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DOCTRINES

AND ✓

DISCIPLINE

*of the*

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

OF

NORTH AMERICA

1955

✓

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

THE FREE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

769

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# The Free Methodist Church

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## ORIGIN AND CHARACTER

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

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

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

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

¶ 4. Appeals were made to the General Conference which were denied. Those excluded could not join any other Methodist body, for there was none that agreed with them on the issues on which they were thrust out. Therefore they felt compelled to form a new organization.

¶ 5. The Free Methodist Church was organized by a convention of lay members and ministers, which met at Pekin, Niagara County, New York, on the 23rd day of August, 1860. The first General Conference met on the second Wednesday of October, 1862, at St. Charles, Illinois.



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

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

¶ 8. Free Methodists look upon practical godliness as the never failing results of a genuine religious experience. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Hence they insist that those who profess to be the disciples of Christ should come out from unbelievers and be separate, abstaining from connection with all secret societies, renouncing all vain pomp and glory, adorning themselves with modest apparel, and not with gold, or pearls, or costly array. We have no right to abolish any of the requirements made by Christ and the apostles; or to make obedience to them a matter of small consequence. The golden rule, they hold, applies equally to all mankind.

¶ 9. The government is democratic with lay members having an equal voice with the ministers in all the councils of the church. Both the annual and the general conferences are composed of as many lay as ministerial delegates, who have an equal voice and vote in all the proceedings. The stationing committee, by which the appointments are made,

is composed of the district superintendents and an equal number of lay members chosen for that purpose. The official boards are selected by the members of circuits, and not appointed by the preachers. The district superintendents are elected by the annual conference and may be appointed to circuits the same as the rest of the preachers. The bishops are elected every four years by the general conference and it is their duty to preside at the annual conferences, and travel through the connection at large. The rights of the members are carefully guarded.

¶ 10. Free Methodists endeavor to promote spirituality and simplicity in worship. Congregational singing is universal. (See par. 93) They believe in the Holy Ghost. If men are really converted and sanctified, it is through the Spirit of God. When He works there is a stir. As President Edwards said, "Eternal things are so great, and of such vast concern that there is great absurdity in men being but moderately moved and affected by them." "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." The Free Methodists, while they do not believe in any mere formal noise, yet, when the Spirit comes, like "a rushing mighty wind," as on the day of Pentecost, do not dare to oppose the manifestations of His presence. As Edwards says, "Whenever there is any considerable degree of the Spirit's influence upon a mixed multitude, it will produce, in some way, a great visible commotion." To resist His operations is to hinder the work of God.

¶ 11. Free Methodists do not believe in resorting to worldly policy to sustain the gospel. Christ has said that whosoever giveth a cup of cold water in His name shall in no wise lose his reward. But it is the motive, and not the amount done, that secures the divine approbation. There is no more virtue in giving to the cause of God for carnal pleasure than there is in any other purely selfish action. Hence they give no countenance to modern expedients for promoting Christianity, such as renting pews, promoting lotteries, fairs, sales, or other like expedients for raising money. To say that the Church cannot be sustained without these contrivances to beguile the world into its support is to confess that professing Christians are "lovers of pleasure more than

lovers of God." It is to pronounce Christianity a failure. The gospel possesses an inherent power that will not only sustain itself, but make its way through all opposition, wherever its advocates live up to its requirements and rely upon its promises.

