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DOCTRINES
AND
DISCIPLINE
of the
FREE METHODIST CHURCH
OF
NORTH AMERICA
1969

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

THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
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THE BOARD OF EDITORS

The Board of Bishops: Myron F. Boyd, W. Dale Cryderman, Paul N. Ellis, Edward C. John; the General Conference secretary, C. T. Denbo; and two laymen: Forrest S. Hayden, E. Harold Munn, Sr.

FOREWORD

The 1969 General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America authorized issuance of the *Book of Discipline* in two volumes, one volume to be titled *Manual for Administration*, and the other *Guide for Faith and Life*.

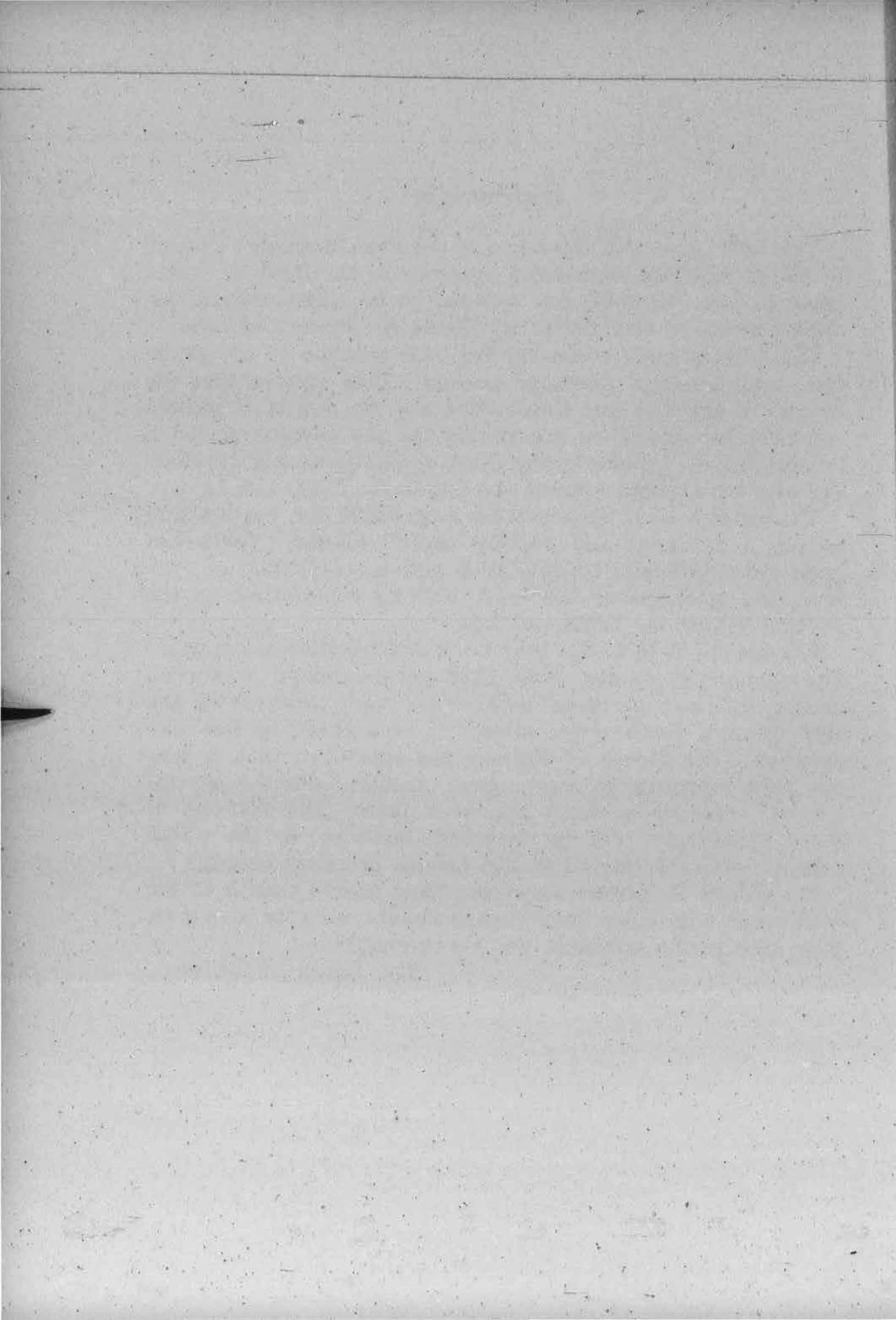
The editors have given careful consideration to the problems and practical needs of pastors. They believe that the desires of the General Conference and the needs of pastors can best be served by continuing for the current period a comprehensive volume of the *Book of Discipline* and developing as a subsequent volume the *Guide for Faith and Life*.

The editors have endeavored to produce for pastors and people a practical and readily useful volume. There has been much editorial consolidation and concentration of content, and portions of the book will be republished in the volume, *Guide for Faith and Life*.

Paragraphs 1-16 in the 1964 *Book of Discipline* are appearing unchanged in the 1969 *Book of Discipline*. However, certain changes in these paragraphs were ordered by the 1969 General Conference, subject to restrictions of the constitution. The Board of Editors has concluded that it does not have authority to make these changes until the several general conferences have approved them. The revision of these paragraphs will be included, however, in the initial printing of *Guide for Faith and Life* as proposed changes.

The Board of Editors expresses most hearty thanks to the secretaries who have done such excellent work in preparing copy, and to the publisher for his cooperation.

The Board of Editors



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The Free Methodist Church

A. 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. The annual conferences are composed of lay delegates and ministers in full relation. Each annual conference delegation to the General Conference is equally divided between lay and ministerial delegates, who have 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 at each regular session of the General Conference; 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 two-fold—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 cleaned, 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.

B. THE PURPOSE OF FREE METHODISM.

¶ 16. To the founders of Free Methodism in 1860, the purpose of the church was to spread scriptural holiness over these lands, and in their generation "scriptural holiness" included such major sectors of truth as:

In doctrine, the standard beliefs of evangelical, Arminian Protestantism, with distinctive emphasis on the scriptural teaching of entire sanctification as held by John Wesley,

In experience, the reality of an inner cleansing and power that attests the doctrine of entire sanctification, both in the inward consciousness of the believer and in his outward life,

In worship, the simplicity and freedom of the Spirit, untrammelled by elaborate ritual,

In piety, a life of daily devotion that springs from inward holiness and separates the Christian from the world, even in the world,

In stewardship and service, a complete consecration of every power and possession to the service of God and man.

These distinctives of the Free Methodist Church from its origin are still living issues. In every era and every land they are the witnesses of the church, needing utterance clear and strong that they may be heard and heeded amidst the world's confusing and misleading voices.

C. WORLD FREE METHODISM

¶ 16.5 The Free Methodist Church of North America, by 1964, had extended its borders to include many countries on other continents than North America. In some of these countries, Free Methodism had developed to general conference stature,* and in other countries was approaching thereto. It seemed that the time had come to provide for the more speedy evangelization of the world and the extension of scriptural holiness and its fruits through the Free Methodist Church by the firm establishment of general conferences other than the North America General Conference on a basis preserving in each the essentials of Free Methodism.

Accordingly, the 1964 General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America adopted the resolution stated below and revised its constitution to provide for the organization of general conferences in other areas of the world. In order to conserve the essential features of Free Methodism, the resolution provided that in all general conferences a portion of the constitution should be identical, and that the remainder should be formulated by each conference to suit local conditions. Following is the statement of resolution adopted:

The Free Methodist Church of North America does hereby extend to its regional and national subdivisions the privilege to develop general conferences of like powers to its own within various geographic areas, at such time as each may meet the qualifications for the same, and adopt as a part of its discipline or manual of law, Paragraphs 1-16 as herein and heretofore stated, and further adopts as a section of its constitution a declaration of the principles of Free Methodism and methods of protecting the same according to Paragraphs 20-73 following, which Sections, namely 1-16 and 20-73, shall be identical in all general conference constitutions.

* 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.

PART I
THE CONSTITUTION
of the
FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF
NORTH AMERICA

CHAPTERS

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FREE METHODISM

- 1. ARTICLES OF RELIGION**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP**
- 3. ORGANIZATION**

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

- 4. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT**

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH
OF NORTH AMERICA

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FREE METHODISM

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 General Organization and Government here following, to wit:

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 be the one mediator between God and man, by the sacrifice of Himself both for original sin and for the actual transgressions 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, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel,

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II, and III John, Jude, Revelation.

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 and Regeneration 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. Concurrently with justification we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, who imparts spiritual life and renews us after the image of Him who created us.

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 they are also 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 conscience of the weak brethren. We recognize the right of every denomination to 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 take oath 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.

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

† Jeremiah 4:1-2.

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 amendment according to Paragraphs 65 to 68. 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 upon reaching the age designated by the General Conference.

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).

* When not in conflict with local laws in matters of church government.

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

(Comment: The General Rules are embodied in a historic document originally prepared by John Wesley under the title, "The Nature, Design, and General Rules of Our United Societies." The text printed here is that adopted by the organizing convention of the Free Methodist Church and published by it in 1860. Although the General Rules properly are covered only in Paragraphs 53 to 56 inclusive, the entire document is here printed for historic completeness.)

(1) Nature and Design

¶ 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,

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least; in order
 - a. To inquire how their souls prosper.
 - b. To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.
 - c. To receive what they are willing to give toward the relief of the preacher, church, and poor.
2. To meet the minister and the stewards of the society once a week; in order,
 - a. To inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reproved.
 - b. To pay the stewards what they have received of their several classes in the week preceding.

(2) General Rules*

¶ 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.

* Paragraph heading authorized by General Conference of 1964 to show where General Rules actually begin.

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

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

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

The giving or taking things on usury, 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.

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

The Special Rules have been adopted at various times subsequent to 1860.

¶ 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.

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

CHAPTER 3

ORGANIZATION

A. GENERAL ORGANIZATION

¶ 60. Each annual conference in the Free Methodist Church of North America shall be a member of the General Conference of the same.

¶ 61. The General Conference may create a new general conference out of a portion of its area when in its judgment the proposed area has approximated a level of development defined for a general conference in Paragraph 72.

¶ 62. The General Conference shall be represented in a Constitutional Council composed of representatives from all general conferences of Free Methodism, the representation to be proportionate to membership on the basis stipulated in Paragraph 70.

1. The General Conference shall submit to the Constitutional Council a copy of all legislation, orders, and policies of the General Conference, and should question arise concerning the agreement of any action with the "Basic Principles of Free Methodism," shall proceed according to Paragraph 70, Section 2b.

2. The General Conference shall refer all matters requiring referendum voting by other general conferences to the supervision of the Constitutional Council.

3. The General Conference, in cooperation with all general conferences, may assign other functions than the foregoing to the Constitutional Council, but in no case shall the Constitutional Council act as a legislative or governing body.

4. A general conference or its interim administrative board may refer to the Constitutional Council, as a representative coordinating agency, any problem that may arise with another general conference involving boundaries, recognition of credentials, and other matters of comity. Should no solution satisfactory to both general conferences be reached, the recommendation of the Constitutional Council

shall prevail. If within six months either conference shall register an appeal, the Constitutional Council shall arrange a referendum vote to decide the issue.

¶ 63. The chief administrative officer or officers of the General Conference shall affiliate with such officers of all general conferences in a Council of Bishops for the purpose of fellowship, mutual understanding, and extension of Free Methodism and the worldwide promotion of its ideals.

¶ 64. The General Conference shall recognize the World Fellowship of Free Methodist Churches as a means of promoting evangelistic outreach through fellowship, understanding, and cooperative planning among all areas of Free Methodism, according to the constitution and bylaws of said organization.

B. RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF AMENDMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE METHODISM

¶ 65. Paragraphs 20 to 67 inclusive may be altered, changed, or revoked only by concurrent approval of two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast thereon in all general conferences of Free Methodism and two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast thereon in the annual conferences thereof; but Paragraph 68 may not be amended or changed in any way. To ascertain basis for voting see Paragraph 70, Section 2d.

¶ 66. Upon a two-thirds vote of a general conference, proposals for amendment of Paragraphs 70 to 73, whether originating in an annual conference or in a general conference, shall be referred to the Constitutional Council which shall then supervise the referendum voting on the proposed amendment or amendments in all the general conferences and their constituent annual conferences.

¶ 67. The Free Methodist Church of North America may not enact, either by vote of the general conference or by concurrent vote of the general and annual conferences, any order, policy, or legislation that conflicts with, changes, subtracts from, or adds to:

1. The Articles of Religion, the general and special rules, any condition or standard of membership, any standard or rule of doctrine, as set forth in Paragraphs 20 to 57; or

2. Any part or rule of government so as to do away with substantially equal lay representation, or an itinerant (conference appointed) ministry, or the general superintendency, or the free seat system in our churches; but

Any such change as designated in 1 and 2 preceding may be made only by the procedures set forth in Paragraph 65 above.

¶ 68. Neither the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America nor any or all of the general conferences of Free Methodism by any procedure or method whatever (including deletion or amendment of this Paragraph, number 68) shall have the power to deprive preachers or lay members of the right of trial by an impartial committee, or the right of appeal.

C. GENERAL CONFERENCE INTERRELATIONS

(1) Constitutional Council

¶ 70. The Constitutional Council shall be composed of the general superintendents (bishops), together with an equal number of representatives from each general conference with the provision that no conferences shall be entitled to representation by more than one bishop and one other representative for each 15,000 members or fraction thereof. The representatives shall be elected by the general conference or its officially constituted interim administrative body, with due regard being given to the principle of lay representation. The term of office of a representative to the Constitutional Council shall begin at the close of the general conference and shall extend to the close of the following general conference.

1. Officers: The officers of the Constitutional Council shall be: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary-treasurer.

a. The officers shall be elected by the Constitutional Council from among its members.

b. The term of office shall be four years. They shall serve until their successors are elected.

2. Duties:

a. The Constitutional Council shall review the legislation, orders, and policies of all the general confer-

ences to determine if any portion appears to be in conflict with provisions of the "Principles of Free Methodism" (Pars. 20 to 73).

- b. When the Constitutional Council calls in question the constitutionality of an act of a general conference, whether it be in the realm of legislation, an order, or policy, the operation of the act shall automatically be suspended. Upon request of two-thirds vote of the executive or interim board of the general conference whose action is called in question, further action in the case shall await the opportunity of said general conference at its next session to reconsider the act. And should the conference rescind the act, the process shall immediately terminate. If no such request is made within one year or should it be made and a general conference not rescind the act in question, the act and the findings thereon of the Constitutional Council shall be submitted to all general conferences for vote. Should the findings of the Constitutional Council be approved by a majority of the aggregate votes cast thereon in all of the general conferences, the act in question shall thereby be annulled. Otherwise, the act shall be sustained and suspension of the act shall terminate.
- c. Each general conference shall submit to the secretary a copy of all legislation, orders, and policies enacted by the general conference. He shall provide each member of the council with a copy of the same. Any member of the council who discovers an act which in his judgment conflicts with the "Principles of Free Methodism" shall immediately report this with the pertinent constitutional references together with his supporting statements to the secretary who shall in turn transmit this information to all members of the council.
- d. The findings of the Constitutional Council, determined either by mail vote or in session, shall be submitted by the secretary to the originating general conference for action and to the general conferences for vote in harmony with the provisions of Para-

graph 70, Section 2b, and record the vote of the general conferences, and report the results. For the purpose of referendum voting, in no case shall any general conference member represent less than three hundred members in full connection.

3. In the case of additions or amendments to the "Principles of Free Methodism" the Constitutional Council shall supervise the referendum voting of the general conferences together with their member annual conferences, according to Paragraphs 65-67.

4. The Constitutional Council shall supervise the voting on the constitution for the World Fellowship, and also the reviewing of amendments thereto.

5. Meetings. The Constitutional Council shall meet a minimum of once within each four-year period, if possible at the time and place of the meeting of a general conference. Special meetings may be called by the officers when necessary.

6. Limitations. The provisions of this constitution shall be interpreted in no way as giving the Constitutional Council governing powers over the several general conferences of the church.

(2) New General Conferences

¶ 72. Desirable standards for general conference status include:

1. A minimum of five thousand members with twenty ordained elders.

2. The status of a full conference, or of a majority of the conference involved, for at least five years.

3. An effective church organization from the local through the conference levels.

4. Evidence of wise handling of church administration and discipline.

5. Acceptance of Paragraphs 20 to 73 of "Principles of Free Methodism."

6. Effective programs for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, and young people.

7. A well defined program of evangelistic outreach and church extension on an indigenous basis.

8. Evidence of stewardship of life and possessions including independence of foreign funds for the support of established churches.

9. A missionary expansion program with systematic gifts for its support.

10. Efficient methods of gathering reliable statistics.

¶ 73. A conference or a group of conferences having approximated this level of development may make formal request to its general conference for recognition as a separate general conference including with the request a proposed *Book of Discipline* which shall contain the section, "Origin and Character of the Free Methodist Church" (Pars. 1-16) and the "Basic Principles of Free Methodism" (basic constitution, Pars. 20-73).

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

(NOTE: This is written for the North America General Conference and serves as a suggestion only for other general conference organization and government.)

CHAPTER 4

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

¶ 75. Pastoral Charges, District and Annual Conferences

A. Pastoral Charges

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

B. Districts and District Conferences

The pastoral charges embraced within each annual conference may be grouped into districts, and if so, a district 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.

C. Annual Conferences

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 one hundred (100) full mem-

bers, sixteen years and over, an additional lay delegate may be elected; and for each additional two hundred (200) full members, sixteen years of age and over, an additional lay delegate may be elected.

¶ 76. The General Conference

A. Of Whom Composed

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

B. Ministerial Delegates

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. When a ministerial delegate leaves the conference from which he is elected prior to the time of the General Conference, by accepting an appointment to serve another conference, he shall be automatically disqualified as a delegate.

C. Lay Delegates

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.

D. Credentials

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.

E. Sessions

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 secretary of the General Conference, shall, whenever two-thirds of the annual conferences shall demand it, call an extra session of the General Conference, fixing the date thereof and the time of assembling later than the next ensuing session of each of the annual conferences.

F. Presiding Officers

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.

G. Other Officers

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.

H. Board of Administration

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.

I. Quorum

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.

J. Voting

The members of the General Conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; nevertheless, upon the call of one-fourth 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.

PART II
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHAPTERS

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

CHAPTER 5

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

A. 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.

B. 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: (a) Every preacher shall publicly enforce the apostle's command, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14). (b) 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 (a) a woman believes it to be her duty to marry, and if (b) 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 (Matthew 5:32; Mark 10:11-12). Any member guilty of a violation of this law shall thereby forfeit his membership.

- 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 by this divorce forfeit membership in the Free Methodist Church.
- b. When a divorce has been granted by a court of law on other than scriptural grounds, if either party shall have remarried after the divorce, 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. When a divorce, although granted by a court of law on other than scriptural grounds, does in fact involve adultery, the following statement shall be filed with the secretary of the official board by the aggrieved party to the divorce desiring membership in the church but not qualifying under "a" or "b" above:
"I solemnly declare upon my word as a Christian that adultery did exist on the part of my former spouse and was a factor in our separation that led to divorce."
- d. In considering qualifications for membership in the church, those persons divorced on other than scriptural grounds prior to their Christian conversion and application for membership shall not for that reason be barred from membership.

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.

C. 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.

While customs change from age to age, we recognize that there are scriptural principles of modesty, simplicity, economy, and propriety in attire. In keeping with Paragraph 57, Section 1, our church holds that these principles are a guide for all our members.

D. 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.

E. Christian Citizenship

¶ 84. Followers of Christ are citizens of two worlds. Not only do they have responsibility for enthusiastic propagation of the good news of salvation, but they also have opportunity for committed penetration of society. We encourage active participation in all worthy aspects of civic life, loyal service to the best interests of the community, and sincere involvement in all constructive efforts to realize needed improvement in the cultural, educational, and social activities of neighbors.

F. 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. (See Par. 120, Sec. 8.)

G. Militarism and War

¶ 84.2. 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.)

H. Public School Activities

¶ 84.3. Wherever the dance is made a part of the curriculum 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.

I. Human Rights

¶ 84.4. We believe that no more realistic standard can be set in the area of human relations than to follow the teachings and example of Jesus. We affirm that all peoples, irrespective of color, race, caste, or national origin are one family in God's creation. The Free Methodist Church pledges a determined effort to eliminate the unchristian practice of racial discrimination and injustice.

CHAPTER 6

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A. Reception into Preparatory Membership

¶ 86. (Ritual other than questions and answers is optional.)

