - Presiding officers, 68, 103, 331(10)
  - Quorum, 71
  - Secretary, 104(1), 105
  - Special sessions, 67(2)
  - Time of meeting, 67(1), 102
  - Voting, 72
- GENERAL director, F.M.Y., 104(1), 168(2-3), 610(VIIB)
- GENERAL evangelistic secretary, 104(1), 180(5, 7)
- GENERAL missionary board, 142
- GENERAL missionary secretary, 104(1), 144
- GENERAL officers
  - Amenability to board of administration, 104(2)
  - Election, 104(1)
  - Financial reports, 560(5)
  - Retirement, 560(4)
  - Vacancies, how filled, 111(2)
- GENERAL rules, 50-56
  - Read, when, 345(17, 27:6)
- GENERAL service fund
  - Contributions to, 345
  - Deficiencies of payment, 121
  - Penalty for non-payment, 107
  - Responsibility for, 107
- GENERAL Sunday school secretary, 104(1), 150(8a), 600(V)
- GOLD, wearing of—see Dress
- GOVERNMENT and organization of Free Methodist Church, 60-78
- HOLINESS—see Entire sanctification
- HOLY GHOST, Of the, 10, 24
- HOLY Scriptures, articles on, 25-26
- HOLY Trinity, article on, 21
- HOME missions, 146
- INCARNATION, article on, 22
- INCORPORATION and deeds—see Church property
- INDUSTRIAL relations, 84, 345(22)
- INFANT baptism, 87, 481
- INSOLVENCIES and disputes, 345(22), 440-444

## Institutions

## INDEX

### INSTITUTIONS

- Benevolent, 132(5)
- Christian day school, 166
- Educational, department of, 158-167
- Publishing house, 133
- Seminary, 158, 165

INSTRUMENTAL music, 93(1, 3, 4)

INTERMEDIATE youth, department of, 169.3-169.6

- Constitution, 620
- Director, 169.3(2-3)

INTERRACIAL evangelism, 185

INTOXICATING liquors, use of forbidden, 53, 57(2), 80

INVESTMENT committee, board of administration, 111(4)

ITINERACY to be maintained, 75(2)

JEWELRY—see Dress

JUDICIAL administration, 400-444

Church trials, 400-430

General directions, 402-403

Lay members, 421-428, 442

Local preachers, 417-420

Object of trials, 400-401

Official bodies, 429

Preachers in full membership, 404-415, 430

Preachers on probation, 416-420

Trial procedure, 413-414

Insolvencies and disputes, 440-444

See Appeals, Appellate court, Court of appeals, Expulsions,  
Judicial council, Insolvencies and disputes, Penalties, Trials,  
and Triers of appeals, etc.

JUDICIAL council, 73

JUNIOR members, 86.1

Affirmation of baptismal vows, 481.6

Counted separately, 86.1

Exempt from claims, 86.1

Ineligible to vote, 86.1, 280(2), 290(1)

JUSTIFICATION, article on, 29

LABOR unions, 84, 345(22)

See Secret societies

### LAW

Brethren not to go to law, 53

Constructions of, 73(2), 120(5), 244(2:5), 331(10)

Moral law binding on Christians, 26

See Judicial administration and judicial council

LAY delegates

Annual conference, 62, 240, 280(2), 650(21)

General conference, 63, 65-66, 100

LAY helpers, 350-372

Band workers, 370

Class leaders, 371

Deaconesses, 363-364

Evangelists, licensed, 360

Exhorters, 361

Local preachers, 350-356

Stewards, 372-373

### LAYMEN

Equal representation with preachers, 9, 62, 65(1), 72, 100, 104(3),  
246



Trial of, 421-428

See Delegates, Membership (lay), etc.