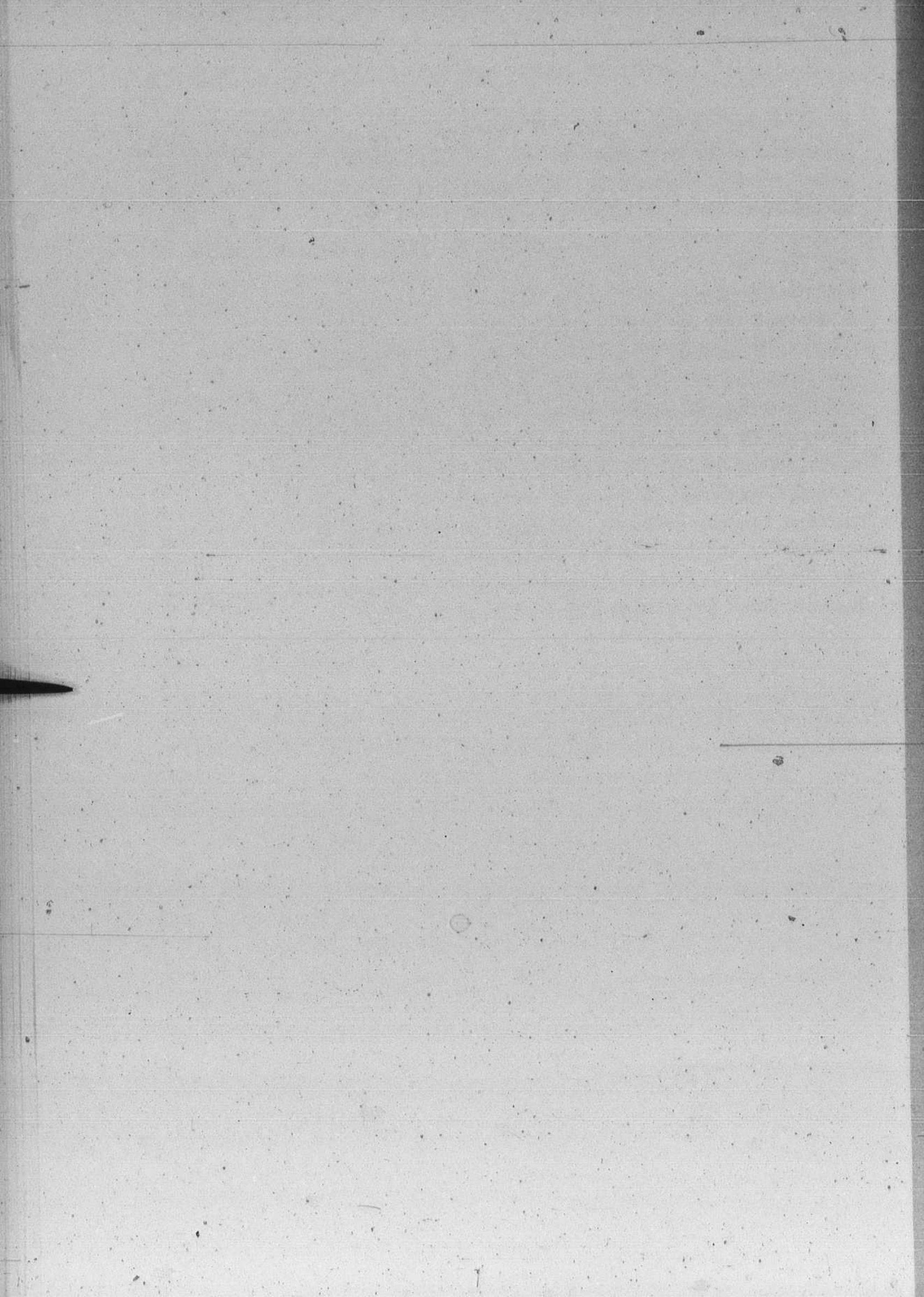
¶ 12. Free Methodists believe the Church of Christ is a soul-saving institution of divine origin for holy purposes, therefore they prohibit festivals and donation parties, such as include anything in the line of entertainments contrary to the spirit and letter of our DISCIPLINE, and all other forms of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

¶ 13. All their churches are required to be as free as the grace they preach. They believe that their mission is twofold—to maintain the Bible standard of Christianity, and to preach the gospel to the poor. Hence they require that all seats in their houses of worship shall be free. No pews can be rented or sold among them. The world will never be converted to Christianity when the churches are conducted upon the exclusive system. It has always been contrary to the economy of the Christian Church to build houses of worship with pews to rent. Such renting of pews is a corruption of Christianity. Free churches are essential to reach the masses. The provisions of the gospel are for all. The "glad tidings" must be proclaimed to every individual of the human race. God sends the true light to illuminate and melt every heart. To savage and civilized, bond and free, black and white, the ignorant and the learned, is freely offered the great salvation.

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

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

¶ 15. You will find in this book the doctrines and form of government of the Free Methodist Church. We do not wish any to subscribe to it unless they believe it will be for the glory of God and the good of their souls. We have no desire to build up simply a large church; but we do hope that our societies will be composed, exclusively, of those who are in earnest to gain heaven, and who are determined, by the grace of God, to live up to the requirements of the Bible. It is of the greatest importance that those who come into this organization shall be of one heart and one mind.



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

## **DIVISIONS**

- I. ARTICLES OF RELIGION**
- II. MEMBERSHIP**
- III. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND  
GOVERNMENT**
- IV. RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF  
AMENDMENT**

THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
OF NORTH AMERICA

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PREAMBLE

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

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DIVISION I

ARTICLES OF RELIGION

I. *Of Faith in the Holy Trinity*

¶ 21. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

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

¶ 22. The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very



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

### III. *Of the Resurrection of Christ*

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

### IV. *Of the Holy Ghost*

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

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

¶ 25. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. By the term Holy Scriptures we understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testaments of whose authority there was never any doubt in the Church.

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

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

#### VI. *Of the Old Testament*

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

#### VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin*

¶ 27. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, as the Pelagians do vainly talk, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil and that continually.

#### VIII. *Of Free Will*

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

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

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

X. *Of Good Works*

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

XI. *Of Works of Supererogation*

¶ 31. Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for His sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly, "When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants."

XII. *Of Sin After Justification*

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

XIII. *Entire Sanctification*

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

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

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

¶ 34. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, according to the gospel. The righteous shall have in heaven an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

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

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

#### XVI. *Of the Church*

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

#### XVII. *Of the Sacraments*

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

#### XVIII. *Of Baptism*

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

XIX. *Of the Lord's Supper*

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

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

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

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

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

XXI. *Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches*

¶ 41. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word. Whosoever through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the Word of God, and are

ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the church, and woundeth the consciences of the weak brethren. Every particular church may ordain, change or abolish rites and ceremonies so that all things may be done to edification.