[Those who are to be received as preparatory members shall be called forward by name, and the minister, addressing the people, shall say:]

Dearly beloved, that none may be admitted into the Free Methodist Church without instruction, we receive persons who seek fellowship with us into preparatory membership, during which they may be properly instructed, and also give proof, both to themselves and to the church, of the sincerity and depth of their convictions and of the strength and purpose of their desire to lead a new life.

[Then addressing the persons seeking admission as preparatory members, the minister shall say:]

Beloved in the Lord, you have by the grace of God made your decision to follow Christ and to serve Him. Your confidence in so doing is not to be based on any notion of fitness or worthiness in yourselves, but on the gracious promise of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

That the church may know your purpose, you will answer the following questions:

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

Answer: I have.

2. Are you willing to receive membership instruction as offered by our church?

Answer: I am.

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.

[Then shall the minister say:]

On behalf of the Free Methodist Church, and in the hope that you will go forward to complete membership therein, I extend to you a cordial welcome.

[Then shall the minister offer extempore prayer.]

* * * * *

Preparatory members shall not be continued longer than two years on the membership roll, in that relation, without a two-thirds vote of the official board that circumstances warrant a continuation for a longer period.

B. Admission into Junior Membership

¶ 86.1 (Ritual other than questions and answers is optional.)

[Those who are to be received as junior members shall be called forward by name, and the minister shall say:]

Beloved, our Lord Jesus, by His Holy Word has expressly given to everyone who believes in Him a place in His kingdom and church. Before you are admitted into the church, it becomes my duty to inquire of you as to your purpose of mind and heart.

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ has forgiven your sins, and is now your Saviour?

Answer: I do.

2. Have you received Christian baptism? *

Answer: Yes or no.

If not, will you consent to be baptized at such a time as your pastor may choose?

Answer: Yes.

3. Will you faithfully attend your pastor's class of instruction on living the Christian life and serving God through your church?

Answer: I will.

4. Will you be loyal to the Free Methodist Church and uphold it in your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

Answer: I will.

* Those received into junior membership who have been baptized in infancy are required to affirm the baptismal vows. See Paragraph 481.6.

5. Will you endeavor to show your friends by your life what it means to be a Christian, and will you do your best to win them to Christ?

Answer: I will.

Optional:

[Here the minister may offer an extempore prayer. Then those to be received as junior membrs shall kneel, and the minister, laying his hands upon each of them in turn, shall say:]

I receive you into the fellowship of the Free Methodist Church as a junior member. May God confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* * * * *

All members under sixteen years of age shall be known as junior members. They shall not be counted in the allocation of financial goals by the annual or general conference. Their number shall be kept in a separate column in the statistical report. They are not eligible to vote in business meetings.

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, but in no case shall any change in their membership status be made until they reach their sixteenth birthday, other than the provisions in Paragraph 48.

Upon reaching the sixteenth birthday, junior members shall be approved by the official board either for full membership or for transfer to the preparatory membership roll. To be admitted to full voting membership, they must answer satisfactorily the questions for full membership, and receive a three-fourths vote of approval by the members present and voting.

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

C. Admission into Full Membership

¶ 87. (Ritual other than questions and answers is optional.) None shall be received into full 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' in-

struction 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 approved by the official board of the church; and gives affirmative answers to the following questions for full membership, before a public meeting of the church.

[Those who are to be received into full membership shall be called forward by name, and, the minister, addressing the people, shall say:]

Dearly beloved, the church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the promotion of His worship and the due administration of His word and ordinances, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the lost. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

Into this holy fellowship the persons before you, who have received the Sacrament of Baptism, who have learned the nature of these privileges and these duties, and who have also been instructed in the teachings and the mission of the Free Methodist Church, come seeking admission as adult members in full connection. We now propose in the fear of God to question them as to their faith and purpose, that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into this church.

[Then, addressing those seeking admission, the minister shall say:]

Beloved in the Lord, you are come hither seeking union with the Free Methodist Church. We rejoice that you are minded to undertake the privileges and the duties of membership in this church. Before you are fully admitted thereto, you shall here publicly renew your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions:

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

Answer: I have.

2. Have you, since your conversion to Christ, received and do you now possess that cleansing of heart and empowerment for service which accompanies the fullness

of the Holy Spirit; or, if not, will you make this your purpose?

Answer: I have or I will.

3. Is it your purpose to devote yourself wholly to the service of God?

Answer: It is.

4. Are you convinced that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: I am.

5. Do you accept the doctrines, polity, and standards of the Free Methodist Church as contained in our Book of DISCIPLINE; and do you consent to be governed by the same?

Answer: I do.

6. As a member of the Free Methodist Church, will you be loyal in upholding the church in your prayers, and by your attendance, and will you assist your pastor and fellow-members, as God shall give you ability, in building His kingdom?

Answer: I will.

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

Answer: I will.

[Here the minister may offer an extempore prayer.]

This is optional:

[Then those to be received into full membership shall kneel, and the minister, laying his hands upon each of them in turn, shall say:]

N., I receive you into the fellowship of the Free Methodist Church. May the Lord confirm you in the faith and fellowship of the true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Those being received shall rise, and the minister, addressing the candidates shall say:]

We rejoice to recognize you as members of the Free Methodist Church, and bid you welcome to all its privileges: and in token of our brotherly love we give you the right hand of fellowship, and pray that you may be numbered with His

people here, and with His saints in glory everlasting. May the church be a blessing to you, and may you be a blessing to the church.

[Then shall the minister say to the congregation:]

Brethren, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day recognize as members of our church. Do all in your power to strengthen their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

¶ 88. 1. The person giving satisfactory answers to the questions in Paragraph 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.

¶ 89. A society already organized, or several persons desiring 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 Paragraph 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 pastoral charges, such 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 lay minister's license he may have held would be invalid until renewed by the district conference.

2. If a member lives at a great distance from the society 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.

3. Any member whose membership is terminated by any cause shall have his name placed on a "Discontinued Membership" list to be held by both the pastor and the class leader(s) of the church. Such reference list shall be kept in the hope of further contact and restoration to active membership and fellowship in the church.

D. Associate Membership

¶ 90.1. Free Methodist students and servicemen and women, and their families, living at a distance from their home and church, may be granted associate membership in any other Free Methodist Church. All rights and privileges except the right to vote shall be granted. Associate members shall be recorded on a separate list.

E. Transfer of Membership by Certificate

¶ 91. 1. Only a member desiring to move to another society 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 a pastoral apprentice, an evangelist, a lay minister, 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 member of the Free Methodist Church, and cordially commend _____ to the fellowship of any such church with which _____ may desire to unite. His 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. A junior member may be transferred to another society

by the pastor giving a certificate of transfer in the following words:

"A. B., the bearer, a junior member, having been received into this society on the _____ day of _____, in the year, _____, and wishing to remove from this society, we certify that _____ is an acceptable junior member of the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____ and cordially commend _____ to the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____ or to any other Free Methodist Church. When admitted to another society _____ membership in this society shall cease. This certificate is good for one year only, unless renewed.

Date of birth of transferee _____.

6. No supply in charge of a society 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.

A. 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, Chapters 39-44).

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

B. 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.

C. Love Feasts

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

D. 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,

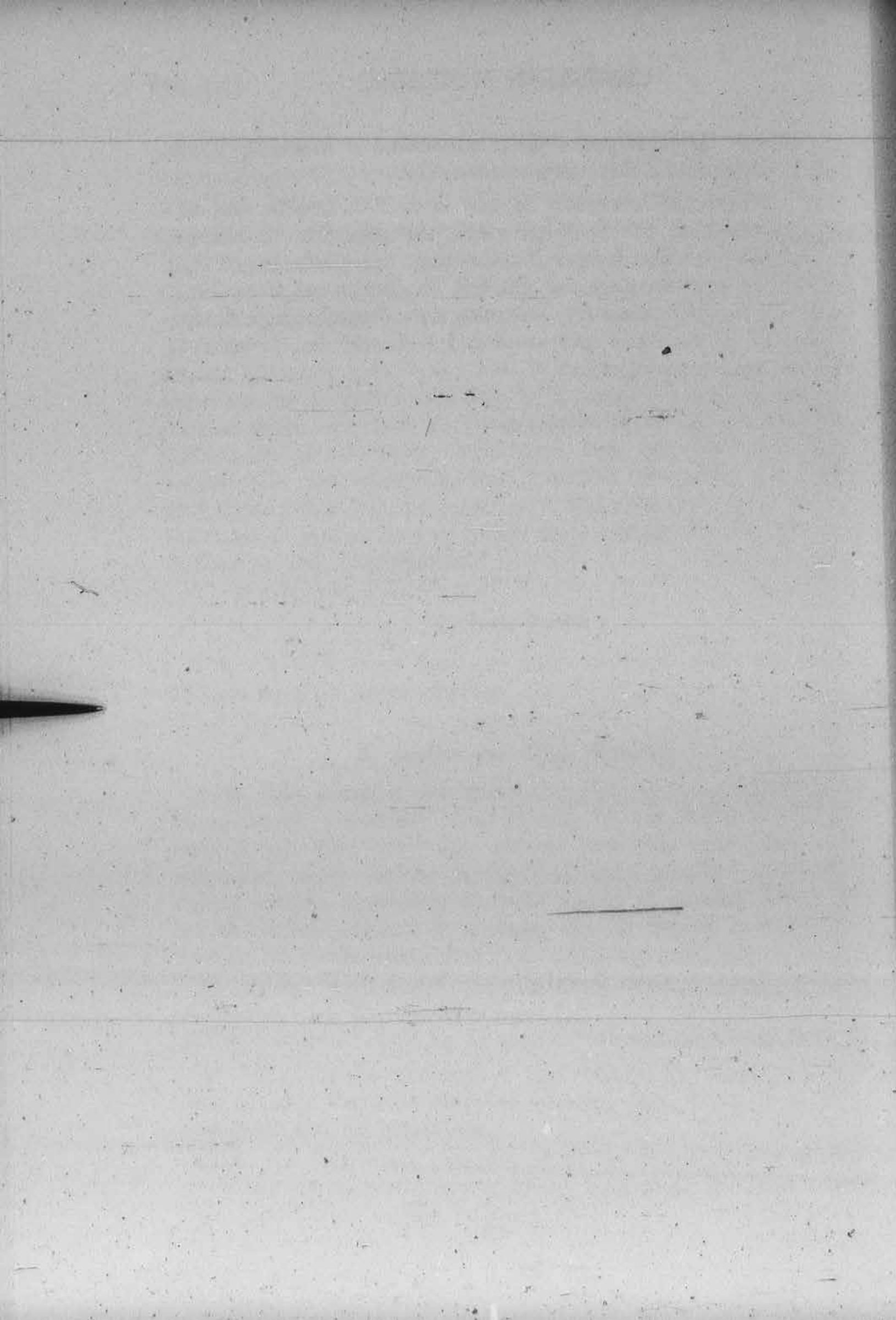
1. To see each person in his class once a week at least; in order, (a) To inquire how his soul prospers. (b) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.

2. To meet the minister of the society 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**
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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. 1. 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 Paragraph 76, Sections A-D.

2. A delegate to the General Conference is not a member until he is present with his credentials and has been seated.

¶ 101. Conferences of mission origin may send their delegates to General Conference as provided for in their several constitutions which have been approved by the General Conference.

¶ 102. The next session of the General Conference shall be held in June, 1974, or as near that time as may be determined by the Board of Administration, in accordance with the Constitution, Paragraph 76, Section E, which prescribes also the procedure for calling extra sessions. The Friday preceding each General Conference shall be observed by our people as a day of fasting and prayer.

¶ 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, Paragraph 76, Sections F, I, and J.

¶ 104. 1. Each General Conference shall elect by ballot two or more traveling elders as bishops. The Board of Administration shall be authorized to employ suitable personnel

in the leadership of the various church ministries, such as outreach, missions, education, publishing, and stewardship.

2. All officers employed by the Board of Administration shall be responsible to the Board of Administration, as to their official duties, and shall work under the direction and supervision of the commission to which they are appointed (see Par. 111, Sec. 1, 2).

3. A general officer may retire when he reaches the age of sixty-five years. Otherwise, he shall retire after the selection of his successor at the end of the General Conference nearest his seventieth birthday. (See Pars. 333 and 334 for further particulars upon the retirement of bishops.)

4. 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 by ballot. Except in cases in which one annual conference forms an administrative district, the minister and the layman shall not be from the same annual conference.

¶ 105. The executive secretary of the Board of Bishops shall be the secretary of the General Conference. The secretary shall continue in office until his successor is employed 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 Paragraph 84.2, Section 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 65-68. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the General Conference sessions.

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

¶ 108. The annual conferences shall be grouped in eighteen General Conference administrative districts as follows:

- No. 1—East Michigan
- No. 2—Genesee
- No. 3—Pacific Northwest
- No. 4—Pittsburgh
- No. 5—Southern California-Arizona
- No. 6—Southern Michigan
- No. 7—Wabash
- No. 8—California, Oregon, Pacific Coast Japanese
- No. 9—Central Illinois, Iowa
- No. 10—East Ontario, West Ontario
- No. 11—Centenary, New York, Susquehanna
- No. 12—Illinois-Wisconsin, North Michigan
- No. 13—Ohio, Oil City
- No. 14—Kansas, Nebraska-Wyoming, Oklahoma, Rocky Mountain
- No. 15—Florida, Georgia-Carolina, Maryland-Virginia
- No. 16—Kentucky-Tennessee, Louisiana, Ozark, Texas
- No. 17—Alberta, Columbia River, Minn-I-Kota, Saskatchewan
- No. 18—Burundi, Dominican, India, Mexican, Mozambique, Natal-Cape, Nikkei, Pacific Coast Latin American, Paulista, Philippines, Rhodesia, Rwanda, Taiwan

CHAPTER 9

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

¶ 110. 1. The Board of Administration shall consist of the bishops, the executive secretary of the Board of Bishops who is secretary of the board, eighteen traveling elders and eighteen lay members elected in the manner prescribed in Paragraph 104, Section 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 chairman of the Board of Bishops shall be president. In his absence, the Board of Bishops shall elect a president pro tem.

2. The board shall provide rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. *Roberts Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the sessions of the Board of Administration.

¶ 111. 1. The Board of Administration shall have general organizational, promotional, and supervisory powers over all the activities of the church during the interim 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 and fill vacancies, to remove for cause any of its members or any general church officer during the interim between General Conference sessions, subject to the provisions of the DISCIPLINE. In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Bishops in the first four years of the interim between General Conferences, each conference board of administration may submit a nomination to the general Board of Administration which shall elect by ballot.

3. The Board of Administration shall meet immediately at the close of the General Conference and shall have power to organize itself into commissions and assign its work to the commissions, notwithstanding anything hereinafter set forth.

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

The members of the Board of Administration owe their primary duty to the board and secondarily to the commission to which they have been appointed as committee members. All the commissions are committees of the Board of Administration to which each commission is responsible for duties assigned.

4. The Board of Administration shall elect an investment committee of five businessmen, who shall have charge of the investment of the church funds, including the funds to be invested by the several commissions, and may invest such funds as other church-related institutions may request. 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 director of finance, who shall be the director of stewardship and who shall supervise the work of the annual conference secretaries of stewardship in harmony with Paragraph 243, Section 5, and perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Board of Administration.

6. The Board of Administration shall employ other suitable personnel in the leadership of the various church ministries pursuant to Paragraph 104, Section 1.

7. The Board of Administration shall employ a certified public accountant firm to audit annually the accounts of the general church treasurer. The auditor will make an annual report in writing to the Board of Administration with recommendations, if any. The general church treasurer shall be bonded.

8. The Board of Administration shall elect from its membership one minister and one lay member from each commission who with the Board of Bishops and the secretary of the Board of Administration 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 coordination of the work of the commissions and the departments.

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

9. The Board of Administration shall employ an executive secretary, upon nomination by the Board of Bishops, who shall be the secretary of the General Conference and the Board of Administration and executive secretary of the Board of Bishops and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Administration.

10. The Board of Administration shall appoint a Committee on Federated Ministries. This committee shall serve as a liaison between the Free Methodist Church and other denominations or groups of like spiritual concerns and doctrine.

11. 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 general church boards and corporations.

¶ 112. United World Mission for Christ Budget Committee

1. The Board of Administration shall elect a United World Mission for Christ budget committee of eight members to serve four-year terms. This committee shall have four major responsibilities:

- a. To examine and review the sources available for expenditure and to recommend to the Board of Administration underwriting goals for the annual conferences.
- b. To review and to recommend to the Board of Administration for consideration and approval the expenditure budgets of each of the commissions.
- c. To serve as an adjunct to the director of finance in his role as budget administrator and promoter.
- d. To review annually the performance of each department with a view to recommending controls on deficit spending by all departments.

2. The membership of this committee shall be divided equally between ministers and laymen, but shall not include any person who is a member of one of the commissions or is a general officer of the church. The director of finance shall

be an ex officio member of the committee, with all rights of a committee member except that of serving as chairman. The committee shall select its own chairman from its elected membership.

3. Terms of service on the committee shall be staggered so that two members are elected each year. If a member must be replaced before his term is completed, the replacement shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. Members may succeed themselves.

4. In selecting persons to serve on the United World Mission for Christ budget committee, representation by geographic area and from conferences of different sizes shall be sought. Persons selected to serve should have specific budget training and/or experience. They should also have demonstrated a vital interest in the total mission of the church.

¶ 113. United World Mission for Christ Operational Guidelines

1. The United World Mission for Christ concept must be accepted and promoted by church leaders at all levels.

2. Promotion of our world mission and its image must be improved and must be carried out by every department of the church at general, conference, and local levels. Each department of the church must share in the promotion of the concept and the raising of funds, in order that expansion of our entire program is possible.

3. Seminars at general, conference, and local levels shall be sponsored to develop a better understanding of the stewardship principle and the United World Mission for Christ concept.

4. All promotional materials and efforts shall be coordinated through the director of stewardship and finance, and his budget shall include the cost of all promotional work.

5. All general church departments are free to raise funds and are encouraged to do so, but the methods must be approved by the United World Mission for Christ budget committee and the Board of Administration. The funds must be for the United World Mission for Christ budget or approved projects.

6. Inspirational project giving will continue but must be recommended by the commission which controls the project, reviewed by the United World Mission for Christ budget committee, and approved by the Board of Administration.

7. Solicitation of gifts from the church membership shall not be made by departments of the general church except for the UWMC budget. (This provision does not apply to the program of the general church in the area of annuities, wills, or estate planning.)

8. All funds received at general church headquarters go to the United World Mission for Christ unless specifically stated otherwise by the donor.

9. The proposed budget of each headquarters department shall be prepared annually by the appropriate commission and reviewed by the United World Mission for Christ budget committee with the departments and organizations involved. The recommended budget shall be submitted by the United World Mission for Christ budget committee directly to the Board of Administration for approval each year.

10. A minimum share will be assigned to each conference by the director of stewardship and finance after review by the United World Mission for Christ budget committee and approval by the Board of Administration. The potential and total giving of the churches will be strong factors in determining the conference share, and conferences are urged to consider these factors in assigning shares to the local churches. These assignments must be considered as seriously as the conference budget and understood as the minimum shares needed to carry out the mission of the church as ordered by the General Conference. Every effort must be made to exceed the assigned shares. An assignment may be appealed to the United World Mission for Christ budget committee if circumstances warrant.

11. The general treasurer shall keep a record of the deficits in conference shares in the UWMC goal, shall report them to the conferences which are deficient, and publish them in his annual report to the Board of Administration (formerly included in Par. 121, 1964 DISCIPLINE).

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

¶ 115. All of the commissions, the Woman's Missionary Society, and the Light and Life Men, International shall make and file annually their financial statements with the secretary of the Board of Administration.

¶ 116. It shall be the duty of the secretary of the Board of Administration to make a full report of its proceedings to the General Conference.

CHAPTER 10

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

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

3. 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.

4. 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 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.

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

6. The Administrative Commission shall fix the salaries of the bishops and the general church officers.

7. The Administrative Commission, together with two representatives elected by the Association of Benevolent Institutions, shall constitute the Board of Social Ministry of the church.

8. The Administrative Commission 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 shall 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.

¶ 121. 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.

B. Retirement Program

¶ 122. Social Security

1. The benefits available under the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance (hereinafter called Social Security) Program are a part of the church's 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.

2. It is recommended that each society, pastoral charge, conference, or other organization responsible for a preacher's 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.

¶ 123. 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 obligations of the church to its retired preachers, missionaries, etc., now covered by the plan.

¶ 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 divided into the Permanent Endowment Fund and the Operating 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 Operating Fund.

2. The Operating Fund shall consist of the income accruing from the Permanent Endowment Fund: gifts, bequests, and legacies specifically designated for the use of the Operating Fund and allocations from the United World Mission for Christ.