**LEADERSHIP** and service training

Department of, 170-171

Director of, 170(2), 513(4)

**LIGHT** and life men's fellowship

Auxiliary to Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension,  
181(5)

**LITERATURE**

Sunday school, 272(17), 345(25)

Publications committee, 513

Publishing House, 133

*The Free Methodist*, 258(23), 262(17)

**LOCAL** preachers, 350-356

Amenability, 353

Annual conference, may join, 260(6:5), 262(21), 320, 590(9-10)

Course of study, 500-509

Employment, 354-355

Examination, 350-352, 507 (introductory note)

Licenses, 260(6:3), 261, 262(16, 20), 350, 650(5-7)

**Membership**

District conference, 260(1), 353

Official board, 270(1)

Society, 355

**Ordained local preachers**

Credentials, 323(1), 415(2-3), 650(22)

Deacons, 351

Duties and rights of, 327(2), 328(3)

Elders, 352

Recommendations, 262(28), 351-352, 650(8)

Ritual of ordination, 487-488

Trial, 417-420

**LOCATION** of preachers, 250-252, 257(8), 650(14)

**LORD'S** Supper

Administration of, 483-484

Deacons, 327(2)

Elders, 328(3)

Stewards, 80(2), 373(8)

Wine unfermented, 80(2)

Article of religion on, 39

Duty to receive, 55, 305(3), 321(1:7)

Pastor's duty in relation to, 345(5)

Ritual for, 483-484

**LOVE** feasts, 94, 345(5)

**MARRIAGE** and divorce, 81

Divorce, 57(4), 81(4-5)

Marriage, 81(1-2, 5)

Ritual for, 485

Who may perform ceremony, 327(2), 328(3), 356

Remarriage of divorced persons, 81(5)

Of ministers, 320(3), 322(2)

**MEETINGS**

Circuit, 280-281

Class, 52, 95-96

General district, 340(4)

Official board, 270-271

Society, 290-291

Superintendents', 340(5)

**MEMBERSHIP**, lay, 45-57, 86-91

- Admission to local societies, 86-89
  - Adult membership, 87-89
  - Junior membership, 86.1
  - New societies, 89
  - Preparatory membership, 86
  - Questions for membership, 86, 86.1, 87
- General service fund, where to be paid, 345(14)
- Requirements of full members, 46, 87
- Restoration of, 90, 428
- Right of petition to general conference, 108
- Rights of full members, 47
- Statistical report of membership, 86.1, 257(18), 345(7)
- Termination of membership, 48, 90(2), 97, 402(1), 421
- Training course, 89.1, 170(2), 345(24)
- Transfer of membership, 91

MILITARISM and war, 85

See Conscientious objectors

MINISTERIAL education

- Central board of ministerial training, 500
- Course of study for class leaders, 512
- Course of study for deaconesses, 510, 511
- Program of study for traveling preachers, 501-505
- Supervised practical service, 503

MINISTERS—see Ministry and Preachers

MINISTRY, The, 300-349

- Administrative offices
  - Bishops, 330-334
  - District superintendents, 340-343
  - Pastors, 345
- Annual conference relationship, 320-325
- Ordained orders
  - Deacons, 327
  - Elders, 328
- Qualification and work, 300-318
  - Call to preach, 300
  - Employment of time, 316
  - Pastoral visitation, 310-315
  - Preaching, 307-309
  - Rules for preacher's conduct, 301, 302
  - Spiritual qualifications, 303-306
  - Union among ourselves and with others, 317-318

MINUTES

- Annual conference, 244(2)
- District conference, 260(4), 262(30)
- General conference, 105
- Official board, 270(3), 271(4, 9)
- Society, 290(2), 291(18)

MISCELLANEOUS orders, 560

MISSIONARIES

- Ordination of, accelerated, 327(1)
- Subject to commission on missions, 141(5-8)
- See Commission on missions and Missionary society (woman's)

MISSIONARY bishops, 104(1)

MISSIONARY board, 140

MISSIONARY meetings, 148, 345(27:1)

MISSIONARY secretary, general, 104(1); 144

MISSIONARY society, woman's

- Members of commission on missions, 140(2:a), 149.1



## MISSIONS

Home missions, 146

Home mission property, 146(6)

Home mission societies, districts, conferences, 146(2-4)