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

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

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

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

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

## DIVISION II

### MEMBERSHIP

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

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

¶ 46. The requirements of full membership are:

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

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

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

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

¶ 47. The rights of full membership are:

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

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

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

¶ 48. Church membership may be terminated only by:

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

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

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

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

## B. GENERAL RULES

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

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

## UNITED SOCIETIES

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

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



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

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

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

1. To inquire how their souls prosper.

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 53. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies, "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

First, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced; such as,  
The taking of the name of God in vain.

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

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

The buying, selling, or holding of a human being as a slave.  
Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with

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

brother; returning evil for evil; or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.

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

The giving or taking things on usury, i. e., unlawful interest.

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

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

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God; as

The putting on of gold or costly apparel.

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

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

Softness and needless self-indulgence.

Laying up treasure upon earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth

and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.

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

Thirdly, By attending upon all the ordinances of God: such are,

The public worship of God;

The ministry of the word, either read or expounded;

The Supper of the Lord;

Family and private prayer;

Searching the Scriptures, and

Fasting or abstinence.

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

### C. SPECIAL RULES

¶ 57. 1. Members shall conform to the scriptural standards of attire, adorning themselves in a meek and quiet spirit, not with gold, pearls, and 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 (Matt. 5:32; Mark 10: 11, 12).

### DIVISION III

#### ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

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

###### I. Pastoral Charges

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

###### II. Districts and Quarterly Conferences

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

###### III. Annual Conferences

¶ 62. The General Conference shall organize the work at large into annual conferences, of which the preachers (not being members of any local societies) shall be permanent members; and to which, at each session, one lay delegate shall be admitted from each pastoral charge, and in case there be more than one preacher in full membership appointed to a pastoral charge, such pastoral charge shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate for every such additional preacher.

##### B. The General Conference

###### I. Of Whom Composed

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

###### II. Ministerial Delegates

¶ 64. 1. Each annual conference shall be entitled to one

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

2. The ministerial delegates shall be elected by the ministers of the annual conference by ballot. They shall be elders, and at the time of their election, as also at the time of the General Conference, shall be members of the annual conference which elected them.

### III. *Lay Delegates*

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

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

### IV. *Credentials*

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

### V. *Sessions*

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

2. The bishop or bishops, or if there be none, the 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.

#### VI. *Presiding Officers*

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

#### VII. *Other Officers*

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

#### VIII. *Board of Administration*

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

#### IX. *Quorum*

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

#### X. *Voting*

¶ 72. The members of the General Conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; nevertheless, upon the call of one third of the members present and voting, the house

shall divide; and it shall require a majority of the ministerial and of the lay delegates to pass any vote or transact any business.

**C. Judicial Council**

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

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

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



## DIVISION IV

### RESTRICTIVE RULES AND METHODS OF AMENDMENT

#### I. Restrictive Rules

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

1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, the General Rules, or any condition of membership, or establish any standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present, existing and established standards of doctrine.

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

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

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

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

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

cast thereon in the annual conferences after reference to them.

### III. Other Amendments

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



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

## **CHAPTERS**

- I. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**
- II. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
- III. CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

## CHAPTER I

### CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

#### I. Temperance

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

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

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

#### II. Marriage and Divorce

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

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

3. In general a woman ought not to marry without the consent of her parents. Yet there may be exceptions. For if; (1) A woman believes it to be her duty to marry,

and if, (2) Her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian, then she may, nay, ought to marry without their consent.

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

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

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

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

5. Our preachers shall not officiate at the marriage of any person who is under eighteen years of age, unless the parents or guardians be present or have given written consent, and unless at least two witnesses, knowing the contracting persons, be present. They shall refuse to officiate at the marriage of divorced persons, unless furnished with satisfactory evidence that they are not violating the law of divorce recognized in the preceding paragraph.

### III. Dress

¶ 82. We insist on the rules concerning dress. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of apparel. Therefore, receive none into the church till they have left off superfluous ornaments. In order to this: 1. In visiting the classes be very mild but very strict. 2. Allow no exempt

case; better one suffer than many.

#### IV. Secret Societies

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

2. Any society requiring an oath, affirmation, or promise of secrecy, as a condition of membership, is held to be a secret society; and any member joining or continuing in one violates his covenant obligations as set forth in Pars. 57, Sec. 3, and 87, Sec. 5, and shall in due form be excluded from the church; and the preacher shall report that he is excluded for infraction of our rules and regulations.

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

#### V. Labor and Industrial Relations

¶ 84. 1. We would not oppose the open and honest organization of the laboring classes seeking in a proper way their betterment without injuring others or violating the inherent rights of any. But we are opposed to pledged or oath-bound secrecy, coercion, lawlessness, or any other evil in their organization; and we prohibit our members from joining labor unions or other societies demanding an oath-bound pledge of secrecy as a condition of membership. Yet, otherwise, we recognize their inherent right to hold membership in labor organizations. And wherever they cannot on



account of required oath-bound pledges of secrecy be members of the labor union, if merely upon the payment of regular dues they are allowed to work free from the use of coercion, we grant them the privilege of doing so.