¶ 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:

- a. To pass upon all claims and make final disposition of them.
- b. 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.
- c. To estimate the amount necessary to be allocated from the United World Mission for Christ.

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:

- a. To keep a record of all proceedings of the General Board and make a report of them to the General Conference.
- b. To receive, audit, classify, file, and be custodian of the Claimants' Applications, the Certificates of Income, and the list of certified claimants. (See Par. 248.)

- c. In the interim of the meetings of the General Board to receive and pass upon emergency claims, subject to action by the board.
- d. To adjust amounts due on claims of deceased claimants.
- e. To keep a record of all claims allowed and payments made on them.
- f. To direct the activities of the annual conference executive secretaries, and supply them with such forms and other record materials as are necessary. (See Par. 248.)
- g. To perform such other duties as shall devolve upon him as 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 Classifi-

cation 1 in Paragraph 126 shall be at the rate of \$15.00 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$540.00 per year.

2. The allowance to claimants who come under Classifications 2 and 3 shall be at the rate of \$10.50 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$378.00 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 16 years.

4. For those coming under Classification 5, the amount allowed shall be recommended by the Commission on Missions 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 Paragraph 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 Paragraph 126 at the close of the conference year in 1935, the allowance was \$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 was not 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 was 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.

- a. A member of a conference attending school can be rated 100 percent effective only when appointed to a pastoral charge 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. If a preacher who has had effective service under the Commission on Missions joins an annual conference in full connection after serving as a conference preparatory member, his years of service as a conference preparatory member 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.

- e. 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.
 - a. Claimants shall receive benefits only so long as they remain members of the Free Methodist Church.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Widows of preachers and retired preachers shall receive benefits from the Conference Claimants' Fund only so long as they remain single.
3.
 - a. Each claimant must file with the executive secretary 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.
 - b. 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.
5. The Board of Administration is empowered to amend such regulations as may be found necessary.

¶ 129. Pension Plan

1. General. The Board of Administration by authorization of the 1964 General Conference, has established a pension plan which became effective January 1, 1969, and covers ministers, general officers, and other persons as described in the pension plan.

2. Pension Board. The pension plan shall be operated and administered by the pension board in accordance with the plan and in accordance with such rules and regulations in harmony therewith as may be approved by the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

¶130. Miscellaneous Provisions.

1. The pension plan was created for the exclusive benefit of employees of the employer and their beneficiaries, and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with its being a qualified pension plan as defined in Section 401 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be amended from time to time.

2. The pension plan shall not be construed as creating any contract of employment between the employer and any of its employees.

3. No participant in the pension plan shall have any right to assign, alienate, anticipate, or commute any payments from the plan; and, except as otherwise prescribed by law, no payment shall be subject to the debts, contracts, or engagements of any payee, nor to any judicial process to levy upon or attach the same for the payment thereof.

4. Each church of a participating conference shall contribute to the support of the pension plan, even if its present pastor may not be eligible. The total yearly contributions from each conference will be allocated equally to the accounts of all eligible members within that conference. The contribution which the church pays is in addition to the pastor's earnings, not a deduction from him.

5. Copies of the complete pension plan and operating instructions are available upon request from the pension board, Free Methodist Church of North America, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590.

¶131. Amendment and termination of the pension plan. The pension plan may be amended by the General Conference or the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church of North America, provided that the text of such amendment and the name(s) of its sponsor or sponsors shall have been published in three issues of *The Free Methodist*

at least thirty (30) days prior to the time action on the amendment is taken. Any amendment which, in the judgment of the pension board, should be adopted before the next General Conference, or before the next regular meeting of the Board of Administration, may be adopted ad interim by the Executive Committee of the Board of Administration, and any amendment so adopted shall be presented for ratification at the next General Conference, or the next regular meeting of the Board of Administration. No amendment shall abridge or annul the rights of members in respect to their accumulations as of the date of the adoption of such amendment.

C. Church and Parsonage Aid

¶ 132. 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. The Administrative Commission shall prepare budgets and administer funds for the Church and Parsonage Aid Society.

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

10. It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge of a society to promote annually the ministry of the Church and Parsonage Aid Society in relation to the United World Mission for Christ budget.

¶ 133. 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. A society which takes advantage of this "special provision" shall in addition have the benefits provided for under Paragraph 132.

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

5. 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.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

¶ 134. Canadian Conferences. Any Canadian conference may, by voting to do so and by making the contributions provided for in Paragraphs 132 and 133, receive all the benefits allowed the societies and conferences in the United States. All contributions and benefits shall be paid in Canadian currency.

D. Department of Social Ministry

¶ 135. 1. It shall be the duty of the commission to inspect the institutions of social ministry operating in and receiving support from the Free Methodist Church. No such 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 institutions of social ministry so as to avoid the jeopardizing of those already operating as accredited institutions, and to this end the commission shall assign each approved institution its supporting territory.

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 Children's Home, Woodstock, Illinois. Founded in 1888.

Sunset Manor, Woodstock, Illinois. Founded in 1903.

Deaconess General Hospital and Home of Redeeming Love, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Founded in 1900.

Lifeline Children's Home, 4322 Mission Road, Kansas City, Kansas. Founded in 1917.

Warm Beach Manor, 20502 Marine Drive, Stanwood, Washington. Founded in 1967.

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 pastoral charge where the offering is received or sent to an accredited institution of social ministry in whose patronizing territory the society lies.

7. The pastor shall cooperate with the Sunday school in the Easter offering for institutions of social ministry.

8. Each annual conference shall appoint among its regular committees a committee on social ministry.

E. The Publishing House

¶ 136. 1. The Free Methodist Publishing House is a corporation established by the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America for the purpose of producing and circulating wholesome literature. It is incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois, with its business plant and official headquarters at Winona Lake, Indiana.

2. a. 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 between General Conferences. 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.
- b. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to employ an executive editor of Sunday-school literature, on the recommendation of the publisher and the approval of the Board of Administration.
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.
5. The Free Methodist Publishing House is the denomination's official publishing agency.

CHAPTER 11

THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

A. 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 and 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, Sec. 3).

b. To represent the missionaries on the field, and to assist them to accomplish the purposes of the Commission on Missions, the Board of Administration shall appoint three active missionaries who shall serve as area representatives, one each for Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They shall be non-voting participants on the Commission on Missions and shall serve, with clearly defined areas of responsibilities and authorities, as supervisors in their areas under the general missionary secretary. Missionaries from the respective areas may submit nominations for their representatives.

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 con-

sent of the majority of its members, make general calls from time to time for funds to meet contingencies on the mission fields, subject to the guidelines of the United World Mission for Christ.

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 request of the area bishop the ordination of missionary candidates whenever it is expedient.

9. To survey the needs of unevangelized areas contiguous to established mission fields or in countries not presently served where there are places of unusual opportunity and promise; and, where feasible, to promote the evangelization of the area and the establishment of a national church, as

approved by the Board of Administration.

- a. The commission shall have the following relationship to new work:
 - (1) Until the church which is established on any field develops to full conference status, the work shall be under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Missions. In such areas, the Commission on Missions may establish provisional conferences. Constitutions for such conferences, together with any revisions of the same, are to be approved by the commission.
 - (2) The commission must pass on all candidates for ordination.
 - b. The commission shall have the following relationship to full conferences and general conferences of mission origin:
 - (1) Full conferences and general conferences of mission origin are related to the commission through the field mission. The mission consists of the missionaries under regular appointment by the commission and serving the conference or general conference.
 - (2) A liaison committee composed of missionaries and national church leaders may submit requests for needed personnel and finance together with full explanatory matter to the Commission on Missions, through the missionary secretary.
10. To organize conferences on the mission fields as follows:
- a. Provisional Conferences. When an annual conference on the field is in a preparatory stage, it shall adopt in principle the 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.
 - b. Full Conferences. When provisional conferences have made marked advancement in national leadership, evangelistic outreach, self-government, and self-support, and have reached the stage where they are able to operate satisfactorily under the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church, and a constitution

approved by the General Conference, the Commission on Missions shall recommend such conferences to the area bishop to be organized as a full conference as outlined in Paragraph 331, Section 9.

Any changes in constitutions of full conferences of mission origin shall be considered by the Commission on Missions for recommendation to the Board of Administration or General Conference for approval.

11. 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.

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

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

B. 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:

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

C. 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.

D. The General Missionary Secretary

¶ 144. 1. The general missionary secretary shall be employed, pursuant to the authority in Paragraph 104, Section 1.

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 general church treasurer all money received.

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 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.

5. He may be authorized by the area bishop to ordain all eligible candidates for the office of deacon or elder when visiting the foreign fields.

6. 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.

E. Home Missions

¶ 145. 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, 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."

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

F. Title to Land in Foreign Countries

¶ 146. 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.

G. Responsibilities of Pastors and Local Societies

¶ 147. 1. It shall be the responsibility of every pastor in charge of a local church to promote Free Methodist missions through a yearly program of missionary emphasis, and to direct in the establishing of a financial program for the support of the missionary outreach of the church through the United World Mission for Christ.

2. The local society shall have a committee on missions consisting of the pastor and the departmental heads, and, wherever practicable, at least two members at large. The latter members are to be elected by the society. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to assist the pastor in promoting and directing the yearly promotional and financial program of Free Methodist world missions (see Par. 280, Sec. 3).

H. The Woman's Missionary Society

¶ 148. 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 and is governed by its own constitution and by-laws.

I. Missions and Conferences

¶ 149. Of the following conferences, the provisional conferences are administered by the General Missionary Board through the commission. Copies of their constitutions and bylaws 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:

Conferences—Burundi, Dominican, India, Mexican, Mozambique and Transvaal, Natal-Cape, Nikkei, Pacific Coast Latin American, Paulista, Philippine, Rhodesia, Rwanda, Taiwan

Provisional Conferences—Congo, Hong Kong-Macau, Paraguay, Transvaal-Orange Free State

In addition to the above, the following missions are under the sponsorship of the General Missionary Board:

Haiti, North American Indian.

J. Missionaries' Relationship to Home Conferences

¶ 149.5. North American conferences may grant honorary conference membership to those missionaries who are employed by the General Missionary Board and who were previously full members of a North American conference and are now members of conferences of mission origin. These missionaries shall be encouraged to report annually to their conferences in writing or in person.

CHAPTER 12

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. 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 Educational Institutions (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 chairman 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 chairman, treasurer, and secretary. The bishop appointed to this commission shall be ex officio chairman, 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 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 function through three departments as follows:

a. The Department of Christian Education

- (1) Division of Children's Ministries. Includes all ministries and group activities for children, including the Christian Youth Crusader organization and other similar groups.
- (2) Division of Youth Ministries. Includes all ministries and group activities for young people, including the Free Methodist Youth organization and other similar groups.
- (3) Division of Sunday Schools. Includes Sunday schools and all other related activities such as weekday and vacation Bible schools.
- (4) Division of Service Training. Includes training for Christian education personnel for the local church, instruction in church membership, and studies related to evangelism, missions, stewardship, doctrine, and biblical knowledge.

b. The Department of Educational Institutions. Responsible for promoting and helping to maintain adequate opportunity for preschool, elementary, secondary, collegiate, and graduate training of the children and young people of the Free Methodist Church. In order to discharge its basic responsibility, the Department of Educational Institutions shall recognize the following areas of educational service:

- (1) Division of Colleges and Secondary Schools:
 - (a) Denominational Institutions
 - (b) Cooperating Institutions
 - (c) Educational Foundations
 - (d) Aldersgate Fellowships
- (2) Canadian Educational Institutions
- (3) Christian Elementary and Preschools

c. The Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance

- (1) Division of Ministerial Guidance. Responsible for setting up or approving and supervising the various programs in the church for the education and training of ministers.

- (2) Division of John Wesley Seminary. 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, known as John Wesley Seminary.

8. The responsibility for carrying out the policy of the commission in each of these departments is vested in a departmental general director employed by the Board of Administration.

B. Department of Christian Education

¶ 151. General Organization

The Department of Christian Education shall function under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education.

1. There shall be a Christian Education Council of not less than twelve nor more than sixteen persons, with one from each of the four geographical areas for each division of the Department of Christian Education. Nominations may be submitted by the four divisions at the time of the General Christian Education Convention. The general director and the divisional directors will provide a list of the nominations to the Commission on Christian Education. The commission will appoint members to the council and fill vacancies during the interim between General Conferences.

2. The Division of Children's Ministries will function under the Department of Christian Education and have responsibility for all activities of the early youth of the denomination.

To promote the spiritual welfare of early youth and provide Christian direction for the activities, there shall be an organization known as the Christian Youth Crusaders of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

The objectives of this organization are:

- a. To lead boys and girls of early youth 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.
- b. To provide a wholesome outlet for adolescent interests and to provide Christian direction for their activities.

- c. To provide opportunities wherein those who are or become Christians receive training and experience in winning others to Christ.

For further particulars see Paragraph 620.

3. The Division of Youth Ministries functioning under the Department of Christian Education has the following objectives:

To promote the spiritual welfare of youth connected with the Free Methodist Church, to provide Christ-honoring activities, and to help them in their contribution to the church, their community, and the world; there shall be an organization known as Free Methodist Youth, a division of the Department of Christian Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To seek and maintain among its members the highest level of Christian experience through a saving and sanctifying knowledge of God.
- b. To inspire, enlist, and train members to win lost youth to Jesus Christ.
- c. To guide youth that they may more effectively fulfill the will of Christ for their lives.
- d. To bring youth into full membership in the Free Methodist Church.
- e. To study the needs of mankind and Christian response to those needs.
- f. To encourage intelligent support of the United World Mission for Christ.

For further particulars, see Paragraph 610.

4. The Division of Sunday Schools functioning under the Department of Christian Education has the following objectives:

- a. To promote the teaching ministry of the Great Commission.
- b. To promote the knowledge of the Bible through systematic reading, study, and memorization.
- c. To bring all members of the organization to a saving and sanctifying knowledge of God.
- d. To build numerically and strengthen spiritually the Free Methodist Church.
- e. To cooperate in bringing about a spiritual revival

through the Sunday schools of all churches, resulting in a national return to the faith.

- f. To provide training for Christian service.
- g. To provide Christian fellowship, such as the organized classes, outings, and other social activities.
- h. To provide a channel through which the community may be reached with Christian teaching.

For further particulars, see Paragraph 600.

5. The Division of Service Training shall provide for the leadership education work of the church under the direction of the Department of Christian Education. It shall include training instruction for Christian education personnel for the local church, instruction in church membership, and studies related to evangelism, missions, stewardship, doctrine, and biblical knowledge.

Service Training courses related to Christian education leaders of the local church shall be promoted by the general, conference, and local directors of the Christian education organizations. Courses taken to qualify personnel as certified leaders in the educational program of the local church shall be reported by the local director of service training.

The department may, from time to time, initiate and administer through this division other education projects to assist ministers and other leaders in the church to qualify them for more effective Christian service.

C. Department of Educational Institutions

¶ 158. 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, secondary schools, elementary and preschools, 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 for changing 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. Establish fellowships on college, university, and other school campuses which are not affiliated with the Free Methodist Church. These fellowships shall be operated in accordance with the constitution approved by the Commission on Christian Education of the Free Methodist Church. Wherever practical, Free Methodists shall be encouraged to cooperate with other evangelicals in establishing and operating such fellowships.

The secretary of higher education shall maintain a program including visits by the secretary and others for the guidance, fellowship, and encouragement of Free Methodists who are in such other schools not affiliated with the Free Methodist Church where Free Methodist fellowships have not been established.

10. Publish annually in the *Yearbook* the following: (a) a list of all approved educational institutions of the Free

Methodist Church under the Division 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. Each annual conference shall publish in its section of the *Yearbook* a list of all Light and Life elementary and preschools designating the levels of instruction offered and the respective enrollments.

11. Assist conference boards of Christian education in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to Free Methodist educational institutions within their own conference and assigned geographic area.

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 consistent with United World Mission for Christ guidelines.

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.

¶ 159. 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 overall 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, and
 - 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. Interschool 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 president 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 that an educational institution is in 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.

¶ 160. Organization and Administration

1. Division of Colleges and Secondary Schools

a. Denominational Institutions

- (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) The chief executive officer shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church.
- (3) Whenever possible, two-thirds of the full-time faculty members shall be members of the Free Methodist Church, and in no case less than a majority.
- (4) All instruction in the several departments shall be in harmony with and in conformity to the teachings of the Scriptures and the standards of the Free Methodist Church as set forth in the

Articles of Religion in the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.

(5) (a) The board of trustees of each presently existing educational institution 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, insofar 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, 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.

(c) No institution shall be closed, disposed of, or merged with another institution or institutions without the approval of the Commission on Christian Education and the Board of Administration.

(6) The president of the institution and the chairman of the board of trustees of each Free Methodist school meeting the above conditions, shall be members of the "Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions." The association shall elect two of its members to serve on the Commission on Christian Education. One representative shall be a president and the other a trustee, each representing a different school. (See Par. 111, Sec. 3.)

b. Cooperating Institutions.

(1) The Free Methodist Church may affiliate with

one or more other evangelical denominations in the operation of cooperating educational institutions. Cooperative arrangements shall be based on the following guidelines subject to the approval of the Commission on Christian Education:

- (a) The number of members of the Free Methodist Church on the board of trustees shall be at least in equitable proportion to the number of other cooperating denominations.
 - (b) The number of members of the Free Methodist Church on the faculty and administration shall be at least in equitable proportion to other cooperating denominations.
 - (c) Provision shall be made for instruction in Methodist history and doctrine.
 - (d) Provision shall be made for official representatives of the Free Methodist Church to have opportunity for contact and conferences with students in the interest of the church.
 - (e) Provision shall be made for the organization of an Aldersgate Student Fellowship on campus.
 - (f) 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 the Articles of Religion in the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.
 - (g) A cooperating institution shall include in its Articles of Incorporation a statement which would conform to the following principles:
 - (i) In case of dissolution any residue will be used for educational purposes.
 - (ii) Any such residue shall be distributed equitably to the cooperating denominations.
- (2) Cooperative arrangements with other institutions or groups that are not denominationally affiliated, for the purpose of establishing a new in-

stitution, may be considered on approval of the Commission on Christian Education with the understanding that the Free Methodist Church is appropriately represented in the governance of the institution, that the doctrine and standards of the church are respected, that Free Methodist youth are given the opportunity to receive instruction and counsel regarding the history and mission of the Free Methodist Church, and that adequate provision be made for the equitable distribution of the residue in the event of its dissolution. The specific terms of such agreement shall be approved by the Board of Administration.

- (3) Provision shall be made for the president of a cooperating institution and an official representative of the board of trustees who is a member of the Free Methodist Church to participate in the meetings of the Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions. Educational institutions thus represented shall be recognized as associate members having one vote in the association.
- c. Educational Foundations. Foundations incorporated under the auspices of the Free Methodist Church which are established for the specific purpose of serving the education needs of Free Methodist youth shall be recognized as approved institutions on the condition that the charters of the foundations are approved by the Commission on Christian Education and the Board of Administration. The executive officer and the chairman of the governing board of such foundation shall be members of the Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions.
- d. Aldersgate Fellowships. Organized chapters of Free Methodist and other interested students on secular or other church-related campuses shall be recognized as official units of Free Methodist educational institutions upon qualifying for a charter as an Aldersgate Fellowship and on approval by the Commission on Christian Education and the Board of Administration. The president of the national organization

of Aldersgate Fellowships and a representative of the governing board shall be members of the Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions.

2. 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 Paragraph 159. 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.

3. Christian Elementary and Preschools

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

- a. It is recommended that such schools be designated Light and Life Christian Schools.
- b. The commission shall make available to local churches and annual conferences information concerning existing Christian elementary and preschools.
- c. Light and Life Christian Schools are expected to meet or exceed state educational standards.
- d. Each annual conference is authorized to establish a Conference Board of Light and Life Christian Schools which shall oversee the work of all Light and Life Christian Schools within the conference in accord with guidelines established by the Commission on Christian Education and the annual conference. The president of the conference shall instruct the nominating committee to exercise care in naming to this board persons competent to serve.
- e. Responsibility for the operation of Light and Life Christian Schools shall rest with the local board of directors, two-thirds of whom shall be members of the Free Methodist Church, which shall cooperate with the conference board in accord with the guidelines established by the commission and the annual conference.
- f. 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 Christian Schools.

- g. It is the responsibility of each conference having Christian schools and of the local officials controlling such schools to see that the appropriate trust clause is a part of each deed pertaining to such school property, the same as other church property (see Pars. 460-469).
- h. The "Guiding Principles" of Paragraph 159 shall apply to Light and Life Christian Schools. Any complaint of violation of any of these principles shall be directed to the board of Light and Life Christian Schools of the conference in which the school is located. Should the complaint be found to be valid, the board 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 conference.