Men and missions, 561(4)

See Commission on missions and Missionary society (woman's)

## MUSIC

Instrumental, 93(1, 3, 4)

Vocal, 92(1), 93(1, 2, 4)

New conferences, 331(9)

## New societies

How formed, 89

Near conference boundary, 242

## OFFICIAL board, 270-271

Duties and powers, 270(3-8), 271, 452(4)

Educational committee, 270(8)

Exhorters

Licenses granted and renewed, 271(8:4-5)

Recommendations for local preacher's license, 271(8:6)

Finance committee, 270(5-6), 452(1-2)

Financial secretary, 270(3)

Legal documents, 271(8:15)

Order of business, 271

Organization and membership, 270(1-3)

Secretary and treasurer, 270(3)

Special sessions, 340(3)

## OFFICIAL bodies, 100-291

## ORDER of business

Annual conference, 258

Circuit meeting, 281

District conference, 262

Official board, 271

Society meeting, 291

Sunday-school board, 600(VIII)

## ORDER of public worship, 92

See Worship

## ORDINATION

Local deacons, 351, 507

Local elders, 352, 508

Ritual (deacons), 488

Ritual (elders), 487

Traveling deacons, 327, 501(1-2), 502, 503(1-2), 504, 505

Traveling elders, 328, 501(3), 502-505

## ORGANIZATION and government of The Free Methodist Church, articles of, 60-78

## ORIGIN and character of The Free Methodist Church, 1-15

## ORIGINAL sin, article on, 27

## PARCHMENTS—see Certificates, etc.

## PARSONAGE rental, 452(4)

## PASTORAL charges, 60

See Circuits, Societies

## PASTORS, 345

Appointment to circuits, 249(2-3), 340(8)

Duties, 345

Appoint arbiters, 440

Nominate class leaders, 371(1)

Observe special days, 345(27), 561

## Penalties

## INDEX

- Organize bands, 370(1)
- Preside
  - Business meetings, 270(2), 280(1), 290(2)
  - Trial of members, 425
- Report incomes, 560(5)
- Report membership, 345(7)
- Take collections
  - Charitable institutions, 132(7)
  - General conference expenses, 107
  - Missions, 148
- Support, 270(5), 271(8:8b), 452
- Vote, when ineligible to, 280(1), 290(2)
- See Preachers, Traveling

## PENALTIES

- Denial of sacraments, 402(11)
  - Expulsion, 402(1, 11), 404, 406, 409, 415, 417, 421, 443-444
  - Forfeiture of credentials, 323(3), 415, 427
  - Location, 409, 416
  - Probation (lay), 421, 428(1)
  - Reproof and censure, 404, 409, 417, 421
  - Restriction of function, 324(5), 402(9), 404, 427
  - Suspension
    - Official bodies, 429
    - Persons, 402(9), 404, 406-407, 409, 417-418, 421, 430(2)
  - Termination of membership (lay), 421
  - Vacation of offices (lay), 427
  - Withdrawal under complaint, 323(3), 324(5), 416
- PERMANENT endowment fund, 124(1)
- PETITION to general conference, right of, 108
- PRAYERS, 55, 100 (introductory note), 302, 305(1-2), 346, 560(3)
- See Fasting

## PREACHERS

- Annual conference relationship, 62, 240
- Admission on probation, 320
- See Probationers below
- Reception into full membership, 321-322
- Appointments
  - Evangelists, 255
  - Location, 250-251, 257(8), 324(2-3), 650(14)
  - Pastors, 249(2-3), 345
  - Retired ministers, 348-349
  - Supernumeraries, 250.1, 347
- Character, 257(16), 301-306, 310-311
- Courses of study, 501-505
- Credentials and parchments, 323
  - When forfeited or surrendered, 323(2-3), 415
  - When restored, 415(1-2)
- Deacons, 327, 329
  - See Deacons (main entry)
- District conference relationship, 260(1), 560(7)
- Divorced preachers, 320(3), 322(2)
- Elders, 328, 329
  - See Elders (main entry)
- Goods protected, 129(9), 130
- Leave of absence, 250.1
- Ordination, 327-328, 487-488
- Pastoral duties, 345
  - See Pastors
- Probationers
  - Admission to annual conference, 320