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

#### VI. Militarism and War

¶ 85. 1. Militarism is contrary to the spirit of the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Even from humanitarian principles alone it is utterly indefensible. It is our profound conviction that none of our people should be required to enter military training or to bear arms except in time of national peril, and that the consciences of our individual members should be respected. Therefore we claim exemption from the bearing of arms for all members of our church who are conscientious objectors.

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

## CHAPTER II

### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

#### I. Reception into Preparatory Membership

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

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

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

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

Answer: I will.

3. Have you received Christian baptism?

Answer: Yes or No.

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

Answer: Yes.

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

Answer: I will.

#### II. Admission into Full Membership

¶ 87. 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' instruction for full membership as required by the General Conference; has been baptized, and, if baptized in infancy, has publicly assented to the baptismal covenant; has been recommended by the official members of the society; and gives satisfactory answers to the questions proposed for full membership, before the society or public meeting of the church.

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

of God?

Answer: I have.

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

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

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

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

Answer: This is my purpose.

4. Will you forever lay aside all superfluous ornaments, and adorn yourself in modest apparel, not with gold, nor pearls, nor costly array, but which becometh those professing godliness, with good works?

Answer: I will do so.

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

Answer: I will do so.

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

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

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

Answer: I do and I will.

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

Answer: This is my purpose.

¶ 88. 1. The person giving satisfactory answers to the questions above shall, with consent of three-fourths of the members present, be admitted to all the privileges of membership. Any person in good standing in any evangelical church may be received into full membership upon meeting the other requirements of this chapter, and having received

adequate instruction for membership in our church, without having been a preparatory member.

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

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

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

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

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

## III. Transfer of Membership by Certificate

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

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

“A. B., the bearer, wishing to remove from this society, we hereby certify that ..... is an acceptable member of the Free Methodist Church in ..... and cordially commend ..... to the Free Methodist Church in ....., or in any other place. When admitted to another society ..... membership in this society shall cease. This certificate is good for one year only, unless renewed.” Without this certificate, no one is to be received into the church in another place.

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

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

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

3. A certificate given to a member of our church who wishes to unite with another evangelical denomination shall read as follows: “A. B., the bearer, wishing to become a member of another evangelical church, we hereby certify that ..... has been an acceptable mem-

ber of the Free Methodist Church, and cordially commend ..... to the fellowship of any such church with which ..... may desire to unite. H..... membership in the Free Methodist Church ceases when this certificate is given.”

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

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

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

## CHAPTER III

### CHARACTER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Public worship in our churches shall be free and non-liturgical in form. Preaching shall be emphasized as a means of edifying believers and converting sinners. It is recommended that all our churches use that type of architecture that gives a central pulpit position for the preaching of the Word.

#### I. Order of Public Worship

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

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

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

#### II. Music

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

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

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

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

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

### III. Love Feasts

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

### IV. Classes and Class Meetings

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

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least; in order, (1) To inquire how his soul prospers. (2) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.

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

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



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

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

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

**PART III**  
**OFFICIAL BODIES**

## CHAPTERS

- I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
- II. THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
- III. THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION
- IV. THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS
- V. THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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- VII. THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD
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- X. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FREE METHODIST CHURCH
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## CHAPTER I

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

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

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

¶ 102. The next quadrennial session of the General Conference shall be held in June, 1959, or as near that time as may be determined by the Board of Administration, in accordance with the Constitution, Par. 67, which prescribes also the procedure for calling extra sessions.

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

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

duties and official relations of missionary bishops shall be confined to the fields to which they are elected.

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 108. It is the inalienable right of any annual conference, district quarterly conference, society, or individual member

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

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

## CHAPTER II

### BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

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

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

¶ 111. 1. The Board of Administration shall have general organizational, promotional, and supervisory powers over all the activities of the church during the intervals between General Conference sessions. It shall meet annually and whenever else the bishops or one third of the members shall deem it necessary. A majority of the members elected shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. The Board of Administration shall have power to accept resignations, to remove for cause any of its members or any of the General Conference officers during the interim between General Conference sessions, and to fill vacancies occurring either in its own body or in any of the General Conference elective offices, subject to the provisions of the DISCIPLINE. The Board of Administration shall fill any vacancy which may occur in the Board of Bishops during the first two years of the quadrennium.

3. The Board of Administration shall meet immediately at the close of the General Conference and organize itself into four commissions to be called the Executive Commis-

sion, the Commission on Missions, the Commission on Christian Education, and the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension. Members elected from the same administrative district shall not serve on the same commission. Each of the commissions shall consist of one bishop and six other members, except that the Commission on Missions shall have two additional members, both of whom shall be women elected by the Woman's Missionary Society, and the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension, which shall have one additional member elected by the Light and Life Men's Fellowship.