¶ 161. Education Funds

1. *Endowment Fund.* All educational endowment funds, including the permanent endowment fund, allotted by the general church to educational institutions (including John Wesley Seminary Foundation) and such moneys 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 with the special observance of Children's Day in June, and special gifts and bequests earmarked for this purpose in harmony with United World Mission for Christ guidelines. 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 moneys raised for education in their conferences except funds raised for the United World Mission for Christ (see Par. 160, Sec. 2).

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 co-operative effort looking toward increasing the school's effectiveness.

D. Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance

¶ 165. Organization and Administration

1. Division of Ministerial Guidance

Statement of policy:

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 Division of Ministerial Guidance 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 to their future work. They prepare themselves for their greatest possible contribution to the church and the kingdom of God.

- a. The department director shall work with the various schools and colleges in their ministerial training programs and cooperate with the annual conferences in their ministerial guidance activities and be responsible for keeping the central file of credits and the duplicate copies of ordination parchments of all ministers in conference relationship throughout the

church, who are amenable to the respective conference boards of ministerial education and guidance.

b. The specific responsibilities of the Division of Ministerial Guidance shall be to:

- (1) Approve, in cooperation with the Department of Educational Institutions, the various schools which offer theological and collegiate training for prospective Free Methodist ministers.
- (2) Approve correspondence courses for candidates who fail to get required courses while in regular college attendance.
- (3) Sit as 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.)
- (4) Define 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.
- (5) Specify activities and set up standards for their evaluation having to do with itinerant credit which may be earned through supervised practical service.
- (6) Keep a permanent file of the duplicate copies of parchments of ordination of all ministers in the denomination remitted by the bishops or their deputies; provide annual conference secretaries a form on which they shall report after each annual conference session the names of all ministers whose ordination parchments are no longer valid and the reasons for the invalidation; and establish procedures whereby a minister who may have lost his original parchment of ordination may secure a certified duplicate copy. The duplicate copies of ordination parchments remitted at the time of ordination shall be retained by the division at all times.

2. Division of John Wesley Seminary

a. 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.

- b. *Control:* The Board of Administration shall constitute the John Wesley Seminary Board of Control with the Commission on Christian Education serving as the Executive Board.
- c. *Support:* John Wesley Seminary shall be supported by general funds, special appropriations, and solicitations consistent with the United World Mission for Christ and approved by the Board of Administration.
- d. *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 evangelical and Wesleyan in doctrine as interpreted by the Free Methodist Church.

E. PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS

Effective date of operation: The following three programs became effective in 1965 for candidates on the first level (admission as conference preparatory members) and in 1966 for candidates on the second and third levels (ordination as deacon and elder).

¶170. The Seminary Program

Courses of study for ministerial students attending seminaries approved by the John Wesley Seminary.

1. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference as a preparatory member.

Have had one year (30 semester credits) or more of approved college work including two or more credits in Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine. (See also Par. 320, Sec. 1.)

2. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference as a "full member" and ordination as a traveling deacon.

Completion of the first year of the required three-year course in an approved seminary on the part of students with or without undergraduate credits in religion, shall satisfy in

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full the educational requirements both for admission to a conference in full connection and for ordination as deacon.

3. Educational requirements for ordination as a traveling elder.

Completion of the entire three-year course in an approved seminary shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as elder.

4. Exceptional seminary cases.

Those who have attended other than an approved seminary should send transcripts of both their seminary and undergraduate credits to the office of the director of the Division of Ministerial Guidance for evaluation. In most cases such evaluation will show a lack of required courses in Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine. If the seminary is not unqualifiedly evangelical and Wesleyan in doctrine, the evaluation will also indicate a lack in acceptable theology credits. Such deficiencies may be made up through correspondence study under the Division of Ministerial Guidance.

¶ 170.1. The College Program

Courses of study for ministerial students attending Free Methodist colleges.

1. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference in preparatory membership.

Have had one year (30 semester credits) or more of approved college work including two or more credits in Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine (see Par. 320, Sec. 1).

2. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference as a full member and ordination as a traveling deacon.

Completion of two years (60 semester credits) or more in a college approved for the education of Free Methodist ministers shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for admission to full membership in a Free Methodist annual conference and ordination as deacon, provided: the candidate's college transcript shows a distribution of religion credits equal to at least the following: Bible Studies—5 credits, Theology—3 credits, Church History—2 credits, Pastoral Theology and Practical Studies (including Free Methodist Polity)—5 credits.

3. Educational requirements for ordination as a traveling elder.

Graduation (at least 120 semester credits) from a four-year college approved for the education of Free Methodist ministers shall satisfy in full the educational requirements for ordination as elder, provided: the candidate's college transcript shows a distribution of religion credits equal at least to the following: Bible Studies—10 credits, Theology and Church History—10 credits (with no less than 3 credits in either), Pastoral Theology and Practical Studies—10 credits (must include Free Methodist Polity and may include Homiletics, Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Audio-Visual Aids, Church Administration, Rural Sociology, Adolescent Psychology, and the like).

4. Exceptional college cases.

If a candidate while pursuing his college course as indicated in sections 1, 2, and 3 above finds he is unable to obtain required religion courses, he may make up the deficiency through correspondence study under the Division of Ministerial Guidance.

¶ 171. Correspondence Study Program

The Free Methodist Church believes any program designed for the education of ministers should include broad foundation studies as well as the more specialized religion studies. The correspondence courses set up by the Division of Ministerial Guidance must of necessity be confined almost entirely to the study of the Bible and related subjects. This means the ministerial candidate must go elsewhere for the basic liberal arts studies. The proper place for this is in college. This explains why the church requires in the correspondence study program that the student must have at least one year of college credits beyond high school. It accounts also for the requirement that most of these credits be in liberal arts.

1. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference in preparatory membership:

- a. Graduation from high school or its academic equivalent.
- b. Completion in college or by correspondence of the two specific courses (or their equivalent) known as

Introduction to Free Methodism, 2 credits, and Introduction to Christian Doctrine, 2 credits.

2. Educational requirements for admission to an annual conference in full membership and ordination as a deacon:

a. 30 semester credits of college work, or its equivalent. Transcript must show 26 of the 30 credits as liberal arts, including in every case at least 6 credits in English Composition.

b. In addition to the foregoing requirements the following courses by correspondence (or in college) in order to meet the educational requirements for admission to conference in full membership and be ordained deacon: Bible Studies—6 credits, Theology—3 credits, Church History—3 credits, Homiletics—3 credits, and Christian Education—3 credits.

3. Educational requirements for ordination as an elder:

In addition to the specifications in Sections 1 and 2 above, a deacon must have completed the following studies by correspondence (or in college) in order to meet the educational requirements for ordination as elder: Philosophy—3 credits, Ethics—2 credits, Bible Studies—6 credits, Theology II—3 credits, Church History II—3 credits, Pastoral Care—2 credits, Church Administration—2 credits, Church Membership Training—2 credits.

¶ 172. Special Provision for Attaining Full Membership in Conference with Terminal Ordination as Deacon

The Free Methodist Church recognizes that God may call men late in life or that some men are slow in responding to God's call for preparation and service. Such individuals would be further limited and their ministry lost to a large extent if the church held rigidly to formal educational standards for conference membership. To prevent this, provision is made whereby such individuals, by a modest though well designed correspondence study program, may reach full conference membership and ordination as a deacon.

1. Qualifications for a candidate who is looking toward this special ordination as deacon to become a member of the conference in preparatory membership:

a. High school graduate or its equivalent.

b. At least thirty-three years of age.

- c. A successful supply pastor in the conference for at least three successive years.
- d. Recommendation for this special consideration by two-thirds of the conference board of ministerial education and guidance.
- e. Completion in college or by correspondence of the two specific courses (or their equivalent) known as Introduction to Free Methodism, 2 credits; and Introduction to Christian Doctrine, 2 credits.

2. Educational requirements in this special program for admission to a conference in full membership, and ordination as a deacon can be met by correspondence or in college.

It is required that such candidate will complete the following specific credits in religion studies:

The Acts	2 credits
The Psalms	2 credits
Doctrine of Holiness	3 credits
Theology I	3 credits
Theology II	3 credits
Church History I	3 credits
Homiletics	3 credits
Christian Education	3 credits
Church Membership Training	2 credits
<hr/>	
Total	24 credits

¶ 173. 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. Two years of pastoral experience are 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 their 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 preachers in an approved Free Methodist school shall be equivalent to one year of itinerant service as required for ordination as deacon or as elder under the following conditions:

- a. The candidate must have been received as a preparatory member 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 education and guidance.
- 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 Division of Ministerial Guidance 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.

F. COURSE OF STUDY FOR LAY MINISTERS, EVANGELISTS, AND DEACONESSES

¶ 174. 1. Preliminary Course

Beginning with the conference year 1965-66 the completion of a preliminary course is required of candidates for a lay minister's license. The subjects in this preliminary course are part of the regular Leadership and Service Training studies. These should be pursued in a class or, when necessary, individually. In any event, it means in each case the reading of the text and supplementary study to the extent of ten clock hours and, if done by individual study, the preparation of a 200-word resume concerning the course. The candidate then reports to the local leadership and service training promoter, turning in the written report and signing a completion card. When the three specified studies are completed, the promoter will certify the same to the pastor who will report it to the official board prior to the consideration of the candidate for recommendation for a lay minister's license. There is no provision for substituting other courses for those named below. If any of the required courses have been taken in previous years and can be attested by the promoter, they, of course, may be counted.

2. The Preliminary Subjects

221. Matthew

Text: The Bible. Also, *Leader's Guide* ABS No. 21, by Earle

303. The Meaning of Church Membership

Text: *The Mature Church Member*, by Bastian

321. What We Believe

Text: *Basic Beliefs*, by Demaray

¶ 175. Renewal of Lay Minister's License

1. The same plan is to be followed in qualifying for each annual renewal of a lay minister's license of those who have served less than eight years as a lay minister. Three additional specified Leadership and Service Training studies must be completed for each such renewal. If, at the close of a year, a lay minister has not properly completed all three of the required courses, the consideration of recommendation for renewal of the license is to be postponed until all three

are completed. Here again, it is expected the local promoter of leadership and service training will keep the record.

2. The specified courses for the first seven renewals are listed below. After that, the license may be renewed without any further required studies.

a. First Renewal

122. Living the Spirit-filled Life

Text: *Holiness, the Finished Foundation*, by Bishop Taylor

201. Genesis-A

Text: The Bible. Also, *Leader's Guide ABS No. 1*, by Livingston

601. How to Improve the Sunday School

Text: *Here's the Answer*, by Nelson

b. Second Renewal

202. Genesis-B

Text: The Bible. Also, *Leader's Guide ABS No. 2*, by Livingston

402. Visitation Evangelism

Text: *The Pull of the People*, by Barnette

641. Why FMY?

Text: *Design for Diligent Witness*, by FMY staff

c. Third Renewal

101. Place and Power of Prayer

Text: *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, by Murray

332. Methodism's Conquering Witness

Text: *From Age to Age a Living Witness* (Chapters 1-7), by Bishop Marston

543. Using Free Methodist Sunday School Literature Effectively

Text: *Let's Teach*, by Joy, et al

d. Fourth Renewal

161. Christian Stewardship

Text: *Saved to Serve: Accent on Stewardship*, by Howell

222. Mark

Text: The Bible. Also, *Leader's Guide ABS No. 22*, by VanValin

333. Crisis in American Methodism

Text: *From Age to Age a Living Witness* (Chapters 8-15), by Bishop Marston

e. Fifth Renewal

302. The Meaning of Church Membership

Text: *Advancing in Church Membership*, by Watson and Howell

526. Understanding Adults

Text: *Understanding Ourselves as Adults*, by Maves

651. CYC Leadership

Text: Director's Packet. Also, *Ideas Unlimited*, by CYC staff

f. Sixth Renewal

203. Exodus-Numbers

Text: The Bible. Also, *Leader's Guide ABS No. 3*, by Walters

406. Evangelism for the Local Church

Text: *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, by Coleman

451. Free Methodist Missions

Text: *Venture!*, by Lamson

g. Seventh Renewal

170. Living the Christian Life

Text: *Living in Two Worlds*, by Tenney

551. Teaching Adults

Text: *Teaching Adults*, by Snyder

662. Music in Christian Education

Text: *Better Music in the Church*, by Moerner

¶ 176. Any candidate for a lay minister's license or for renewal thereof may satisfy the requirements of Paragraphs 174 and 175 for any year by successfully completing a college, seminary, or Bible college course offering at least three (3) hours academic credit, provided such course is approved by the Division of Ministerial Guidance.

¶ 177. For lay ministers who wish to become ordained local deacons.

The Course of Study for lay ministers who wish to become ordained local deacons is the same as that required for

a conference minister in preparatory membership to qualify educationally for ordination as a traveling deacon. (See Sec. 2 of Par. 170, 170.1, or 171.)

¶ 178. For local deacons who wish to become ordained local elders.

The Course of Study for local deacons who wish to become ordained local elders is the same as that required for ordained traveling deacons to qualify educationally for ordination as traveling elders. (See Sec. 3 of Par. 170, 170.1, or 171.)

G. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS

¶ 179. 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 13

THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

A. General Provisions

¶ 180. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Evangelistic Outreach.

1. The Commission on Evangelistic Outreach shall consist of the number of persons as directed by the Board of Administration and two members elected by the Light and Life Men, International. The acts of this commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

2. The Commission on Evangelistic Outreach shall have as its objectives:

- a. 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 the Board of Administration.
- b. The evangelization of the world through the ministry of broadcasting or other media of mass communication.

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 out its responsibility successfully.

4. The commission shall have authority, within the guidelines of the United World Mission for Christ, to raise funds, employ evangelists, hire field representatives, appoint superintendents and pastors in church extension areas as authorized by the General Conference or the 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 under the direction of a general director of evangelistic outreach, through the following departments: Evangelism, Church Extension, and Broadcasting.

6. The general director of evangelistic outreach, working

Par. 181 COMMISSION ON EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

together with the chairman of the commission, shall have general supervision of the entire evangelistic outreach ministries, subject to the direction and approval of the commission.

He shall travel at large throughout the church, inspire the spirit of aggressive evangelism, plan for and supervise the extension of the work of the commission into new and old fields, discover and use available evangelistic talent in our schools, conferences, Free Methodist Youth, Light and Life Men, International, and elsewhere, promote in cooperation with conference evangelistic boards and superintendents an aggressive general program, and raise money for evangelistic outreach under the guidelines established by the United World Mission for Christ.

He shall be responsible for the development and management of general church broadcasting and other media of mass communication. He may provide training for pastors and others who participate in broadcasting, subject to the direction and approval of the commission.

7. There shall be four Area Advisory Councils which shall consist of representatives, one to be appointed from each conference board of evangelism, which shall convene in area meetings in the interim between General Conferences with the director of evangelistic outreach, to review, advise, and assist in the evangelistic outreach program of the general church.

B. The Department of Evangelism

¶181. 1. The Department of Evangelism shall work in conjunction with the annual conference evangelistic boards in holding evangelistic conventions, employing evangelists, and organizing evangelistic campaigns. It shall attempt to coordinate and promote evangelism church-wide. It shall publish literature to aid churches and conferences in all areas of evangelism.

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

3. The department shall supervise the work of the evangelists. It shall aid the Association of Free Methodist Evangelists in organizing conventions. It shall publish literature

and disseminate information to elevate evangelistic standards and increase the effectiveness of the evangelist.

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

5. In order to conserve members of the church and to extend Free Methodism in areas in which no Free Methodist church has been established, the department shall supervise a service to the church known as "Church Member Relocation Service." This area of the department shall establish contact with each church in order to maintain a file of Free Methodists who are relocating.

C. The Department of Church Extension

¶ 182. 1. 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 their churches through aggressive evangelism and extension services.

3. Churches may receive financial aid from the Department of 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 Department of Church Extension become extinct and the buildings be sold, the conference agrees to use the amount of original grant for a new church project.

5. The Department of Church Extension includes the Division of Church Architecture. This provides church building services, including architecture, that will enable our societies to erect functional buildings in harmony with disciplinary standards.

D. The Department of Broadcasting

¶ 183. 1. The Department of Broadcasting shall produce a denominational broadcast, raise funds as approved by the United World Mission for Christ, and develop other media of mass communication in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. This department shall be responsible for denominational gospel broadcasting throughout the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America and all parts

of the world, in cooperation with other general conferences.

3. The department shall attempt to coordinate its ministries with all other departments of our denomination in order to strengthen the same.

E. Church Extension Areas

¶ 184. 1. It shall be the responsibility of the Departments of Evangelism and Church Extension to: evangelize church extension areas; aid and give guidance in the work of the area; organize societies and establish churches in accordance with the DISCIPLINE; assist in organizing and supervising their building projects.

2. Development and Administration

a. Church extension areas may be formed by the Commission on Evangelistic Outreach upon:

- (1) Assignment by the Board of Administration (outside the bounds of organized conferences).
- (2) Request by the conference, approved by the commission, for the establishment of church extension areas or districts within the bounds of the applying conference. Church extension areas may be formed within the bounds of Canadian conferences in the manner described, and elsewhere in the Dominion, when approved by the Canadian Executive Board.

b. Reception of members and organization of societies shall be as prescribed in the DISCIPLINE. Church extension societies shall have the same rights and privileges as those of any other society.

c. Superintendents (or pastors) of church extension areas shall be appointed by the stationing committee of the conference, in consultation with the general director of evangelistic outreach. The superintendent shall be given guidance in his work by the general director and shall make an annual progress report to the bishop of his area and to the commission through the general director.

d. Pastoral appointments to church extension societies shall be made by the stationing committee of the conference upon recommendation of the general director of evangelistic outreach.

- e. Appointments of church extension districts assigned by the Board of Administration and unaffiliated with any conference shall be made by the bishop of the area in consultation with the general director of evangelistic outreach. The superintendent shall be given guidance in his work by the general director and shall give an annual progress report to the bishop of his area and the commission through the general director.
- f. Church extension districts within the continental United States shall be assigned to conferences by the Board of Administration. The commission in consultation with the districts and conferences involved may recommend these assignments.
- g. Overseas church extension districts may be assigned to the commission by the Board of Administration.
- h. The Central Free Methodist Church and Central Free Methodist School at Shreveport, Louisiana, shall be administered by the Commission on Evangelistic Outreach.

F. Church Extension Loan Fund

¶ 185. 1. The Departments of 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 Departments of Evangelism and Church Extension. Loans shall be investigated and approved by representatives of the departments.

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

4. Moneys 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 promissory 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. All moneys shall be paid through his office, and he shall keep records and papers of same.

7. This shall be a nonprofit organization. All moneys 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.

G. Racial Minorities

¶ 186. 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 Department of Evangelistic Outreach.

2. This ministry shall be expanded within the framework of the Departments of Evangelism and Church Extension, using all our present programs and continuing to search for new ways to minister to all people.

3. The organization of local churches, districts, and conferences shall be carried on in the same manner as that of church extension areas.

H. Finance

¶ 187. 1. The Department of Evangelistic Outreach shall receive its financial support from, or as approved by, the United World Mission for Christ.

2. It shall assist the United World Mission for Christ in raising funds through approved methods.

I. Light and Life Men, International

¶ 188. The Light and Life Men, International of the Free Methodist Church is recognized as an auxiliary of the Board of Evangelistic Outreach, operating through the Commission on Evangelistic Outreach, and is governed by its own constitution and bylaws.

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 Bylaws and shall have the powers as set forth in their Constitution and Bylaws 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 cooperate with the General Conference in raising in the Canadian conferences the assigned annual minimum share of the United World Mission for Christ budget. All other funds raised 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 the assigned share of the United World Mission for Christ budget as provided in Section 3. All general funds so held, except those which may be directly related to any of the cooperating conferences and those which any Canadian conference wishes to use in taking advantage of the provisions of Paragraph 134, shall be administered by the Canadian Executive Board.

5. The Canadian Executive Board relinquishes all claims to the funds raised in the United States for conference claimants.

6. The Free Methodist Church in the United States shall make payment to all claimants who are 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 Paragraph 100.)

¶ 240. Annual Conferences. There shall be the following annual conferences: Alberta, California, Centenary, Central Illinois, Columbia River, East Michigan, East Ontario, Florida, Genesee, Georgia-Carolina, Illinois-Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky-Tennessee, Louisiana, Maryland-Virginia, Minn-I-Kota, Nebraska-Wyoming, New York, North Michigan, Ohio, Oil City, Oklahoma, Oregon, Ozark, Pacific Coast Japanese, Pacific Northwest, Pittsburgh, Rocky Mountain, Saskatchewan, Southern California-Arizona, Southern Michigan, Susquehanna, Texas, Wabash, West Ontario; the following overseas conferences: Burundi, Dominican, India, Mexican, Mozambique and Transvaal, Natal-Cape, Nikkei, Pacific Coast Latin American, Paulista, Philippine, Rhodesia, Rwanda, Taiwan; and the following overseas provisional conferences: Congo, Hong Kong-Macau, Paraguay, Transvaal-Orange Free State; and others as they shall be duly organized.