- Amenability, 320(4), 416
- Length of probation, 320(5)
- Rights and limitations
  - May baptize and perform marriage, when, 356
  - Not eligible as delegate to annual conference, 280(2)
  - Not eligible to stationing committee, 249(1)
  - Not entitled to vote in annual conference, 320(4)
- Support, 452
- Termination of conference membership, 251, 416
- Trial of, 416
- Women probationers, 320(2)
- Refusing appointment, 249(2), 329, 406
- Rental of parsonage, 452(4)
- Retired ministers, 123-128, 240, 348-349
- Supernumerary, 240, 250.1, 347, 349
- Termination of membership, 250-252, 324, 404, 415-416
- Withdrawal under charges, 323(3), 324(5), 416
- Transfer of membership, 325
- Trial of, 404-415, 416 (probationers), 430
- Appeal to general conference, 411-412
- Women, how received, 320(2), 360(3-4)
- See Local preachers, Ministry, and Pastors
- PREAMBLE to the constitution, 20
- PREPARATORY members (lay), 86
  - How received, 86
  - How received into full membership, 87-88
  - Ineligible as delegates to annual conference, 280(2)
  - Not members of the society meeting, 290(1)
  - Transfer of membership, 91(4)
- PROBATIONERS—see Probationers under Preachers (Traveling)
- PROPERTY
  - See Churches and Church property, attitude toward, 42
- PUBLIC school activities, 85.1
- PUBLIC worship
  - See Worship
- PUBLICATIONS committee, 513
  - Executive secretary of, 513(4)
- PUBLISHER
  - Duties of, 133(3-4)
  - Employment of, 111(5)
- PUBLISHING house, 133
  - and church and parsonage aid fund, 130
- QUORUM, general conference, 71
- RECEPTION of members (lay), 86-89
  - Reinstatement, 90, 428
- REFUND of contributions to claimants' fund, 123
- RESTRICTIVE rules, etc., 75-78
- RESURRECTION of Christ, article on, 23
- RETIREMENT
  - Bishops, 333, 334
  - General officers, 333-334, 560(4)
  - Ministers, 123-128, 240, 348-349
- RITUALS, 480-490
  - Baptism, 480-482
  - Burial, 486

Dedication of churches, 490  
Lord's Supper, 483-484  
Marriage, 485  
Ordination, 487-488

## RULES

General, 50-56  
Missionaries, 217(27), 238(1)  
Preacher's conduct, 301-302  
Restrictive, 75  
Special rules, 57

## SACRAMENTS, article on, 37

Baptism, 38, 480-482  
Lord's Supper, 39, 483-484

SALARIES, general conference officers, 120(2, 7), 450

SANCTIFICATION—see Entire sanctification

## SCHOOLS, Free Methodist

Christian day schools, 166  
Deaconess school, 132(5), 364  
School-church relationship, 162  
Sunday schools, 151  
Theological (John Wesley) seminary, 162, 165

SCRIPTURES, The Holy, articles on, 25-26

SECRET societies, 57(3), 83, 345(22)  
See Labor unions

## SECRETARY

Annual conference, 66, 85(2), 244(2)  
Board of administration, 110(1), 114  
Circuit meeting, 280(1)  
District conference, 260(4)  
Evangelistic, general, 104(1), 180(5)  
General conference, 104-105, 110(1)  
Missionary, general, 104(1), 144  
Official board, 270(3)  
Society meeting, 290(2)  
Sunday-school, conference, 600(VII)  
Sunday-school, general, 104(1), 600(V)  
Tithing, 244(5)

SEMINARY, John Wesley, 158, 165

## SERMONS, special

Charity, 132(6), 345(27:4)  
Evil speaking, 315(2)  
Sunday school, 600(IX-4)  
Wesley's, 345(27:5)