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

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

6. The Board of Administration shall appoint an editorial board with representatives from each commission. This editorial board shall coordinate and unify the publications issued by the church and determine the character of each.

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

¶ 113. All of the commissions and the Woman's Missionary



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Society shall make and file annually their financial statements with the secretary of the Board of Administration.

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

## CHAPTER III

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

#### I. Its Powers

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

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

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

4. The Executive Commission shall constitute the Court of Appeals, whose decision shall be final. Should any member of this court be absent or disqualified to sit, his place shall be filled pro tem by the Board of Administration from its members, or, if 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 Executive Commission shall ordinarily preside over the court; but should he be absent or disqualified, the Board of Administration shall elect one of the other bishops to preside.

5. The Executive Commission shall have the power to decide all questions of law referred to it in the interim of the General Conference. In case of any alleged legal irregularities in a trial court, wherein the court has delivered a verdict against the church, the prosecution may, upon a written recital of the irregularities, apply to the Executive 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.

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

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

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

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

Such deficiencies as are not deducted or paid shall be held as a lien against subsequent appropriations. The general treasurer shall keep a record of these deficiencies and report them to the conferences which are deficient and publish them in his annual report to the Board of Administration.

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

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

### ¶ 123. *General*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 124. Funds which have been collected for the benefit of retired ministers or their widows and orphans, the widows and orphans of ordained traveling preachers, and retired missionaries who have labored under the appointment of the Commission on Missions of the Free Methodist Church, previously known as the Conference Claimants' Fund, are di-

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

vided into the Permanent Endowment Fund and the Administrative Fund.

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

2. The Administrative Fund shall consist of the income accruing from the Permanent Endowment Fund: gifts, bequests and legacies specifically designated for the use of the Administrative Fund; collections received from the several conferences for the general service fund levied by the Board of Administration for the Conference Claimants' Fund.

¶ 125. *Administrative Organization*

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

(1) To pass upon all claims and make final disposition of them.

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

(3) To estimate the amount necessary to be raised in addition to endowment and other income, to pay the claimants and apportion the amount pro rata upon the entire membership of the church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. The Annual Conference Board of Claimants. Each annual conference shall elect an Annual Conference Board of Claimants of not less than three or more than seven members. The presiding bishop or his appointee shall be ex officio chairman of this board during the session of the annual conference. It shall be the duty of this Annual Conference Board of Claimants:

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

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

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

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

¶ 126. *Classification of Claimants*

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

1. Retired preachers of the traveling connection whose wives are living.
2. Retired preachers of the traveling connection who are bachelors, spinsters, unmarried widowers or unmarried widows.
3. Unmarried widows of retired preachers or preachers of the traveling connection.
4. Orphans of preachers or retired preachers of the traveling connection.
5. Missionaries, or their widows and orphans, who have served under the appointment of the Commission on Missions in foreign fields and who are not full members of an annual conference in the United States or Canada.

¶ 127. *Schedule of Benefits to Claimants*

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

1. The allowance to claimants who come under Classification 1 in Par. 126 shall be at the rate of \$10 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$360 per year.
2. The allowance to claimants who come under Classifications 2 and 3 shall be at the rate of \$7 per year of effective and contributive service up to a maximum of 36 years, making a full claim of \$252 per year.
3. For those coming under Classification 4 the Annual Conference Board of Claimants shall estimate an amount, not to exceed \$36 per annum, for each child under the age of sixteen years.
4. For those coming under Classification 5, the amount allowed shall be recommended by the Commission on Mis-

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sions in accordance with the schedules in this Section.

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

6. The allowance for those who come under Classification 3, and who were married before the General Conference of 1931, shall be computed upon the basis of the husband's effective and/or contributive service as provided in the schedule in this section.

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

### ¶ 128. *General Regulations*

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

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



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

(2) If a preacher shall take a certificate of location and subsequently be restored to conference membership, the years of effective, or effective and contributive service, prior to location may be restored by the General Board only upon the following conditions: that not more than ten years have elapsed since his location, that he has remained a member of the Free Methodist Church during the time of location, that the conference which granted the certificate of location recommends the restoration, and that the restoration is to enable him to return to effective service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. All claims shall be paid from the general treasury in equal quarterly payments beginning January 2 of each year. The general treasurer is authorized to withhold payments for the third and fourth quarters to claimants of any conference which is in arrears in the payment of its generally assessed claims. Any amounts so withheld shall not be in excess of deficiencies as provided in Par. 121.

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

### III. Church and Parsonage Aid

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

2. The object of this society shall be to aid in rebuilding partially or totally destroyed church buildings and parsonages (including barns and garages) belonging to societies and districts, and residences of retired preachers owned by the annual conferences.

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

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

5. The amount of aid given any society shall not be more than one half of the net loss, and in no case shall exceed \$1,500. However, in case both church and parsonage are destroyed wholly or in part at one time, and in case the two are in separate buildings, the allowance shall be paid for each building.