¶ 241. Annual Conference Membership. Each annual conference shall be composed of all the traveling, supernumerary, and retired preachers who have been received into full membership within its bounds, lay delegates elected by the several pastoral charges, as provided in Paragraph 75, Section C, and women evangelists as provided in Paragraph 360, Section 6. A delegate is not a member of the annual conference until he is present with his credentials and has been seated. Preparatory conference members are without vote.

¶ 242. Annual Conference, Place and Time. Each annual conference shall appoint the place and, with the concurrence of the bishop, 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 superintendent(s) and the secretary of the last conference. The Friday preceding each annual conference should be observed by our people as a day of fasting and prayer.

¶ 243. Annual Conference, Officers. 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:

- a. To record in a suitable book the proceedings of the conference, excluding anything not actually conference business.
- b. To keep, in a book to be preserved with the journal, the original or so-called rough minutes as approved by the conference.
- c. 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.
- d. To be custodian of the conference records and journal.
- e. 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.
- f. To send the conference records to the General Conference.
- g. To report annually to the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance following the annual conference session the names of ministers whose ordination parchments are no longer valid, whether by issuance of certificates of transfer to other denominations, uniting with other denominations without our papers, withdrawal, expulsion, or death, and listing the reason for such invalidation.

3. It shall elect a treasurer who shall be bonded. In case of a vacancy the superintendent(s) of the conference may appoint a treasurer to act until the next conference session.

He shall remit monthly 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 to each annual session.

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

- a. Setting a date when each pastor shall preach on this subject and informing him of it.
- b. Arranging for the distribution of literature by the pastors on their charges.
- c. Providing cards to be used by each pastor to secure pledgers to the tithing system. The pastor shall tabulate results and forward them to the stewardship secretary to be used as a part of his annual report.
- d. Making such other provisions as he may judge best to create interest.
- e. Making a report at the close of each conference year to the general director of stewardship and to the annual conference.

6. The annual conference shall elect a World Missions Board to cooperate with the General Missionary Board in presenting the interests and support of home and overseas missionary work. The Woman's Missionary Society, the Light and Life Men, International, and the Free Methodist Youth shall elect representatives to the board. In addition, the conference may elect an equal number of ministers and laymen on rotating tenures.

7. The annual conference shall require of its members a financial report of their receipts from the field. This report shall be published in the *Yearbook*.

¶ 244. Annual Conference, Order of Business. 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. Who are to be admitted as conference preparatory members?

4. Who remain in conference preparatory membership?
5. Who are to be admitted into full membership?
6. Who are the deacons?
7. Who are to be elected and ordained elders this year?
8. Who are the missionaries with honorary membership?
(See Par. 149.5.)
9. Who has located this year?
10. Who are the supernumerary preachers?
11. Who are the retired preachers?
12. Who has 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.)
13. Who has withdrawn from the conference this year?
14. Who has been given a certificate of good standing with a view to transfer to another conference?
15. Has any been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints?
16. Has any been expelled?
17. Has the conference board of ministerial education and guidance given due consideration to the character of and performance of each ministerial member of the annual conference? (See Pars. 301-306, 310-311, and 345, Sec. 24. Let the president call attention to these portions of the DISCIPLINE.)
18. Who has died this year?
19. What is the number of church members? (Gain or loss as reported in the statistical forms refers to total membership.)
20. What is the number of ministers in preparatory membership and in full membership in this conference?
21. Has the conference raised or exceeded its assigned share of the United World Mission for Christ budget?
22. Have all the churches raised their assigned shares of the conference budget?
23. 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 the library?

24. What has been expended during the year in the societies for Sunday schools? What has been raised in the Sunday schools for foreign missions and other benevolences?

25. How many copies of *The Free Methodist* are taken?

26. What amounts are recommended for the retired preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers?

27. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

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

¶ 245. Annual Conference, Voting. The ministerial and lay members composing the annual conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; but at the call of one-fourth of all the members present and voting, the house shall divide and the ministers and lay members vote separately; and it shall require a majority of both branches to constitute a vote of the conference. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the annual conference sessions.

¶ 246. Annual Conference, Administrative Committee.

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 between annual conferences to care for routine business and items specifically delegated to it by the conference within the limits of the DISCIPLINE.

¶ 247. Board of Christian Education. The educational work of the conference shall be coordinated by an elected board of Christian education which shall include: the conference Sunday school director, the Free Methodist Youth director, the Christian Youth Crusader director, the director of service training, and the conference representative of the area college, as ex officio members, and not less than two ministers and two laymen elected on rotating tenures, and a superintendent elected by the conference.

This board shall establish policies and coordinate the work of Christian education through the Sunday School, the Christian Youth Crusaders, Free Methodist Youth, Service Training, and the conference representative of the area college in the conference.

The board may divide itself into five or more committees

each dealing with one of the areas of its responsibilities.

The board of Christian education shall present to the annual conference nominating committee nominations for conference Sunday school director, the Christian Youth Crusader director, the Free Methodist Youth director (see Par. 610, Article V, Sec. B, 1), the service training director, and the conference liaison representative of the area college to be elected by the annual conference.

It shall be the duty of each local Sunday school to forward the tithe of all money raised for Sunday-school expenses to the treasurer of the conference board of Christian education, who, in turn, shall remit to the general church treasurer for general Sunday-school promotion 3 percent of all money raised in the conference for Sunday-school purposes.

The balance of the tithe received from the local Sunday schools shall be used for conference Sunday-school promotion and related activities of the board.

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

The conference director of service training shall work under the direction of a conference board of Christian education, which will appropriate annually from its funds a suitable amount for the promotion of Service Training courses within the conference.

¶ 248. Board of Claimants. 1. 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.

2. It shall be the duty of this annual conference board of claimants:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

- c. 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.
- d. 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.

¶ 249. Board of Evangelism. 1. 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, crusade teams, and helpers to labor within the conference, who, with the concurrence of the superintendent(s), shall be authorized to establish new societies, provided it make provision and be responsible for the support of all the laborers it employs.

2. Each annual conference shall elect a member of the Free Methodist Youth and a member of the Light and Life Men, International to the conference board of evangelism. The Free Methodist Youth and the Light and Life Men, International may nominate.

¶ 250. Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance.

1. Each annual conference shall have a standing board of ministerial education and guidance, the personnel of which shall 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 laymen and ministers.

2. This board shall assist in recruiting personnel and shall be invested with the responsibility of carefully screening 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.

3. It shall be the duty of this board through the year to serve as a planning committee, and as a counseling body for the superintendent(s).

4. A superintendent or a board of ministerial education and guidance, planning to recommend that a minister should not receive a pastoral appointment the ensuing year, shall so notify that minister at least sixty (60) days prior to the session of the annual conference. However, final decision in the case shall rest with the stationing committee, according to Paragraph 257, Section 2.

5. A conference board of ministerial education and guidance may grant a certificate of standing with view to transfer to another conference during the interim between annual or district conference sessions.

6. An annual conference which is not organized into districts may license local preachers, workers, deaconesses, and evangelists, and pass the character of local deacons and local elders upon the recommendation of the board of ministerial education and guidance, and in such conferences this board may give a certificate of standing with view to transfer during the interim between the annual conference sessions. Examination of all persons holding licenses in such conferences shall be the responsibility of the board of ministerial education and guidance.

7. This board shall give consideration to the character of and performance of duty by each ministerial member of the conference in light of Paragraph 244, Section 17, and shall present to the annual conference a statement as to the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministerial members of the conference.

¶ 251. Conference Year. The conference year of each annual conference shall close automatically with the adjournment of that conference. The fiscal and statistical year for

the local churches, conferences, and the general church shall coincide with the calendar year.

¶ 252. Evangelists. Members of an annual conference may be appointed evangelists. They shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of those appointed to pastoral charges, and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, so far as they apply to their circumstances. They shall be subject to the restrictions of Paragraph 360, Section 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.

¶ 253. Free Methodist Youth Director. Each annual conference shall elect a conference Free Methodist Youth director. The conference Free Methodist Youth may nominate.

¶ 254. Limitation of Powers. 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.

¶ 255. Ministerial Relations Committee. 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 whether 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.

¶ 256. New Societies on Conference Boundary. A new society, organized near the boundary line between the 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.

¶ 257. Stationing Committee. 1. The district superintendents and an equal number of lay members of the conference (one from the district of each superintendent) to be elected by ballot the last day of the session shall, together with the area bishop or his appointee, constitute a stationing committee of which the area bishop or his appointee shall be chairman and have a vote. When an annual conference has but one superintendent, it may, if it so desires, increase the number of members on the stationing committee by electing an addition elder and an additional layman. During the interim between annual conferences, in the absence of the bishop, a member of the stationing committee may be designated chairman. If, for any reason, a member is unable to serve during the conference session, the conference may elect an elder or a layman to serve in his place. No person who is recommended to the annual conference to be received as a conference preparatory member, nor a supply, though acting as a delegate, shall be eligible to serve on the stationing committee. The committee shall serve until the close of the following annual conference.

2. It shall be the duty of the stationing committee to assist during the year in the manning of the work and to appoint the preachers to their several fields of labor each year. Opportunity shall be provided for each pastor to express himself concerning his appointment. The committee shall give consideration to the vote on the pastor's return. Pastoral appointments shall be considered long-term appointments, and any proposed changes shall be discussed with both pastor and delegate.

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

4. Any minister who refuses to serve a pastoral charge

when appointed by his conference shall not be appointed to any work by another conference or superintendent without the consent of the superintendent of the pastoral charge which he refused to serve.

¶258. Stationing Committee Appointments. 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.

¶259. Stationing Committee Appointments. 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 active 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 the 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.

¶260. Stationing Committee Appointments. 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 in preparatory membership and in good standing in the annual conference is discontinued from the traveling connection by his conference, he shall sustain the relation of lay minister until the ensuing session of his district conference. (See also Par. 250, Sec. 6.)

¶261. Superintendency. 1. 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 may 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.

2. If two or more contiguous conferences so desire they may request that they be under common direction of an area superintendent. The superintendent shall be elected by the conferences in question from two or more names presented in nomination by the Board of Bishops. Each conference may also elect an elder to serve as a stationed assistant to the area superintendent.

¶ 262. Woman Deacon. An ordained woman deacon in an annual conference who marries a preacher who is also a member of an annual conference becomes an ordained local deacon.

CHAPTER 16

THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

¶ 265. 1. The district conference shall be composed of the traveling preachers, the members of the official boards of the district, president of the district Woman's Missionary Society, district Christian Youth Crusaders' and Light and Life Men's promoters, district Free Methodist Youth director, 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. His 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.

2. The district conference shall hold as many sessions each year as it shall deem necessary, preferably in connection with a general district meeting. However, 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. (See Par. 340, Sec. 5.) 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. The Friday preceding each district conference shall be observed by our people as a day of fasting and prayer.

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:

- a. Hear complaints.
- b. Try appeals.
- c. Grant and renew licenses to preach. (See Pars. 266, 350-353.)
- d. Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference for admission as preparatory members.
- e. Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference to receive deaconesses' licenses.
- f. Recommend suitable lay ministers to the annual conference to receive ordination as local deacons and elders.
- g. Elect a district director of Free Methodist Youth. The district Free Methodist Youth may nominate.
- h. In cooperation 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 meetings for as many years as may seem advisable and engage workers for the same.

¶ 266. The district conference shall take cognizance of all the lay ministers in the district licensed by the district conference in harmony with Paragraph 350, and shall inquire into the gifts, labors, and usefulness of each by name. Only those who continue to show evidence of a call to preach, and are pursuing, or have completed the course of study, should have their licenses renewed.

Order of Business for District Conference

¶ 267. 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. Reports of committees.
11. Is there unfinished business?
12. Is there new business?
13. Are there complaints?
14. Are there appeals?
15. Shall we hold camp meetings this year? If so, how many? When? Where?
16. Are there recommendations for lay minister's license? For evangelist's license?
17. Reports from preachers on condition of their churches, Sunday schools, instruction in Christian living and church membership (see Par. 345, Sec. 24), the number of subscribers to *The Free Methodist*, and the use of Free Methodist Sunday-school literature, with statements that the permanent records of their societies are up to date.
18. Reports of evangelists and deaconesses.
19. Report of district director of the Free Methodist Youth.
(Questions 20 to 28, last session of year only.)
20. Are there 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 lay minister's license and a district evangelist's license.) Lay ministers? Evangelists? Are there any deaconesses to be recommended to the annual conference for renewal of licenses or for permanent licenses?
21. Are there suitable persons to be recommended to the annual conference for reception as preparatory members?
22. Are there women evangelists to be recommended for seats in the annual conference?
23. Are there evangelists to be recommended for annual conference licenses?

24. Are there women to be recommended to the annual conference for deaconesses' licenses?

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 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.

¶ 268. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the sessions of the district conference.

CHAPTER 17

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

¶ 270. 1. An official meeting, composed of the pastors, lay ministers, pastoral apprentices, evangelists, deaconesses, stewards, class leaders, the Sunday school superintendent of each school, director(s) of the local Free Methodist Youth, director of the local Christian Youth Crusaders, local director of service training, president of the local Woman's Missionary Society, president of the local Light and Life Men, International, chairman or president of the local Light and Life Christian School board, chairman of the local board of Christian education, treasurer of the society, financial secretary, and trustees of the local church property shall, whenever practicable, be held on each pastoral charge 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 pastoral charge. The president of Free Methodist Youth shall be an honorary member.

2. The preacher in charge shall be chairman of the official meeting, except as provided for in Paragraph 340, Section 3, and in his absence a chairman shall be elected.

3. The official board shall elect a secretary and a treasurer. When there is but one society on a pastoral charge, the treasurer of the society shall be the treasurer of the official board. The secretary shall keep, in a suitable book provided for that purpose, faithful minutes of the proceedings of the official board and of the annual meetings, and shall record all marriages and baptisms. The treasurer shall keep a record of all money raised on the pastoral charge and of the manner in which it is expended, and give a full report of it at the annual 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 pastoral charge.

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 pastoral charge.

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 Paragraph 345, Section 8.

8. The official board shall provide a board of Christian education consisting of the pastor, director of Christian education, the Sunday-school superintendent, the Free Methodist Youth director, the Christian Youth Crusader director, the director of service training, the local representative of the area college, and other members deemed necessary by the official board. The president of Free Methodist Youth shall be an honorary member.

The board of Christian education shall report to the regular meeting of the official board.

9. There may be a pastor's cabinet which shall be elected by the official board to assist the pastor in the administration of the worship, finance, education, outreach, and fellowship areas of the church program.

The members of the cabinet shall be the pastor, as chairman, a delegate to the annual conference, and one representative for each of the above stated areas. The official board may choose additional representatives but the total cabinet

membership shall not exceed nine members. A further function of this cabinet is to aid the pastor in making his ministry most effective by being available for counsel, keeping him advised concerning conditions within the congregation as they affect the relations between pastor and people, and keeping the people informed concerning the nature and function of the pastoral office. When the pastor is to be absent, the cabinet shall cooperate with him to secure suitable supply ministers for preaching and other pastoral service during his absence, unless otherwise provided for by the official board.

10. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the sessions of the official board.

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. Selection of an auditor.

7. Election of a committee on social ministry.

8. Inquire:

a. Are there any sick?

b. What is the status of membership?

(1) Have any been received as junior members?

(2) Have any been received as preparatory members?

(3) Are converts and junior and preparatory members receiving instruction in Christian living and church membership according to Paragraph 345, Section 24?

(4) Are there any junior or preparatory members whose terms of training have expired?

(5) Have any been received into full membership?

(6) Have any been received into associate membership? (See Par. 90.1.)

(7) Have any died?

(8) Have any been otherwise removed?

- c. Are there any violating our rules of church membership who will not be reproved?
- d. Are there any recommendations from the society for pastoral apprentices' licenses? (No person should be licensed to be a pastoral apprentice without a recommendation from the society of which he is a member.)
- e. Are there any pastoral apprentices' licenses to be renewed?
- f. Are there any pastoral apprentices to be recommended for lay minister's license? Are there any lay ministers to be recommended for renewal of licenses? Are there any district evangelists to be recommended for renewal of licenses? Only those who continue to evidence a call to preach and are working on, or have completed, their course of study should be recommended to have their licenses renewed.
- g. Have any been married or baptized?
- h. Report of the board of Christian education.
- i. Treasurer's report:
 - (1) Amount raised as ordered by the conference.
 - (2) Amount raised for pastoral support.
 - (3) Amount raised for United World Mission for Christ.
 - (4) Report of other money received and disbursed.
 - (5) Balance in the treasury.
- j. Are there any claims to be presented?
- k. Is there any unfinished business, or are there any committees to report?
- l. Is there any new business, or are there any committees to be appointed?
- m. Reports of department heads:
 - (1) Report of the president of the WMS.
 - (2) Report of the president of the Light and Life Men, International.
 - (3) Report of the board of stewards.
 - (4) Report of the board of trustees.
- n. Are there any vacancies in the board of trustees?
- o. Is the title to the church property secure?
- p. Are the legal documents for this pastoral charge de-

posited for safekeeping; and if so, where? Are the official records of this society being kept, and are the past records in safekeeping?

- q. Is the church property insured?
- r. Are the advices and requirements regarding the cultivation of vocal music found in Paragraph 93 being observed?
- s. Annually at a fall meeting (October, if possible) of the official board, the pastor, with the aid of the local board of Christian education, shall report in writing the following information concerning members of his own congregation, particularly young people who are in college and other educational institutions at home and away from home, and also those in the armed services.

It is expected that these reports shall include names and current addresses of those away in school and elsewhere. This, of course, includes names of schools being attended if of a collegiate nature.

The report is expected to be divided according to answers to the following questions:

- (1) Who are the young people of the local church who are members of the senior class in the local high school?
- (2) Who are the young people who are members of the second year in a local junior college?
- (3) Who are the people, younger or older, of this pastoral charge now away from home in theological seminaries? Give the name of the seminary in each case.
- (4) Who are the individuals now away from home or away from the community who are considered as belonging to this local church enrolled in other colleges, universities, or graduate schools, or schools of nursing? Here again, in each case, the name of the school in which the person is enrolled should be given.
- (5) What individuals from this church are now in the armed services, and what are their present addresses?

- (6) Has the list of the students now enrolled as seniors in the local high school or as second year students in the local junior college been sent to the admission officer of the area Free Methodist college?
 - (7) What is being done by the local church to extend and maintain its ministry to students away from home or away from the church in attendance at college and graduate institutions?
 - (8) What is being done to extend and maintain the church's ministry to those individuals now in the armed services?
- 9. Reading the minutes.
 - 10. Adjournment.

CHAPTER 18

THE SOCIETY MEETING

¶ 280. 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. 86.1.)

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 pastoral charge, the secretary of the official board shall be the secretary of the society.

3. The society meeting shall recommend suitable persons for pastoral apprentices', evangelists', and deaconesses' licenses; elect stewards to the number fixed by the annual 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; elect (the Free Methodist Youth may nominate) the Free Methodist Youth director(s), and elect at least two members to the committee on missions (see Par. 147, Sec. 2).

4. Each society shall elect a director of service training. It shall be the duty of this person to promote the use of Service Training courses in the local church, to report to the general director as courses are completed, and to keep a faithful record of all work completed under the direction of the local church.

The local director of service training shall work under the guidance of the local board of Christian education, which shall be responsible for appropriation of funds for promotion of Service Training courses as they relate to the local church.

5. 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.

6. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the sessions of the society meetings.