SIN, articles on, 27, 32

SOCIAL security, 123

## SOCIETIES, local

Church extension, 183A, B(2, 5)  
Citation of, 429  
Divided, 340(10)  
Duties, 290(3), 291  
Home mission, 146(2)  
Membership in, 60  
New societies, 89, 242  
Union of contiguous societies, 89.1  
United societies, 50-56  
See Circuits, Pastoral charges, and Society meeting

## SOCIETY meeting

Duties, 290(3), 291



- Membership and organization, 290(1-2)
- Order of business, 291
- Recommendations for licenses
  - Bandworkers, 291(4:4)
  - Deaconesses, 291(4:3), 363(3)
  - Evangelists, 291(4:2), 360(1)
  - Exhorters, 291(4:1), 361(2)
- Special Meetings, 290(4), 340(3)
- SPECIAL days and occasions, 345(27), 561
- SPECIAL rules, 57
- STATIONING committee
  - Appoints preachers to fields, 249(2)
  - Composition of, 9, 249(1)
  - Fixes membership on location, 251
  - May leave preacher without appointment, 250
  - Recommends as supernumerary
    - Leave of absence, 250.1
- STEWARDS, 372-373
  - Duties, 80(2), 373
  - Election, 290(3), 291(9), 372(3)
  - Members of official board, 270(1)
  - Number, 280(3), 372(2)
  - Qualifications, 372(1)
- STEWARDSHIP—see Tithing
- SUNDAY School Journal, 600(VIII-1:d:11)
- SUNDAY-school literature
  - Editor, 104(1)
  - Use of, 262(17), 345(25)
- SUNDAY schools, 151, 600
  - Children's day, 345(27:3), 561(1), 600(IX-3)
  - Conference organization, 600(VII)
  - Constitution, 600
  - Council, 600(VI)
  - District organization, 600(VII-4)
  - Finance, 600(X)
  - Local organization, 600(VIII)
  - Objectives, 600(III)
  - Offering for charitable institutions, 132
  - Pastors' duties, 345(27:8), 600(IX)
  - Sunday-school literature, editor, 104(1)
  - Sunday-school secretary, general, 104(1), 600(V)
- SUPERINTENDENTS, 248
  - Conference, 341(2), 343
    - Assistant to, 248, 341(1)
    - Nomination of, 331(2), 341(5)
  - District, 248-249, 340-343
    - Duties and powers of
      - Administrative, 249, 260(3), 340, 370(1, 3)
      - Financial report, 560(5)
      - Judicial, 417, 419, 425
  - District conference membership, 342
  - Election of, 248, 341
  - Homes of, 451
  - Stationed superintendent, 341(1), 343
  - Support, financial, 343, 451
  - Term limit, 341(4)
  - Trial of, 408
  - Vacancies, 341(3)

## Supernumerary

## INDEX

**SUPERNUMERARY**, preachers, 240, 250.1, 347, 349

### SUPPLY

- District conference relationship, 560(7)
- Evangelist or local preacher, 355
- Ineligible to stationing committee, 249(1)
- Transfer of membership, 91(5), 355

### SUPPORT, 450-453

- Bishop, 120(2), 450
- District superintendents, 343, 451
- Evangelists, 453
- Preachers in charge, 452, 270(5), 271(8:8b)

### SURRENDER of parchments, 323(2-3), 415

See Credentials and Preachers (traveling)

### SUSPENSION

- Annual conferences, 429
- District conferences, 429
- Laymen, 427
- Local preachers and evangelists, 417-418
- Ministers, 404, 406-407
- Societies, 429
- See Expulsion, Preachers (traveling), and Trials

### TEMPERANCE, 53, 57(2), 80, 306

### TEMPORAL economy, 450-469

- Church and parsonage aid, 129-131
- Church property, 460-469
- Erection of churches, 469
- Incorporation and deeds, 465-468
- Support of ministers
  - Effective, 450-453
  - Retired, 123-128
- Trustees, 460-465