6. The Church and Parsonage Aid Fund shall protect the household goods of all ministers under appointment by, and in the active service of, the Free Methodist Church, and of all retired preachers, to the extent of one half of their net loss, but in no case to exceed \$350.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The applicant shall contribute to the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund, for each one hundred dollars of special aid desired, an amount equal to 60% of the regular

rates established for old line companies by the insurance board in the state and community in which the property is located.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

contract of insurance or indemnity, the laws of any state notwithstanding.

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

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

#### IV. Department of Benevolences

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

2. The commission shall determine the financial standing of these institutions, their plan of operation, and the character and amount of work done, and shall determine whether or not they qualify for accreditation by the Free Methodist Church.

3. The commission shall have power to regulate the establishment of new charitable institutions so as to avoid the jeopardizing of those already operating as accredited institutions.

4. The commission shall receive and examine the annual reports of these accredited institutions upon their financial status, their work, and the general plan and scope of their activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And all others established by the commission.

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

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

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

#### V. The Publishing House

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

2. The Executive Commission shall be the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Publishing House and have general supervision of the publishing interests of the church during the interim of the General Conference sessions, and shall carefully examine into their condition. It shall not, however, have power to change the site of the Publishing House, except with the consent of three fourths of all the members of the Board of Administration who shall be present at a regularly called meeting.

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

4. The publisher and editors shall make annual reports to the Executive Commission and quadrennial reports to the General Conference.

5. It shall be the duty of the assistant publisher to cooperate with the publisher in planning and carrying forward the business of the Publishing House, and, in the absence of the publisher, to assume the ordinary duties of the publisher.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

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

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

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

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

2. The Commission on Missions shall consist of a bishop, who shall be president of the commission, and eight other members as prescribed in Par. 111, Sec. 3.

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. It shall have an annual meeting, a personal notice of which shall be sent to each member, and a notice, signed by the president and the secretary, shall appear in two issues of the *Free Methodist*.

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

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

1. To take charge of all money collected for foreign and home missions and appropriate it to the purposes for which it has been contributed.



2. To appropriate \$10,000 each year to meet emergencies in the administration of foreign and home missionary work. Including this appropriation, the total of all appropriations made, or indirect obligations assumed in behalf of foreign and home missionary work, shall not exceed the receipts for the same purposes during the preceding year.

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

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

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

6. To leave a missionary without an appointment, whenever four fifths of the committee on candidates and furloughs recommend 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.

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

8. To organize provisional conferences on mission fields and to approve rules for those conferences and their subsidiary units.

9. To elect area secretaries as may be needed who shall be assigned to administrative areas of the mission fields, and who shall be employed under the direction of the Commission on Missions and the General Missionary Secretary.

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

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

## II. 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 on Missions, seven persons who shall constitute a Board of Directors. At least one of these directors shall be a member of the Woman's Missionary Society.

2. The Board of Directors may be constituted the executive committee of the commission and shall be subject to the direction of the commission.

## III. The General Missionary Secretary

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

2. He shall keep the records of the commission, receive and answer all correspondence relating to the missionary work of the church, and pay over to the treasurer of the commission all money received and take a receipt for it.

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

4. He may, with the consent of the president of the commission and a majority of the members, make general calls for special collections or for donations to provide for particular contingencies on the mission fields.

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

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

7. He shall make yearly, and whenever else the commission requests him to do so, a full and detailed report to the commission of all business pertaining to both the missionaries and the mission stations.

## IV. The Treasurer

¶ 145. The treasurer shall receive all money collected for foreign and home missions, giving receipts for the same, and shall pay over, upon order of the secretary, whatever sums have been appropriated by the commission. He shall deposit all funds in a national bank or trust company, selected by the commission, in the name of the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, to be drawn only upon the order of the secretary and the treasurer.

## V. Home Missions

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. All home mission societies which pay their own oper-

ating expenses, except the salary of the pastors and other workers, shall be entitled to non-voting lay representation in the annual conferences within the bounds of which the societies are located.

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

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

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

¶ 147. Titles to land purchased for missions in foreign lands shall be in the name of the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, or deeded to trustees elected by the board, who may be missionaries, nationals, or both, and the tenure of whose office shall be subject to that board, and in all cases to the laws and regulations of the country where the land is located.

#### VII. Duties of Preachers in Charge

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

#### VIII. Annual Conference Missionary Funds

¶ 149. An annual conference may, by whatever means it chooses, raise funds for missions within its bounds, and appropriate to the commission such of its mission funds as it deems best.

## CHAPTER V

### THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### I. General Organization and Personnel

¶150. 1. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Education, which has authority over the Commission on Christian Education and its departments. The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of one bishop and six other persons chosen in accordance with directions in Par. 111, Sec. 3.