Suggested Order of Business

- ¶ 281. 1. Devotions.
2. Roll call.
3. Election of a secretary.
4. Recommendations:
- a. For pastoral apprentice's license (to the official board). No person should be licensed without a recommendation from the society of which he is a member.
 - b. For evangelist's license (to the district conference).
 - c. For deaconess' license (to the district conference).
5. Election of tellers.
6. a. Election of a treasurer.
- b. Selection of an auditor of the accounts of the church treasurer, the Sunday-school treasurer, the Free Methodist Youth treasurer, and all other accounts.
7. Election of Sunday-school superintendent by ballot. The preacher in charge may nominate. (See Par. 600, VIII, 2.)
8. Election of Sunday-school officers and teachers, who with the pastor(s) and the superintendent, constitute the Sunday-school cabinet. Election of a Sunday-school nominating committee by ballot. (See Par. 600, VIII, 3.)
9. Election of stewards by ballot (the number fixed by the annual meeting).
10. Election of director(s) of Free Methodist Youth.
11. Election of a Christian Youth Crusaders committee and a Christian Youth Crusaders director.
12. Election of a director of service training.
13. Election of trial committee (if necessary).
14. Decision regarding incorporation (if necessary).
15. Annual report of workers.
16. Election of trustees by ballot (if the state law allows). (See Par. 461.)
17. Election of a social action committee.
18. Election of members at large to the committee on missions.
19. Election of class leaders by ballot. Each class may elect its own leader. The preacher in charge may nominate.
20. Miscellaneous business.
21. Approval of minutes.
22. Adjournment.

CHAPTER 19

THE ANNUAL MEETING

- ¶ 290. 1. a. Each society or group of societies under one pastor, commonly known as a pastoral charge, shall have an annual 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.
- b. Where there is but one local church on a pastoral charge, the business designated for this meeting may be conducted at a society meeting called for this purpose and announced and conducted as specified in this paragraph.

2. At this meeting the members in full relation on the pastoral charge who are sixteen years of age and over (see Par. 86.1) shall from their number elect by ballot delegates to the annual conference according to the provisions in Paragraph 75, Section C. No person in preparatory or junior membership or in preparatory membership in an annual conference is eligible to be a delegate. If, however, a delegate is received into the conference as a preparatory member, he does not lose his seat as delegate.

3. The annual meeting shall decide the number of stewards to be elected by each society. Election of trustees shall be as specified in the charter or bylaws 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 an annual meeting whenever in their judgment the interests of the church require it.

6. The pastoral charge or society may vote annually by ballot without debate "Yes" or "No" upon the continuance of the pastor. This vote may be taken during a Sunday wor-

ship hour (preferably Sunday morning) designated by the annual meeting. Such vote shall not be counted, but shall be placed in a plain envelope, sealed in the presence of the society, and immediately forwarded by the secretary of the annual meeting to the district or conference superintendent, who shall inform the stationing committee of the results of this vote. A pastor shall be informed of the results of this vote taken on his pastoral charge if he requests it.

7. The pastoral charge or society may elect by ballot a nominating committee of not less than five persons who shall serve with the pastor to prepare nominations of candidates for election at the annual or society meeting.

8. *Robert's Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the sessions of the annual meeting.

Suggested Order of Business

¶ 291. 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 by ballot.
6. Election of reserve delegates by ballot.
7. Decide the number of stewards for each society on the pastoral charge.
8. Receive the report of the trustees.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Approval of the minutes.
11. 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

A. 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? Are you called to serve in the itinerant ministry or to serve in a local capacity?

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.

B. 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 Timothy 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.

C. 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 medici-

nally 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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 therefore 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, (a) 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. (b) You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too. Only sleep no more than you need; "and never be idle or triflingly employed." But, (c) 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! (a) For our general business, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind. (b) Our special work, Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock. (c) Our doctrine, Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (d) The place, I have taught you publicly, and from house to house. (e) The object and manner of teaching, I ceased not to warn every one night and day, with tears. (f) His innocence and self-denial herein, I have coveted no man's silver or gold. (g) His patience, Neither count I my life dear unto myself.

And among all other motives, let these be ever before our eyes: 1. The church which He hath purchased with His own blood. 2. Grievous wolves shall enter in; yea, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things.

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

¶ 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 gaiety 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.

G. Employment of Time

¶ 316. We advise you to develop and follow as closely as possible a personal schedule which will provide adequate time for prayer, meditation, study, and personal devotion.

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.

H. 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*.

I. 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

A. Reception into Preparatory Membership

¶ 320. 1. Qualifications required of candidates for reception into preparatory membership in an annual conference:

- a. Must be a lay minister or an evangelist in good standing.
- b. Must be recommended by his district conference or conference board of ministerial education and guidance.
- c. Must be recommended by the board of ministerial education and guidance of the receiving conference.
- d. Must have met preliminary educational requirements as follows:

(1) Those pursuing the seminary or college course as listed in Paragraphs 170 and 170.1

(a) Must have had one year (30 semester credits or 45 quarter credits) or more of accredited college work beyond high school.

(b) Must also have completed in college or otherwise the two preliminary courses (or their equivalent) known as Introduction to Free Methodism, two credits, and Introduction to Christian Doctrine, two credits.

(c) Must file with the director of the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance a transcript of college credits earned and also a Personal Data Sheet properly completed.

(2) Those planning to pursue the correspondence study program as described in Paragraph 171 must complete the following to qualify for admission to a conference on probation:

(a) Graduation from high school or its academic equivalent.

(b) The two specific courses (or their equivalent) known as Introduction to Free Meth-

odism, two credits, and Introduction to Christian Doctrine, two credits.

- (3) Those who seek admission to a conference in later years (see Par. 172).
 - (a) Must be a high school graduate or equivalent.
 - (b) Must be at least thirty-three years of age.
 - (c) Must have been a successful supply pastor in the conference for at least three successive years.
 - (d) Must have the recommendation for this special consideration by two-thirds of both the conference board of ministerial education and guidance and of the stationing committee. (It is expected the candidate will file with the director of the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance a Personal Data Sheet properly filled out and also evidence of a high school education or its equivalent.)

The educational 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 and the conference board of ministerial education and guidance.

2. Women may be received into conference preparatory membership 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 in preparatory or full relationship shall be eligible to be received into the conference. Upon being received as a conference preparatory member a woman automatically loses the seat in conference she may have had under Paragraph 360, Section 6.

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 in prepara-

tory or full relationship 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 husband still living when the question of admission comes before the conference.

4. A preacher who is a preparatory member in an annual conference is no longer a member of a society to be reported with the lay ministers whose licenses are renewed by a district 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 conference preparatory member shall be allowed a maximum of four years to complete the course of study required for admission into the conference in full membership (see Chap. 12). Should he fail to complete the course of study in that time, his status as a preparatory member may be continued only upon recommendation of the conference board of ministerial education and guidance.

B. 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 subsequent to his reception as a conference preparatory member and after satisfactorily completing the required course of study (Pars. 170-172, Sec. 2 of each) and giving satisfactory answers to the following questions:

- a. Have you faith in Christ?
- b. Have you present assurance of sins forgiven?
- c. Do you believe that the purity of life and empowerment for service, inaugurated at Pentecost, is a privilege and responsibility to be experienced by every Christian? (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38, 39, 47; John 17:17-20; Ephesians 5:18.)
- d. Have you, since your conversion to Christ, received and do you now possess that cleansing of heart and empowerment for service which accompany the fullness of the Holy Spirit; or, if not, will you make this your purpose?

- e. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and His work?
 - f. Do you know the general rules? Do you keep them?
 - g. Do you regularly attend the sacrament?
 - h. Have you read our DISCIPLINE?
 - i. Are you willing to conform to it?
 - j. Have you considered the rules for a preacher?
 - k. Will you keep them for conscience' sake?
 - l. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
 - m. Will you endeavor not to speak too long or too loud?
 - n. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
 - o. Will you visit from house to house?
 - p. Will you recommend fasting, or abstinence, both by precept and example?
2. For restrictions upon the admission of divorced persons, see Section 3 of the preceding paragraph.

C. 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, upon satisfactory completion of the Course on Introduction to Free Methodism, 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.

D. 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. A duplicate copy of the parchment for ministers received after June 20, 1969, shall be

remitted by the president of the conference for retention and permanent filing by the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance.

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. If he does not deposit his parchments with the secretary of the annual conference from which he has withdrawn, his parchments shall be declared null and void by action of the annual conference.

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

4. In the event of the loss of ordination parchments, a certified duplicate copy shall be made available through the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance according to procedures established by the department.

E. 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 Paragraphs 259-260.
3. Location under Paragraph 262 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. 244, Sec. 13).

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.

F. Transfer of Membership

¶325. 1. To transfer to another annual conference a minister must have a certificate of standing from the district conference, the conference board of ministerial education and guidance, or the annual conference. This certificate is valid until the ensuing annual conference to which the certificate is given.

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.

4. A minister who is serving a conference and who plans employment elsewhere the succeeding year shall notify his superintendent prior to the sixty-day period immediately preceding the session of the annual conference, or, failing to give such notice prior to the specified date, shall apply to the conference board of ministerial education and guidance for permission to withdraw from the service of the conference at the close of the current conference year.

CHAPTER 22

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 as a conference preparatory member and who has satisfactorily completed the course of study (see Pars. 170-172, Sec. 2 of each) 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. In special cases, by direct appointment of his superintendent, he may be permitted to administer the Lord's Supper.

¶ 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 Pars. 170-171, Sec. 3 of each) 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 Paragraph 173, 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 district 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 for the years of the interim between General Conferences 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 organize with a chairman and a secretary.
- b. To meet at least four times a year.
- c. To exchange experiences and to counsel and formulate plans for the work of the church.
- d. To group the conferences including the full conferences of mission origin, into 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.
- e. 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 area for the years of the interim between General Conferences.
- f. To nominate an executive secretary of the Board of Bishops.

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

1. To visit each conference in their respective 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. To form, and be chairmen of, area cabinets which shall meet annually. 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 area 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 area 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.

In the case of a conference of less than 400 members, or of a conference with membership falling below 10 preachers in full membership and/or 400 full members, or any other conference showing continuous loss, the area cabinet shall have authority to initiate and recommend corrective measures to the general Board of Administration and those conferences affected.

3. To travel throughout the church at large. 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 pastoral charge 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 the district conference, the conference board of ministerial education and guidance, or the annual conference.

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

9. a. To assist the area fellowships in the development of

national leadership and in achieving the level indicated in the disciplinary standards for new general conferences.

- b. To form new conferences in the interim between 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.
- c. Nothing in (b) preceding shall prevent the organization of conferences of mission origin out of provisional conferences, the areas of which may extend over the boundaries of other conferences, when such other conferences have approved and all other requirements for full conference status have been met.

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.

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.

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.

12. To ordain ministers who qualify according to the Book OF DISCIPLINE. A parchment of ordination shall be presented to each minister ordained, and a duplicate copy of each ordination parchment shall be remitted to the Department of Ministerial Education and Guidance. The authority to ordain rests only with a bishop or his deputy.

¶ 332. The bishops shall be amenable to the General Conference for the discharge of their official duties. They shall give a state of the work report annually to the Board of Administration. They shall be responsible to the annual conference to which they belong for their Christian conduct.

¶ 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 immediately preceding 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 pension on retirement based upon his years of service as a bishop, up to a maximum of twelve years of such service.

The pension for a bishop with less than twelve years of service as a bishop shall be one-twelfth of the twelve-year maximum pension for each year of service. For example, a bishop with six years of service as a bishop would receive one-half of the maximum pension for bishops. The maximum pension shall be as follows:

Bishop and wife—26 percent of the current salary for bishops;

Bishop, a widower—24 percent of the current salary for bishops.

Bishop's widow—19 percent of the current salary for bishops.

A bishop need not be in office when he retires, to be eligible for these retirement benefits.

This retirement benefit shall be paid through the Board of Bishops budget. The church's pension plan shall be a part of the funding of these pension provisions. When the church's pension plan provides an amount equal to the above it will become the retirement pension provision for bishops.

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 churches within his district; to take charge of pastoral charges 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 each church as he deems is in the best interests of the work. He may hold an official board, a society, or an annual meeting in connection with the visits.

4. To visit a pastoral charge 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 an annual meeting and preside over it. The pastoral charge sending for him shall pay his traveling expenses.

5. To convene and preside over district meetings or area conventions, workshops, and rallies in cooperation with the interests and needs of the varied organizations of the conference as is deemed necessary and advisable by the conference board of administration.

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(s) in the interim between the annual conferences in cooperation with the stationing committee, provided that he shall not change a preacher contrary to his wishes unless by request of two-thirds of the members of the pastoral charge, and that a preacher shall not be appointed thereto without the consent of the official board. 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 pastoral charge 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 pastoral charges at once, but he may unite an unsupplied one 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 cooperate 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. 261, Sec. 1.)

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. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the district superintendent or conference superintendent 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, or the reserve delegates of the time and place of such a sitting at least ten (10) days prior to the sitting, for the purpose of filling the vacancy and for any other items of business.

4. 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 conference on the district which he serves; should he be appointed to two or more districts, the stationing committee shall fix his district conference relation.

¶ 343. The superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is elected, each pastoral charge contributing its proportion as agreed upon by the annual or the district conference. A stationed superintendent shall be supported by the pastoral charge 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 pastoral appointment 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 on his pastoral charge 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 lay ministers properly distinguished, and deliver it to the annual conference, that their number may be printed in the *Yearbook*.

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

- a. A complete and up-to-date account of all baptisms, weddings, and funerals;
- b. 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 society, with the permanent record book and a list of the subscribers to our periodicals.

11. To give an account of his pastoral charge at every session of the district conference, with the statement that the detailed records 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 preparatory members on his pastoral charge, 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; to see that all the collections ordered by the conference are raised in full.

15. To warn all from time to time that none are to remove from one society 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 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 society 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 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 moves from his community to the pastor

or superintendent of the Free Methodist Church in the district or conference to which such person moves. (See Par. 181, Sec. 5.)

22. To execute all the rules fully and strenuously against frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies, secret societies, labor and capitalistic organizations contravening Paragraphs 83 and 84.1, and to suffer none to remain in our church who are found guilty thereof.

23. Preachers in charge of societies 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; to inform junior and preparatory members of the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of membership, using particularly *First Studies in Christian Teachings*, the DISCIPLINE, the history of the Free Methodist Church, and such other materials as the church provides; and to form 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 cabinet 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 lay ministers will have regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

27. To perform the following duties on special occasions:

- a. To promote Free Methodist missions through a yearly program of missionary emphasis (see Par. 147).
- b. To observe Christian Education Day.
- c. To hold a Children's Day service the second Sunday in June. See Sunday-school constitution.
- d. To preach a sermon on practical charity (Par. 135, Sec. 6).
- e. To read Wesley's sermon on evil speaking (Par. 315, Sec. 2).

- f. To read the General Rules once a year in every society (Par. 345, Sec. 17, above).
- g. To see that a fast is held in every society on Friday preceding every district meeting.
- h. 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 society. Engage as many lay ministers and pastoral apprentices as will supply them and pay them for their time in proportion to the allowances of the traveling preachers. If lay ministers and pastoral apprentices 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. 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 Claimants' Fund. His district conference relation shall be determined by the stationing committee. (See Pars. 349 and 260.)

¶ 348. A minister may be retired because of failing health, or upon reaching age sixty-five (65); otherwise he shall be retired at the time of the annual conference following his seventieth (70th) birthday. 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 interim of conferences, 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.

PART V
LAY MINISTERS AND
LAY HELPERS

CHAPTERS

- 27. LAY MINISTERS**
- 28. EVANGELISTS**
- 29. PASTORAL APPRENTICES**
- 30. DEACONESSES**
- 31. CRUSADE TEAMS**
- 32. CLASS LEADERS**
- 33. STEWARDS**

CHAPTER 27

LAY MINISTERS

¶ 350. 1. The following conditions must be met before a person may be licensed as a lay minister:

- a. He must have been previously licensed as a pastoral apprentice and recommended by his official board to be a lay minister.
- b. He must be examined and approved by the district conference or the district or conference superintendent in regard to his doctrinal soundness.
- c. He must show evidence of real piety, ministerial talents, and usefulness.
- d. He must give satisfactory answers to all the questions in Paragraph 300, "Examination of those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach," stating whether his call is to the itinerant ministry or to serve in a local capacity. (See Par. 174, Sec. 1 and 2 for required preliminary studies.)

2. It is the duty of the pastor to use his lay minister(s) in preaching and performing regularly such other specific ministerial functions as the pastor and the official board shall outline. A record of the lay minister's service shall be maintained to assist the conference superintendent and the board of ministerial education and guidance in identifying and selecting those best qualified to become conference ministers.

3. To have his license renewed, a lay minister 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 lay minister. (See Par. 175 for studies required each year for license renewal.)

4. A district conference may revoke a lay minister's license for violation of the conditions of it.

5. The examination of lay ministers may be oral.

¶ 351. A lay minister shall be eligible to the office of local deacon after he has preached four years from the time he received a license, has obtained a recommendation from the

district conference (see Par. 250, Sec. 6 and Par. 265), certifying his Christian character and his usefulness as a preacher, and has met the educational requirements prescribed in Paragraph 177. 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 (see Par. 250, Sec. 6 and Par. 265) of which he is a member, certifying his qualifications in doctrine, discipline, talents, and usefulness, and has met the educational requirements prescribed in Paragraph 178.

¶ 353. Every local elder, local deacon, or lay minister 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 lay minister, 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 lay ministers regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

¶ 355. When a lay minister 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 societies 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.

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 Paragraph 300, entitled "Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach," and who has completed the required preliminary studies (see Par. 174, Sec. 1 and 2), be licensed by the district conference (see Par. 250, Sec. 6 and Par. 265). To have his license renewed, a person licensed as an evangelist by his district conference must have a new recommendation from his official board, and have made satisfactory report to his district conference on his spiritual life and activities as an evangelist.

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

4. General evangelists are amenable to the annual conferences to which they belong.

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

6. A woman evangelist who has been licensed by the annual conference and has served the two successive years preceding under conference appointment as pastor, may, upon recommendation of her district conference and upon the approval of the annual conference, have a voice and a vote

in the annual conference session, and be counted with the preachers in the transaction of conference business. This relation may be renewed annually only so long as she receives appointment as pastor and is not married to a member of an annual conference.

7. Sections 5 and 6 above may apply to men evangelists in conferences of mission origin.

CHAPTER 29

PASTORAL APPRENTICES

¶ 361. 1. A pastoral apprentice is a layman, recommended by the society of which he is a member and licensed by the official board (in most cases as a first step toward becoming a minister), to assist the pastor in ways the pastor and the official board shall determine. Typical of the services to be rendered by a pastoral apprentice are the following:

- a. Assist the pastor in the calling ministry.
- b. Assist in conducting public worship services.
- c. Assist in planning for, organizing, and conducting Christian Witness Crusades or similar personal witnessing programs.
- d. Assist in promoting the spiritual interests of the society by exhortation, example, and precept.

2. Before being licensed, the pastoral apprentice should have been a member of the church long enough to have demonstrated that he is a steadfast and consistent Christian, that he has the qualities essential to serve in such a capacity, that his spirituality, his conduct, and his attitudes are such as to commend him to people generally. As an apprentice, he should be easily amenable to instruction, supervision, and related disciplines, so that he may grow in grace, in knowledge, and in usefulness to the church.

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 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 (see Par. 250, Sec. 6 and Par. 265).

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 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.

CHAPTER 31

CRUSADE TEAMS

¶ 370. 1. District or conference superintendents, evangelists appointed by the general or annual conferences or licensed by annual conferences, general church executives, and pastors may organize teams of young people for evangelistic or charitable work.

2. The rules and regulations of crusade teams shall be subject to the approval of the conferences involved.

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 societies.

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 society 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 meeting. Where there is but one society they may be elected by the annual 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 attend the meetings in their society conducted by the conference or district superintendent.

4. To attend committees for the application of money to churches.

5. To give counsel in matters of arbitration.

6. To provide elements for the Lord's Supper.

7. To write circular letters to the societies on the pastoral charge to be more liberal if need be, also to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of the temporal concerns of the charge at the last business meeting of the society preceding the annual conference.

8. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the electing body.

PART VI
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTERS

34. CHURCH TRIALS

35. INSOLVENCIES AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

CHAPTER 34

CHURCH TRIALS

A. 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.”

B. 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.

C. 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 Paragraph 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 Paragraph 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.

D. 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.

E. 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 in preparatory membership, 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.

F. Proceedings Against a Preacher in Conference Preparatory Membership

¶ 416. A preacher in preparatory membership 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 lay minister. After confession of flagrant sin, however, he can be allowed by the annual conference to withdraw from the church under complaint. If a preacher in conference preparatory membership is discontinued for cause and has his membership fixed in a society 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.

G. The Trial of a Lay Minister

¶ 417. An accused lay minister 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 lay minister 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 lay minister or evangelist feeling aggrieved at the decision of his case, shall be allowed an appeal to the ensuing session of the annual conference.

H. The Trial of an Accused Lay Member

I. GROUND OF COMPLAINT—DISCIPLINARY LABOR—PENALTIES

¶ 421. 1. When it becomes necessary to admonish a member who is in 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, the offending member shall be subjected 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.

2. The person in neglect of duties or violation of membership covenant shall be cited to the official board according

to Paragraph 271, Section 8c, and a committee to admonish such person shall be appointed by the official board.