### THEOLOGICAL seminary, 158, 165

### TIME limit, district superintendents, 341(4)

### TITHING

- Annual conference, secretary of, 111(5), 244(5)
- General director of, 111(5)

### TOBACCO, use of, forbidden, 57(2)

### TRANSFER, certificates of

- Lay, 89.1, 91
- Ministerial, 325, 650(12-13)
- See Certificates

### TREASURERS

- Annual conference, 244(3)
- District conference, 260(4), 262(9)
- Free Methodist youth
  - Annual conference F.M.Y. treasurer, 610(VI:D)
  - District, 610(V:F)
  - General F.M.Y. treasurer, 610(VII:C3)
  - Local F.M.Y. treasurer, 610(IV:C)
- General church, 111(5), 610(VII:C-3)
  - Treasurer of commissions, 140(3), 145, 150(5), 186(3)
- Official board, 270(3), 271(5), 281(3)
- Society, 291(6:1)

### TRIALS, church, 400-430

- Appeals, 120(4-5), 402(4-10), 410-412, 420, 426, 441, 443
- Directions, general, 402-403
- Lay member, 97, 421-428
- Local preacher, 417-420



Organized bodies, 429  
Preacher in full membership, 404-412, 430  
Preacher on probation, 416  
Purpose of trials, 400-401  
Superintendents, 408  
Surrender and restoration of credentials, 415  
See Judicial administration, Penalties, etc.

**TRIERS of appeals**

Administrative commission, 120(4-5)  
Annual conference, 420  
Committee, 412  
Court of appeals, 120(4-5)  
District conference, 426  
General conference, 411-412  
Judicial council, 73(2)

**TRINITY, The Holy, article on, 21****TRUSTEES, 460-464**

Duties and powers, 280(4), 462-464  
Elected, how, 290(3), 291(15), 461-462  
Number and qualifications, 460  
Vacancies, 462  
See Church property and Temporal economy

**UNITED societies**

General rules of, 50-56  
History of, 50-51

**VACANCIES, how filled,**

Board of administration, 111(2)  
Conference superintendents, 341(3:b)  
District superintendents, 341(3:a)  
General officers, 111(2)  
Sunday-school officers and teachers, 600(VIII:3D)  
Trustee, 462

**VOTING**

Annual conference method, 246  
Ballots required, 64(2), 65(2), 68, 104, 143(1), 244(1), 249(1),  
280(2), 341(1), 600(V-1), 600(VIII-2), 600(VIII-3a), 610(VII-  
B:1)  
Equality, laymen and ministers, 9, 72, 246  
General conference method, 72  
Preachers not to vote, 280(1), 290(2)  
Presidents of stationing committees, 249(1)  
Quorum of general conference, 71  
Return of pastor, 280(6)  
Temperance, members to vote for, 80(3)

**WAR, 85****WESLEY, John**

General rules, 50-56  
Historical statement, 1, 50-51  
Sermons, 315(2), 345(27:5), 346

**WIDOWS of missionaries and preachers, 126(3, 5)**

See Conference claimants' plan

**WINE for the Lord's Supper, 80(2), 484****WITHDRAWAL of ministers under complaint, 257(14), 323(3), 324(5),  
416**

See Transfer, certificates of

**WOMAN's missionary society**

Auxiliary to the general missionary board, 149.1  
File financial statement, 113

Women

INDEX

Representation on commission on missions, 140(2:a)

WOMEN

Annual conference membership

Admission on probation, 320(2)

Deacon's orders, 320(2)

Elder's orders denied, 320(2)

Takes status of local preacher when, 252, 324(3)

Temporary seat as evangelist, 240, 360(4)

Forfeited when received on probation, 320(2)

Deaconesses, 363

Evangelists, licensed, 360

Marriage and consent of parents, 81(3)

WORKS, article on

Good works, 30

Works of supererogation, 31

WORSHIP

Class meetings, 95-97

Love feasts, 94

Materials for children's church worship, 170(2)

Music, 93

Order of public worship, 92

WRIT of review, 120(5)

YOUTH—see Free Methodist youth