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

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

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

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

6. The commission shall be responsible for the general direction of the program of the church dealing with (a) the Christian education and training of childhood and youth, (b) the guidance and control of organized youth activities, (c) the education and training of young people in church-related high schools and colleges, (d) the education and training of ministers for the church through church-related Bible schools and theological seminaries, (e) provision in local churches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. The responsibility for carrying out the policy of the Commission in each of these departments is vested in a departmental executive secretary. These secretaries shall be employed as follows:

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

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

## II. Department of Sunday Schools

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

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¶ 152. The constitution of the Department of Sunday Schools.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

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

ARTICLE II

THEME

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

ARTICLE III

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the teaching ministry of the Great Commission.
2. To promote the knowledge of the Bible through systematic reading, study and memorization.
3. To bring to a saving knowledge of God all members of the organization.
4. To build numerically and strengthen spiritually the Free Methodist Church.
5. To cooperate in bringing about a spiritual revival through the Sunday schools of all churches, resulting in a national return to the faith.
6. To provide training for Christian service.
7. To provide Christian fellowship, such as the organized class, outings, and other social activities.
8. To provide a channel through which the community may be reached with Christian teaching.

ARTICLE IV

QUADRENNIAL BODY

1. There shall be a meeting of the quadrennial body of

the Department of Sunday Schools held at the quadrennial convention, composed of the general Sunday school council and a delegate elected by each annual conference board.

2. The general Sunday-school secretary shall be its presiding officer, with the area promoters as co-chairmen.

3. The general church treasurer shall be treasurer of the Department.

## ARTICLE V

### GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The General Sunday-School Secretary shall be elected by ballot by the General Conference. The Sunday-school quadrennial body shall nominate two or more by ballot.

2. He shall be the executive officer of the Department of Sunday Schools and shall promote the Sunday-school interests of the church under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the General Sunday School Secretary to promote the sales of the Sunday-school supplies of the Publishing House.

## ARTICLE VI

### COUNCIL

1. There shall be a general Sunday School Council consisting of:

- a. The chairman of the Commission on Christian Education.
- b. The general Sunday-school secretary who shall be its presiding officer.
- c. Area promoters, elected quadrennially by the Commission on Christian Education. The quadrennial body may nominate.
- d. One layman from each of the areas to be elected annually by its convocation.

2. Council vacancies shall be filled by the Commission on Christian Education. The council may nominate.

3. The council may meet semi-annually when necessary to initiate general Sunday-school promotion. The expenses of such meetings shall be borne by the general operating



fund of the Department.

## ARTICLE VII

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

1. Each annual conference shall elect, on rotating tenures, a Sunday school board of not less than five members. (Effort should be made to maintain a balance between lay and ministerial representation.) The Director of Christian Youth Crusaders, the Service Training Director, the Free Methodist Youth Superintendent, and the conference or a district superintendent shall be members ex-officio of the conference Sunday-school board. This board shall organize by electing a president, vice-president, recording secretary and treasurer. The board shall nominate by ballot a conference Sunday-school secretary, to be elected by the annual conference. When elected, he shall be a member of the conference Sunday-school board.

2. It shall be the duties of this board to:

- a. Supervise the Sunday-school work of the conference in harmony with the direction and advice of the Commission on Christian Education through the Department 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 quadrennial meeting.

3. The conference Sunday-school secretary shall administer the work outlined by the conference Sunday-school

board and initiate promotional projects in the conference.

4. District Sunday-school boards may be organized wherever desirable.

## ARTICLE VIII

### LOCAL ORGANIZATION

#### 1. Local Sunday-School Board.

- a. A local board shall be composed of the pastor and all the regularly elected officers and teachers of the Sunday school.
- b. The officers of the board shall be president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, to be elected at the beginning of each conference year.
- c. It is recommended that the Sunday-school board appoint a promotion committee consisting of the pastor, superintendent, assistant superintendent and at least two other persons. This committee shall act as a planning committee and should meet frequently. It should have charge of the promotion of the expansion of the Sunday school, both within the school itself and in community visitation evangelism. It should make recommendations to the Sunday-school board.
- d. The board shall meet regularly for the purpose of transacting special or current business, and reports shall be made by the teachers and department superintendents at the quarterly or semi-annual meeting, as the board may decide.

The following order of business shall be observed in general:

- (1) Devotions
- (2) Calling of the roll
- (3) Reading of the minutes of previous meeting
- (4) Quarterly report of the secretary of the Sunday school
- (5) Report of treasurer. Reference of treasurer's account to the church auditor
- (6) Report of superintendent
- (7) Report of department heads

- (8) Report of teachers
- (9) Report of committees
- (10) Unfinished business
- (11) Questions to be considered:
  - (a) Is the Sunday school properly graded?
  - (b) Is Sunday-school literature of proper type available?
  - (c) Are the teachers and officers supplied with the *Sunday School Journal*?
  - (d) Has the tithe been sent to the treasurer of the Conference Sunday-school Board, according to Article X, Section 1, of this constitution?
- (12) New business and appointment of committees
- (13) Reading of the minutes
- (14) Adjournment

2. The superintendent shall be elected by ballot at the annual society meeting. The preacher in charge may nominate.

3. Officers and Teachers.

- a. A committee consisting of not less than three nor more than five persons shall be elected by ballot at the annual society meeting to serve with the pastor and Sunday-school superintendent as a Sunday-school nominating committee.
- b. The committee shall nominate the officers and teachers of the Sunday school.
- c. The nominations shall be submitted for a vote at a regularly called meeting of the society. The form of ballot as set forth in the *Handbook for Sunday School Workers* is recommended.
- d. Officers and teachers shall hold office until their successors are elected. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the Sunday-school board.