3. 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 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.

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.

4. 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.

II. 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, and notification of time and place of the trial at least fourteen days prior to 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.

III. 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 in preparatory or 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.

IV. 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.

V. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

¶428. 1. A person placed on probation in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 421, Section 3, 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 Paragraph 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.

I. 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.

J. 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 society 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 society shall call the debtor before a committee of at least three, to show 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*

A. Support of Bishops

¶ 450. The salaries of our bishops shall be raised by the United World Mission for Christ.

B. Support of District Superintendents

¶ 451. The superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is appointed, as provided for in Paragraph 343, each society contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the annual or district conference. A stationed district superintendent shall be supported by the society or pastoral 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.

C. Support of Preachers in Charge

¶ 452. 1. It shall be the duty of the finance committee recommended in Paragraph 270, Section 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 cooperate 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.

* For the support of retired ministers, see Plan for Conference Claimants, Paragraphs 122-128 and Pension Plan, Paragraphs 129-131; and for bishops, Paragraph 334.

D. 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 Department of Evangelistic Outreach and by collection on their fields of labor.

CHAPTER 37

CHURCH PROPERTY

A. 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, except that in the case of an incorporated conference, the maximum number of trustees shall be in accordance with the applicable state law, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws under which the respective board operates, with the limitation that in no case shall the total of elected and ex officio members exceed fifteen.

¶ 461. 1. Boards of trustees shall be elected by their respective bodies: conference trustees by the annual conference, district trustees by the district conference, pastoral charge trustees by the annual meeting, and local trustees by the society.

2. Trustees of property of an extinct, unincorporated society embraced within a pastoral charge shall be elected by the annual meeting.

3. In the event that membership of a society (not a part of a pastoral charge) declines below a minimum of four adult full members, the annual conference may authorize the district or conference board of trustees to supervise the property.

4. 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 Paragraph 466, Section 1; 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.

B. Incorporation and Deeds

¶ 465. Before an annual conference, district conference, a pastoral charge, 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 insofar 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. 1. 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."

2. All property, whether real, personal, or mixed, acquired

by any local society, pastoral charge, district conference, annual conference, or other body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be held subject to the foregoing trust as set forth in Paragraph 466, Section 1, whether appearing in the evidence of title, or whether left out of such evidence of title, by mistake, inadvertance, willfully, or otherwise; and can only be released pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 467 of the 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. In the case of annual conference property, the authority so given may either be limited to specific property or may be a general authorization pertaining to any or all of its property.

¶ 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, or convey the same to the conference in its corporate name or to the conference board of trustees. 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.

C. 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 church building and locations committee 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 and Parsonage 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, which shall remain in the Susquehanna Conference.

2. Susquehanna (1862). 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, but not including the villages situated immediately upon that portion of the Delaware and Hudson railroad. From Oneonta, north on Route 28 to Poland, but excluding the city of Herkimer; thence on Route 8 to Route 9, then along this highway to Route 73, and then due east on this route to Lake Champlain; from this point north on the New York state line to the Canadian border.

3. Southern Michigan (1865). The Southern Michigan 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.

4. Kansas (1871). The Kansas Conference shall embrace all the state of Kansas.

5. 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, Centenary, and Susquehanna Conferences, and the state of New Jersey.

6. Iowa (1875). The Iowa Conference shall embrace all of the state of Iowa except Davenport south of a line beginning at Clayton on the Mississippi River running straight west to the Big Sioux River and Dakota County, Nebraska.

7. North Michigan (1876). The North Michigan Conference 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.

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

9. Central Illinois (1879). The Central Illinois Conference shall include that portion of the state of Illinois not included in the Illinois-Wisconsin 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.

10. Texas (1881). The Texas Conference shall include all of the state of Texas.

11. 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 boundary 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Louisiana (1884). The Louisiana Conference shall include the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

15. Oregon (1885). The Oregon Conference shall include all of the state of Oregon not in the Columbia River Conference, and Clark County, Washington.

16. Wabash (1885). The Wabash Conference shall include all of the state of Indiana; Jefferson County, Kentucky; and that part of the state 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.

17. Rocky Mountain (1886). The Rocky Mountain Conference (formerly Colorado) shall embrace the state of Colorado, the state of Utah, and the state of New Mexico.

18. Nebraska-Wyoming (1890). The Nebraska-Wyoming Conference shall include the state of Nebraska, except Dakota County; all of 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.

19. Southern California-Arizona (1891). The Southern California-Arizona Conference shall embrace all of the state of California not embraced in the California Conference, and the states of Arizona and Hawaii.

20. 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.

21. Pacific Northwest (1896). The Pacific Northwest 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 and including the Yukon territory.

22. 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.

23. East Ontario (1896). The East Ontario Conference shall include all of the province of Ontario east of the eastern boundary of the West Ontario Conference, including also all of the province of Quebec.

24. Kentucky-Tennessee (1896). The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference shall include the states of Kentucky, except Jefferson County, and Tennessee.

25. 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.

26. Oklahoma (1899). The Oklahoma Conference shall include all of Oklahoma.

27. Georgia-Carolina (1913).* The Georgia-Carolina Conference shall include the states of Georgia and North and South Carolina.

28. Florida (1913).* The Florida Conference shall include the state of Florida.

29. Saskatchewan (1914). The Saskatchewan Conference shall include the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

30. Alberta (1914). The Alberta Conference shall include the province of Alberta and all that portion of the province of British Columbia not in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

31. Maryland-Virginia (1939). The Maryland-Virginia Conference shall include all of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

32. Centenary (1960). The Centenary Conference shall embrace that part of the state of New York east of the Susquehanna Conference and north of a line beginning at Oneonta, and thence due east to the state line of Massachusetts. This conference shall also include the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

33. Pacific Coast Japanese (1963). The Pacific Coast Japanese Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work among the Japanese people in the United States.

* Organized as the Georgia and Florida Conference in 1913 but divided as above by the act of the General Conference of 1951.

34. Minn-I-Kota (1965). Northern Iowa-Minnesota (1872); Dakota (1883); North Minnesota (1887). The Minn-I-Kota Conference shall include all of the state of Minnesota and that portion of Iowa not included in the Iowa Conference; the state of North Dakota; that part of the state of Montana lying east of the 110th meridian; and all of the state of South Dakota except that portion included in the Nebraska-Wyoming Conference.

35. Illinois-Wisconsin (1966). Illinois (1860); Wisconsin (1875). The Illinois-Wisconsin 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 the state of Wisconsin. It shall also include Davenport, Iowa.

36. Ozark (1966). Ozark (1895) formerly Arkansas and Southern Missouri; Missouri (1883). The Ozark Conference shall embrace the state of Arkansas and all of the state of Missouri except the city of St. Louis.

Overseas Conferences

37. Dominican (1951). The Dominican Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of the Dominican Republic.

38. India (1961). The India Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of India.

39. Burundi (1961). The Burundi Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of Burundi.

40. Taiwan (1963). The Taiwan Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work on the island of Taiwan.

41. Philippine (1963). The Philippine Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the Philippine Islands.

42. Mexican (1964). The Mexican Conference of the Free Methodist Church shall embrace all Free Methodist work in Mexico and the Mexican work in Arizona not including Baja California.

43. Mozambique and Transvaal (1964). The Mozambique and Transvaal Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of Mozambique, and the province of Transvaal in South Africa.

44. Natal-Cape (1964), formerly South Africa (1907). The Natal-Cape Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in Natal and Cape Provinces of South Africa.

45. Rhodesia (1964). The Rhodesia Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of Rhodesia.

46. Rwanda (1965). The Rwanda Free Methodist Conference shall embrace all Free Methodist work in the country of Rwanda.

47. Pacific Coast Latin American (1965). The Pacific Coast Latin American Conference shall embrace all of the work of the Free Methodist Church among the people of Mexican descent in California, U.S.A., and in Lower California, Mexico.

48. Nikkei (1966). The Nikkei Conference shall embrace all of the work of the Free Methodist Church among the Japanese people in Brazil.

49. Paulista (1966). The Paulista Conference shall embrace all of the work of the Free Methodist Church among the Brazilian people in Brazil.

¶ 471. Any question of boundaries that may arise in the interim between General Conferences shall be referred to the Administrative Commission.

PART IX
THE RITUAL

CHAPTERS

- 39. BAPTISM**
- 40. THE LORD'S SUPPER**
- 41. SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY**
- 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.

A. 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:]

Question: 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?

Answer: I do.

Question: Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in his behalf, renounce the devil and all his work, 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?

Answer: I do.

Question: Dost thou believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do.

Question: 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?

Answer: I will.

[Then the minister shall take the child into his hands and say to the 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.]

B. Of Children Under Twelve

¶ 481.5. In lieu of the questions to parents or guardians in Paragraph 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.

C. 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 reaffirm their baptismal vows according to Paragraph 87 of the DISCIPLINE.

D. 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:]

Question: 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?

Answer: I renounce them all.

Question: 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?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer: This is my desire.

Question: Wilt thou obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer: 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

HOLY COMMUNION: THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The use of individual communion cups is recommended, wherever practicable.)

A. 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.

B. Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper

*THE INVITATION

¶ 484. You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with your neighbors, and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and, humbly kneeling, make your honest confession to Almighty God.

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

[The elder may pray:]

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your holiness, and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake

of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life, and to honor and praise Your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then may the elder say, "Let us continue our confession as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught His disciples."]

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

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.

[The elder may continue the prayer.]

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then may the elder say, "Let us pray for inner cleansing."]

*THE COLLECT (To be prayed in unison)

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 YOU, AND WORTHILY MAGNIFY YOUR HOLY NAME, THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

THE SANCTUS

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You, and saying

(In unison)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS!
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.
GLORY BE TO YOU, O LORD, MOST HIGH. AMEN.

[Then may be sung or recited]

THE GLORIA PATRI

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER
AND TO THE SON
AND TO THE HOLY GHOST;
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,
IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE,
WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN. AMEN.

[Then may the elder pray:]

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You, O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy, and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore, God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness, and, being washed and cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He in us. Amen.

*THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world, we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this wine, as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood;

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,

[Here the elder may take the bread in 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.

In like manner, after supper He took the cup,

[Here the elder may lay his hands upon the vessels which contain the wine.]

and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink of this, all of you, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

[Then may the minister first receive the communion, both the bread and the wine, and then give of the same to other ministers who may be present to assist him in the service. After that the elder shall give to the people the communion, both the bread and the wine. When he delivers the bread, he may say:]

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with thanksgiving.

[When the minister serves the wine he may say:]

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

[If the consecrated bread or wine shall be used up before all have been served, the elder should 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 the consecrated elements which remain, covering the same with a white linen cloth. The elder may then offer extemporary prayer, or speak briefly of the significance of the service, and conclude with a blessing.]

THE BENEDICTION

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

* These sections may be used when an abbreviated service is desired.

CHAPTER 41

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

[At the time set, the persons to be married shall stand together facing the minister, the woman on the man's left, and the minister shall say, slowly and distinctly:]

¶ 485. Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and the presence of these witnesses to join together _____ and _____ in holy matrimony. Marriage is an honorable estate, instituted by God in the time of Creation for the blessing of mankind, protected by the laws of Moses, affirmed by the words of the prophets, and hallowed by the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Marriage is a union close and abiding in which a man and a woman forsake all others to become "one flesh," as the Scriptures say. This abiding union has been used by the apostles to illustrate the holy relationship between Christ and His church. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into lightly by any, but reverently, soberly, and in the fear of God.

[Addressing the persons to be married, the minister shall say:]

_____ and _____, I charge you both as you stand in the presence of God to remember that love and fidelity alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. Let Christ, who was faithful unto death, even death on the cross, be your example. Let the Apostle Paul be your instructor, who wrote: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." If you hold closely to each other and follow the commandments of God in your marriage, God's blessing will be upon you, and your home will be established in peace.

[Then the minister shall say to the man, using his Christian name:]

_____, will you have this woman, _____, to be your

wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you 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 the minister shall say to the woman, using her Christian name:]

——, will you have this man, ——, to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you 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 say:]

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

[The father of the woman, or whoever gives her in marriage, shall answer:]

I do.

[Then the minister—receiving the hand of the woman from her father or other sponsor—shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and say after him:]

I, ——, take you, ——, to be my wedded wife; to have and to hold, from this day forward, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death us do part, and thereto I pledge you my faith.

[Then shall they loose their hands, and the woman, with her right hand, shall take the man by his right hand, and shall likewise say after the minister:]

I, ——, take you, ——, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death us do part, and thereto I pledge you my faith.

[Then shall they again loose hands. If rings are to be used, the groomsmen may give to the minister a ring, which the minister in turn will give to the groom who will put it upon the third finger of the woman's left hand. The groom, holding the ring there, shall say after the minister:]

This ring I give you in token and pledge of the vows we now make, and with it I promise you my constant devotion and abiding love.

[In case of a double ring ceremony, the minister shall receive the other ring from the bridesmaid and shall deliver it to the woman to put upon the third finger of the man's left hand. The woman, holding the ring there, shall say after the minister:]

This ring I give you in token and pledge of the vows we now make, and with it I promise you my constant devotion and abiding love.

[Then the minister shall say:]

Let us pray.

[The couple may kneel or stand during the prayers.]

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life: send Your blessing upon this man and this woman (or Christian names may be used), whom we bless in Your name; that they, living faithfully together, may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Your laws through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[The minister may pray then an extemporaneous prayer, or one written specially for the couple.]

[Then a soloist may sing "The Lord's Prayer," or another prayer song. If another song is chosen the Lord's Prayer may be used by the minister as the final prayer and the couple shall rise then from their knees and remain standing before the minister. If so desired, the couple may remain on their knees during the pronouncement of marriage by the pastor and the benediction which follows.]

[Then the minister shall say:]

Forasmuch as ——— and ——— have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands (and by giving and receiving a ring); therefore, by the authority granted to me as a minister of Jesus 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 has joined together, let not man put asunder. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His

face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. 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 Timothy 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

A. 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 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, 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?

Answer: 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?

Answer: I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

President: Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrines and sacraments and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?

Answer: I will do so by the help of the Lord.

President: 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?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

President: 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?

Answer: I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

President: 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?

Answer: I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

President: 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?

Answer: 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.

B. 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

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—I 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?

Answer: I trust so.

President: Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do believe them.

President: Will you diligently read or expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

Answer: I will.

President: 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?

Answer: I will do so by the help of God.

President: 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?

Answer: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

President: Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

Answer: 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. Contribution 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
APPENDIX

CHAPTERS

- 45. INCORPORATION**
- 46. SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION**
- 47. FREE METHODIST YOUTH CONSTITUTION**
- 48. CHRISTIAN YOUTH CRUSADERS CONSTITUTION**
- 49. LOCAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
- 50. FORMS**

CHAPTER 45

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

* 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.

other property as may be necessary for the purposes of this corporation; to receive donations, to receive, manage, take and hold real and personal property by gift, grant, devise, or bequest, and to sell or dispose of the same, and to do each and every thing necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes herein enumerated, or which shall at any time appear conducive or expedient for the protection or benefit of this corporation.

To take and hold by donation, gift, grant, devise or otherwise any property, real, personal, or mixed, in any state in the United States, or any other country in behalf of and for the benefit of The Free Methodist Church of North America, or any of its subsidiary interests, and the same to manage, grant and convey, lease or otherwise dispose of, and to execute such trust or trusts as may be confided to said corporation, the whole to be under the supervision of and amenable to the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America.

To carry on a general publishing and printing business including that of stationers, printers, lithographers, stereotypers, electrotypes, 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

* 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 bylaws 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 bylaw 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

BYLAWS 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 mem-

ber 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 bylaws, 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: The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be determined by the Board of Directors and the date to be fixed by them in connection with the annual meeting of the corporation.

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 corporation; to purchase, lease, and otherwise acquire property, real and personal, on behalf of the corporation; and generally to do and perform, or cause to be done and performed, any and every act which the corporation may lawfully do and perform.

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 bylaws. 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 bylaws, 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 bylaws of this corporation.

ARTICLE X

Section 1: The bylaws 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.

CHAPTER 46

¶ 600. The constitution of the Division of Sunday Schools

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Division of Sunday Schools of the Department of Christian Education, Free Methodist Church of North America. It shall be organized in general, conference, and local bodies, and shall be amenable to the Board of Education 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 Convention

1. There shall be a meeting of the convention held during the General Christian Education Convention at the time and site of the General Conference. Membership of the convention shall be composed of one delegate each from the annual conferences.

2. Sunday school area representatives on the General Christian Education Council shall serve as co-chairmen; a secretary shall be elected from the delegated body.

ARTICLE V

General Administration

1. The general oversight and promotion of the Sunday-school interests of the denomination shall be the responsibility of the Department of Christian Education through its Division of Sunday Schools.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the Division of Sunday Schools to promote the use of the Sunday-school materials of the Free Methodist Publishing House.

ARTICLE VI

General Representation

1. Promotional guidance and constituent representation shall be given by members of a General Christian Education Council, at least four of whom shall represent the interests of Sunday schools and shall also represent the four geographical areas of the denomination in North America.

2. Vacancies occurring within the Sunday-school representation on the General Christian Education Council shall be filled by the Commission on Christian Education upon nominations submitted by the Department of Christian Education.

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 247 of the DISCIPLINE. The treasurer of the board of Christian education shall be treasurer of the Sunday-school funds.

(Upon recommendation of a conference board of Christian education, the annual conference treasurer may be elected to serve as treasurer of Sunday-school funds.)

2. The duties of the conference board of Christian education as related to the Sunday-school work shall be to:

- a. Supervise the Sunday-school work of the conference in harmony with the direction and advice of the Department of Christian Education through the Division of Sunday Schools.
- 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 General Convention.

3. The conference Sunday-school director 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 Cabinet

- a. A local cabinet shall be composed of the pastor and

all the regularly elected officers and teachers of the Sunday school.

- b. The officers of the cabinet 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 cabinet 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 cabinet.
- d. The cabinet 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 semiannual meeting, as the cabinet may decide.

The following order of business is suggested:

- (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 the general superintendent
- (7) Report of department superintendents
- (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? (It shall be the duty of the cabinet to promote the use of Free Methodist curriculum materials in every Sunday-school class.)

(c) Are the teachers and officers supplied with *Current*?

(d) Has the tithe been sent to the treasurer of the conference Sunday school board, according to Article X, Section 1, of this constitution?

(12) New business and appointment of committees

(13) Reading of the minutes

(14) Adjournment

2. The Sunday-school superintendent may be nominated by the nominating committee of the society. The pastor may submit a nomination. The superintendent shall be elected by ballot, and wherever possible should be a member of the Free Methodist Church. (See Par. 270, Sec. 1 for his relationship to the official board.)

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.

d. Officers and teachers shall hold office until their successors are elected. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the board of Christian education.

4. In organizing new schools, the pastor or pastors in charge and the Sunday-school superintendents shall nominate the officers and teachers, and the board of Christian education shall appoint.

5. Planned workers' conferences shall be held during the year.

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 101, Section 2 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 to forward each quarter the tithe of all money raised for Sunday-school purposes to the treasurer of the conference board of Chris-

tian education (or where so designated, the annual conference treasurer).

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 3 percent 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 and related activities of the conference board of Christian education.

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 Christian Education based upon Sunday-school curriculum sales within the denomination.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

This constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the General Convention, subject to the approval of the General Conference.

CHAPTER 47

¶ 610. Constitution of Free Methodist Youth

FMY CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Preamble

To promote the spiritual welfare of youth connected with the Free Methodist Church, to provide Christ-honoring activities, and to help them in their contribution to the church, their community, and the world, there shall be an organization known as Free Methodist Youth, a member of the Department of Christian Education, of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To seek and maintain among its members the highest level of Christian experience through salvation and filling of the Holy Spirit.
2. To inspire, enlist, and train members to win lost youth to Jesus Christ.
3. To guide youth that they may more effectively fulfill the will of Christ for their lives.
4. To bring youth into full membership in the Free Methodist Church.
5. To study the needs of mankind and become intelligent supporters of the United World Mission for Christ.

ARTICLE III

The Local FMY

Section A: Membership

1. Active members shall be youth of good moral character who desire to unite for worship, instruction, service, and

fellowship under the direction of the Free Methodist Youth organization.

2. Active members shall be youth in the tenth grade through age twenty-five.*

3. Persons over twenty-five years of age may be honorary members upon payment of honorary dues.

4. Annual membership dues for active and honorary members may be set by the General Christian Education Council.

Section B: Director

1. Each church society shall elect an FMY director who, with the pastor, shall be responsible for the organization and continuation of the local FMY. The FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. The FMY director shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church and twenty-one years of age or over. He shall become a member of the official board and the board of Christian education. He shall report regularly to the board of Christian education or its equivalent.

3. The FMY director shall become certified by the office of Service Training by completing at least one course toward certification per year.

Section C: Officers

1. The officers shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, or secretary/treasurer; and other officers may be added as deemed necessary to carry on the program.

2. The president shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church.

3. The president shall become an honorary member of the official board and the board of Christian education in accordance with Paragraph 270, Section 1.

4. Officers shall be active members of the local FMY.

Section D: Council

1. There shall be an FMY council which shall direct all activities.

* When approved individually by the local board of Christian education, youth in the ninth grade may be active members of FMY.

2. Members of the FMY council shall be the pastor, the FMY director, and the officers.

3. The FMY council is amenable to the local church board of Christian education.

4. The FMY council shall fill all officer-vacancies occurring during the year.

Section E: Committees

1. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the FMY council to present nominees for the annual election of officers. No more than one-half of the committee shall be council members.

2. Other committees deemed necessary to carry on the program may be established.

3. The director is an ex officio member of all committees. The president is an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

Section F: Voting

1. All active members and elected officers may vote.

2. All officers shall be elected annually by ballot.

Section G: Meetings

1. FMY meetings shall be held regularly, weekly if possible.

2. FMY council meetings shall be held regularly, monthly if possible.

3. An annual FMY business session shall be called by the council at least one month prior to the annual FMY conference session, to elect officers, to establish committees, and to carry on other business deemed necessary. All active members may vote.

4. All activities of the FMY shall conform to Christian standards as set forth in Scripture and interpreted in the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church.

Section H: Funds

1. All FMY funds shall be raised in accordance with principles of Christian stewardship.

2. Specific methods for financing FMY projects shall be subject to approval by the local board of Christian education.

3. The FMY shall support the United World Mission for Christ through its local church.

Section I: Annual Conference Delegations

1. The local FMY shall elect, by ballot, active members as delegates to the annual FMY conference. Delegates must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

2. Each local FMY shall have the privilege of sending delegates as follows: 1-25 active FMY members, one delegate; 26-50 active FMY members, two delegates, and so forth as listed in the most recent *Yearbook*.

ARTICLE IV

The District FMY

1. Where deemed advisable, a youth council on the district level may be organized by the FMY conference youth council.

2. District presidents or promoters when elected shall be members of the FMY conference council.

ARTICLE V

The Conference FMY

Section A: Conference Superintendent

1. Where there is one conference superintendent, he shall serve on the conference FMY council and shall be a voting member.

2. Where there is more than one conference (district) superintendent, the annual conference shall elect one to serve on the FMY council. He shall be a voting member. The FMY annual conference may nominate by ballot. Its nomination must be presented to the floor of the annual conference.

3. The superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the FMY conference nominating committee.

Section B: Director

1. Each annual conference shall elect an FMY director

who shall be responsible for the organization and continuation of the conference FMY program. The conference FMY may nominate by ballot. Its nomination must be presented to the board of Christian education and then to the floor of the annual conference.

2. The director shall be a voting member of the FMY council.

3. The director shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

4. The director shall become a member of the conference board of Christian education.

Section C: Officers

1. The officers of the conference FMY council shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and other officers deemed necessary by the annual FMY conference.

2. All officers shall be full members of the Free Methodist Church and shall be active or honorary members of a local FMY within the conference.

3. The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

4. The conference FMY president shall become a member of the conference board of Christian education.

Section D: Council

1. The conference FMY council shall be composed of its regularly elected officers, the FMY director, and one conference (district) superintendent. District presidents, or promoters when elected, shall be members of the FMY conference council.

2. Each conference FMY council shall nominate one of its members and submit the nomination to the annual conference to be considered for membership on the conference evangelistic board.

3. The conference FMY council is amenable to the conference board of Christian education.

4. The youth council shall fill all officer-vacancies that occur during the year.*

* When an officer ceases to reside within the conference his office is declared vacant.

Section E: Committees

1. A nominating committee shall be elected by the annual FMY conference or appointed by the conference FMY council.
2. Not more than one-half of the committee shall be council members.
3. Other committees deemed necessary may be established by the FMY annual conference or the conference FMY council.

Section F: Voting

1. All members of the conference FMY council and the delegates shall compose the voting body of the FMY annual conference.
2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

Section G: Meetings

Meetings of the FMY annual conference shall be held at times and places determined by the FMY annual conference or at the call of the conference FMY council.

Section H: Funds

1. The approved financial interests of the general church and the general FMY shall be promoted by the conference FMY.
2. Funds may be raised for conference projects not included in the United World Mission for Christ.

Section I: Delegated Bodies

1. At the annual conference session one year before General Conference, each FMY annual conference shall elect one delegate and at least one alternate to the General FMY Conference. Conferences with a membership over 500 are entitled to one additional delegate.
2. Delegates to the General FMY Conference shall be active members or conference FMY council officers. They shall be full members of the Free Methodist Church residing within the conference the year prior to the General Conference, and intending to reside there the year following the General Conference.
3. In the event that the elected delegates cannot serve, the conference FMY council may fill the vacancies.

ARTICLE VI

The General FMY Conference

Section A: Membership

1. There shall be a General FMY Conference, composed of conference delegates 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 this shall not obligate the general FMY treasurer to pay traveling expenses.

3. Those provisional conferences which fully participate in the FMY program shall be granted, on the approval of the General Christian Education Council, regular delegates.

4. Full conferences of mission origin under the North American General Conference shall be allowed full delegates to the General FMY Conference. (There will be no financial obligation except that in harmony with the general church delegation.)

Section B: Officers

1. The presiding officers of the General FMY Conference shall be appointed by the General Christian Education Council, from the youth committee of that 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 C: Committees

Committees deemed necessary to carry out the purpose and program of the General FMY Conference may be established by the delegated body, or by the youth committee of the General Christian Education Council.

ARTICLE VII

Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard of parliamentary usage.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

The constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the General FMY Conference, subject to approval of the General Conference.

CHAPTER 48

¶ 620. Constitution of the Christian Youth Crusaders

CYC CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be named "Christian Youth Crusaders." "Crusaders" were originally a part of the crusades of the Middle Ages. Today's "Crusaders" are also to be committed to Christ in obedience and service. "Youth" refers to impressionable early youth. "Christian" indicates one belonging to Christ, who follows His example by increasing "... in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

ARTICLE II

Objectives

1. CYC purposes to lead early youth into a genuine experience of salvation from sin and a knowledge of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
2. CYC seeks to nurture the mental, physical, spiritual, and social development of the early youth involved.
3. CYC affords opportunities for early youth to receive training and experience in winning others to Christ.
4. CYC provides a wholesome outlet for the interests and activities of early youth under the direction of Christian leaders.
5. CYC acquaints early youth with the history, teachings, and ministries of their church.
6. CYC strengthens the Christian commitment of adult leaders through leadership and service opportunities.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1. Members shall be: Crusader Teens, grades seven, eight, and nine; Cadets, grades four, five, and six; and Her-

alds, grades one, two, and three.

2. Early youth in all CYC chapters shall be registered annually with General CYC Headquarters. (Where a local CYC chapter does not exist, individual CYCers may register through their conference CYC director as "CYClones.")

3. Only registered members shall be eligible to receive CYC awards.

ARTICLE IV

Organization and Control

General

1. The program of Christian Youth Crusaders shall be administered and controlled by the Department of Christian Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

2. The General Council of the Department of Christian Education of the Free Methodist Church, with representatives from across the continent of North America and with ex officio members from denominations having significant involvement or interest, shall assist in CYC general policy and promotion.

Conference

1. Each annual conference shall elect a conference director of Christian Youth Crusaders who shall be responsible for year-round administration, coordination, and promotion of CYC. When elected, he becomes a member of the conference board of Christian education. (Where the conference board of Christian education deems it advisable, two conference directors may be elected: a director of the Crusader Teen program and a director of the Cadet-Herald program. When elected, both directors shall become members of the conference board of Christian education.)

2. The conference board of Christian education may appoint a CYC camping director who shall be responsible for the CYC resident and day camping programs. He shall work under the direction of the conference CYC director and with conference camping committees.

3. A Young Teen Quiz promoter may be appointed by the conference CYC director with the approval of the conference

board of Christian education. Each year the Young Teen Quiz promoter shall register all teams with General CYC Headquarters.

4. The conference board of Christian education may appoint promoters to assist the conference CYC director at the zone, area, or district level.

Local

1. Each church shall elect a CYC chapter director who is a member of the denomination. When elected he shall become a member of the official board and the board of Christian education.

2. All activities and programs shall be in accordance with the *CYC Director's Guide* and in harmony with the Scriptures.

3. Where the local board of Christian education deems it advisable, there may be a CYC chapter committee which functions under said board. Members of the committee shall be the CYC chapter director, the Crusader, Cadet, and Herald directors, and others as appointed by the board.

CHAPTER 49

LOCAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

¶ 625. 1. A local board of Christian education shall be composed of the pastor, the director of Christian Education, general Sunday school superintendent, Free Methodist Youth director(s), Christian Youth Crusader director(s), service training director(s), the local representative of the area college; and other members deemed necessary by the official board.

2. The board shall determine its officer structure and elect its own officers at the first meeting of each conference year. The official board may designate the chairman.

3. The duties of the board shall be the governing, policy making, and coordinating of all Christian education ministries in the local church. The board shall also determine curriculum for each department, and review all financial programs. The official board may appoint the board of Christian education to serve as the calendar committee of the church.

4. Suggested order of business:

- a. Devotions
- b. Calling of the roll
- c. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
- d. Report of the treasurer [Has the Sunday-school tithe been sent? See Par. 600, Article VIII, 1-d-(11)-(d).]
- e. Report of director of Christian education or chairman of the board of Christian education
- f. Report of the general Sunday school superintendent
- g. Report of the Free Methodist Youth director
- h. Report of the Christian Youth Crusader director
- i. Report of the service training director
- j. Reports of committees
- k. Unfinished business
- l. New business and appointment of committees
- m. Reading of the minutes
- n. Adjournment

CHAPTER 50

¶ 650. FORMS

1a.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO SELL OR MORTGAGE CHURCH PROPERTY OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Name of: Society _____
Pastoral Charge _____
District _____
Conference _____
Other _____
Date _____

1. Has the body owning the property given authority to
SELL* MORTGAGE* the property? _____

2. In what book of record is the action recorded? _____
_____ page _____ date _____

3. What will be the disposition of the proceeds of SALE*
MORTGAGE*? _____

4. Has the Conference Building and Location Committee ap-
proved your plan? _____

5. Is the title to the property to be SOLD* MORTGAGED*
a warranty deed? _____
If not, what is the character of the title? _____

6. Is the property deeded to the organization in its corpor-
ate name, or to the individual trustees? (see Pars. 465,
466) _____

7. If the organization is incorporated, give corporate name.

8. Does the deed to the property to be mortgaged 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 Par. 466) _____

9. If property is being purchased with proceeds of SALE* MORTGAGE*, will the title thereto include the trust clause referred to in "8" above? _____
10. Is there a reverting clause in the title to the property being MORTGAGED* or PURCHASED*? _____
11. Describe the property to be SOLD* MORTGAGED*:
 Number of lots or acres _____ type of building
 (frame, stone, brick, other) _____
 dimensions of building _____
 condition of building (good, fair, poor) _____
 other comments, if any _____
12. Appraised value of property to be SOLD* MORTGAGED*

 What amount is expected from SALE* MORTGAGE*? _____
13. Give legal description of property to be SOLD* MORTGAGED*, enclosing a copy of the deed or copying therefrom. _____
14. List names and addresses of the trustees, if the property to be SOLD* MORTGAGED* is held in the name of the trustees: _____
15. Signatures approving the SALE* MORTGAGE*:
 Pastor in charge: _____
 Address: _____
 District or Conference
 Superintendent: _____
 Address: _____
 Secretary of
 Official Board: _____
 Address: _____
 Other: _____

Board of Directors

The Free Methodist Church of North America

Free Methodist Headquarters

Winona Lake, Indiana 46590

* Strike out the term that does not apply.

1b.

CONSENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT HAVING JURISDICTION OF
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD UNDER PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 467
OF THE *Discipline*

I, _____, being the superintendent of the territory in which the hereinafter described real property is located, hereby give my consent to the sale of the same for not less than the sum of \$_____, to _____. The hereinbefore described real property as the hereinafter described real property is more particularly described as:
(Here insert description of real property)

Date

Signature of superintendent

2

RECOMMENDATION FOR PASTORAL APPRENTICE'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 PASTORAL APPRENTICE'S LICENSE in the FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

Done at a society meeting held at _____, on the _____ of _____, 19____.

President

Secretary

3

PASTORAL APPRENTICE'S LICENSE

This certifies that _____ is authorized to officiate as a PASTORAL APPRENTICE 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 A PASTORAL APPRENTICE'S LICENSE

The license of _____ as a PASTORAL APPRENTICE 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 _____ society,
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 _____
society, _____ District, hereby recommend
_____ as a suitable person to be licensed
as a **LAY MINISTER** 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

LAY MINISTER'S LICENSE

This certifies that _____ is authorized to officiate

as a LAY MINISTER 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.

By order of _____ Conference.

Done at _____ this _____ day of _____, 19____.

President

Secretary

7

RENEWAL OF LAY MINISTER'S LICENSE*

This certifies that the license of _____ as a LAY MINISTER in the FREE METHODIST CHURCH is hereby renewed for one year, subject to the requirements of the DISCIPLINE.

Done by order of _____ Annual Conference, in session at _____, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

President

Secretary

8

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDERS

This certifies that _____ is hereby recommended by _____ 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 lay minister (or deacon).

Done by order of _____ this _____ day of _____ 19____.

President

Secretary

* The candidate's official board must previously have recommended renewal of his license.

9

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This certifies that _____, a lay minister, and member of the _____ District (or Annual) Conference, is hereby recommended as a suitable person to be admitted as a conference preparatory member in the traveling connection of the FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

Done by order of _____ in session at _____ this _____ day of _____, 19____.

_____ President
_____ Secretary

10

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE—ADMISSION INTO
PREPARATORY MEMBERSHIP—LAY MINISTER

This is to certify that _____, the bearer, a regularly licensed lay minister, has this day been received into the _____ Annual Conference of the FREE METHODIST CHURCH as a traveling preacher in preparatory membership, and that he is hereby authorized to act in that capacity, according to the DISCIPLINE of said church, provided his spirit and practice are such as become the gospel of Christ, and his teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

Done at its annual session, held at _____, the _____ day of _____, 19____.

_____ President
_____ Secretary

11

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE—ADMISSION INTO
PREPARATORY MEMBERSHIP—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 in preparatory membership, 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 _____
on _____, 19____. *President*

President

Secretary

[The following must be filled out by one of the bishops before the above certificate is received.]

I hereby transfer _____ to the _____
Conference. When he shall have been received by vote of
said conference, his relation to the _____ Con-
ference shall cease.

Bishop

Bishop

A certificate granted by an annual or district conference or conference board of ministerial education and guidance is valid until the ensuing annual conference to which the certificate is given.

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 _____ 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 _____ 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 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

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 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 (district or annual) conference,
hereby recommend the restoration of the parchments of
_____, he having been received as a lay
minister on the _____ Society (or admitted as a pre-
paratory member 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 con-
ference having the custody of the forfeited parchments, or to
which the candidate belonged when the parchments were for-
feited.

23

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
UNDER PAR. 81, SEC. 4c

I solemnly declare upon my word as a Christian 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 Paragraph 81, Section 4c.

24

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 _____.

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, regulation 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 bylaw 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)

25

Suggested Form for
BYLAWS
of

(Corporate name of church)

ARTICLE I

SECTION I:

The members of the _____ shall constitute the members of this corporation.

SECTION II:

The annual meeting of this corporation shall be held at any time within three months prior to the convening of the _____ of the Free Methodist
(name of the annual conference)

Church of North America, and may be called by the pastor or the president of said corporation by giving notice as provided in the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

SECTION III:

Special meetings may be called at any time for any purpose or purposes whatsoever by the president of the corporation or the pastor, pursuant to the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

SECTION IV:

Notice of special meeting may be given as provided in the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

SECTION V:

The entry in the minutes of the notice of any annual or special meeting, if read and approved at such meeting or subsequent meeting, shall be conclusive proof on the question of such notice.

SECTION VI:

When all the members are present at any meeting, however called or notified, and signify their consent thereto by the roll call showing their presence, and those not present consent in writing at the time of such meeting or subsequent thereto, and such 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 was called or the place where it was held.

SECTION VII:

At any meeting of the members, those present shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

SECTION VIII:

The pastor of the church, or in his absence his appointee or the president of the corporation shall preside at all meetings.

SECTION IX:

Any regular or called meeting may adjourn from day to day or from time to time, without further notice until its business is completed.

SECTION X:

The DISCIPLINE, rules and regulations of the Free Methodist Church of North America, shall at all times constitute the rules for admission, expulsion, withdrawal, and the disciplining of members of this corporation.

ARTICLE II**Directors or Trustees****SECTION I:**

The secular affairs of this corporation shall be exercised and conducted by a board of directors or trustees as directed by the society of the _____.

SECTION II:

The qualifications of all such directors or trustees shall be as provided in the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America, and the Articles of Incorporation.

SECTION III:

Their term of office shall be for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

SECTION IV:

Any vacancy occurring in the office of director or trustee shall be filled by an election at a meeting of the membership or society, and any director or trustee so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term.

SECTION V:

Immediately after the annual meeting, the board of directors or trustees shall meet and organize by electing a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, or secretary-treasurer.

SECTION VI:

All meetings of the directors or trustees shall be held as directed from time to time or at the call of the president or pastor.

SECTION VII:

The duties of the several officers shall be as provided in the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America, or as prescribed by the society of the _____.

ARTICLE III

Amendments

SECTION I:

The bylaws of this corporation may be amended at any annual meeting of the members by a majority vote of those present except as to Article I, Section X.

Adopted by resolution of the members of the corporation this _____ day of _____, 19____.

26

Suggested Form for

DECLARATION OF TRUST

(Whenever a piece of property does not have the trust clause set forth in its deed, the local society may adopt the following trust clause and have it duly recorded at the county recorder's office, thus conforming to the provisions of Paragraphs 465 and 466 of the DISCIPLINE.)

WHEREAS, the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____, a _____ corporation or society, is the owner of the hereinafter described real property and,

WHEREAS, said Free Methodist Church is a subsidiary of the Free Methodist Church of North America, a California corporation, subject to the Rules, Regulations, and DISCIPLINE thereof, and,

WHEREAS, the DISCIPLINE of said church provides that all real property held by said corporation shall include the following trust clause:

"In trust for the use and benefit of the membership of the Free Methodist Church of North America, incorporated un-

der the name of 'The Free Methodist Church of North America,' subject to the DISCIPLINE, usages and ministerial appointment of said church as from time to time authorized and declared; and, if sold, the proceeds shall be disposed of and used in accordance with the provisions of said DISCIPLINE, and of the civil law; and in further trust and confidence that in the houses of worship now erected or that may hereafter be erected on said premises hereby conveyed, the seats shall be forever free; and in further trust and confidence that the said trustees and their successors in office shall permit at all times the preachers who may be duly authorized according to the DISCIPLINE of the said Free Methodist Church, to hold religious services in said houses of worship according to said DISCIPLINE." And,

WHEREAS, the deed to the hereinafter described real property from _____, as Grantor to _____ Free Methodist Church of _____, a _____ corporation, as Grantee, dated on the _____ day of _____, 19____, and recorded as Document No. _____, Book _____, Page _____, of deeds records of _____ County, State of _____, failed to include the foregoing trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is declared by the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____, _____, a _____ corporation or society, on the _____ day of _____, 19____, that the said corporation or society holds the hereinafter described real property subject to the provisions of said trust.

The hereinbefore described real property as the hereinafter described real property is more particularly described as:

(insert legal description)

Done at a duly and regularly called meeting of the corporation or society on the _____ day of _____, 19____.

We, the undersigned, _____ President, and _____ Secretary of the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____, _____, a _____ religious society or corporation, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at

the foregoing meeting and that we were instructed and directed to execute this instrument as a declaration of trust and cause the same to be recorded upon the records of the County Recorder of the County of _____, State of _____.

President

Secretary

STATE OF _____
SS

COUNTY OF _____
Before me _____, a Notary Public on this day personally appeared _____ and _____, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and known to me to be the president and secretary respectively of the _____ Free Methodist Church of _____, a _____ religious society or corporation and acknowledged to me that they executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed and as the act of said corporation or society.

GIVEN under my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Notary Public in and for the above
County and State

27

FORM OF BEQUEST

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)."

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