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

5. Planned workers' conferences shall be held during the year. See *Handbook* for guidance.

## ARTICLE IX

### DUTIES OF THE PASTORS

It shall be the duties of the pastors to:

1. Report to each session of the quarterly conference the status of their Sunday schools and the extent to which they have discharged their duties to them.

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 158, Section 7 of the DISCIPLINE.

4. Preach on the subject of Sunday schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once during the year; establish and maintain branch Sunday schools wherever there is an opening, and in such schools employ members of the church as officers and teachers as far as practicable.

5. Enforce faithfully upon the parents and Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; preach to the children, and see that the Church Catechism is taught them either in Sunday school or in special meetings appointed for that purpose.

6. Pay special attention to the children, speaking kindly to each of them upon the subject of experiential and practical godliness, according to their capacity; praying earnestly for them; and diligently instructing and exhorting all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord, in baptism, as early as convenient.

## ARTICLE X

### FINANCE

1. It shall be the duty of each Sunday-school board to forward each quarter the tithe of all money raised for Sunday-school purposes to the treasurer of the Conference Sunday-school board.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the conference Sunday-school board or conference Board of Christian Education to remit to the General Church Treasurer for general Sunday-school promotion, two and one-half percent of all money raised in the conference for Sunday-school purposes, as reported in the annual statistics of the conference. The conference Sunday-school treasurer shall remit quarterly, final adjustment to be made at the close of the fourth quarter of the year.

3. The balance of the tithe received from the local Sunday schools shall be used for conference Sunday-school promotion.

4. An offering shall be received the Sunday of National Sunday School Week in each Sunday school for general Sunday-school promotion and it shall be forwarded to the General Church Treasurer.

5. The Publishing House shall pay \$30,000 quadrennially in equal annual installments to the Department of Sunday Schools through the General Treasurer's office, to be administered by the Commission on Christian Education.

## ARTICLE XI

### REFERENCE BOOK

1. The *Handbook for Sunday School Workers* shall be the official reference book for the Department.

## ARTICLE XII

### AMENDMENTS

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

**III. Department of Educational Institutions****¶ 158. The General Organization.**

The Commission on Christian Education, through the Department of Educational Institutions, shall be responsible for promoting and maintaining adequate opportunity for the elementary, secondary, and collegiate training of children and young people, and for the training of Christian ministers, missionaries, and teachers through the collegiate level. John Wesley Seminary functions directly under the Board of Administration and therefore, except when specifically named, is exempt from the provisions of this chapter. (See Par. 165.) The department shall:

1. Adopt standards by which to approve all schools seeking recognition as Free Methodist institutions.

2. Require annual financial reports of all approved educational institutions and provide for their inspections from time to time.

3. Approve courses of study in the curricula being offered in approved institutions.

4. Investigate from time to time the educational standards, accreditation, and fiscal policies of approved schools. The problems of each school shall be studied in relation to local needs with a view to improving its total program. Through suggestions and helpful guidance the department shall foster and encourage institutional growth in harmony with our denominational standard of Christian education.

5. Promote and supervise the observance of a Christian Education Day each year throughout the church to provide funds to aid the department in carrying out its program in behalf of approved educational institutions, and especially to provide student ministerial scholarships at the college level.

6. Provide for and administer a program of guidance for prospective ministers during their years of college preparation. Endeavor to maintain contact with and to counsel Free Methodist ministerial students attending non-Free

Methodist colleges and seminaries.

7. Promote the Student Aid Fund to assist young people of the Free Methodist Church who need financial help to continue their education in approved Free Methodist colleges. The commission shall distribute the fund and require from the colleges a careful accounting, whether they administer the money as loans or direct grants.

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

9. Solicit bequests, money, property, and other securities to be used in building up an endowment fund and a scholarship fund to be held in trust for approved educational institutions and students therein.

10. Establish a placement bureau for preachers, teachers, and others who are consecrated and prepared for Christian service.

11. Require educational institutions to submit for approval all plans for financial campaigns and for new buildings when such projects exceed \$10,000.

12. Exercise such supervision of the patronizing territory of approved educational institutions as to give to each proper territory for its prosperity in harmony with the other schools of its class. The department, however, shall not change the relation of any previously assigned territory without the consent of the annual conference holding jurisdiction over that territory.

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

14. Provide a code of procedure to be followed by approved educational institutions of the church to prevent unfair competition among them.

15. Co-operate with the trustees and faculties of approved educational institutions in providing an appropriate retirement plan for the faculty and staff members thereof.

16. Determine the conditions under which funds for the several schools, except income from the permanent endowment fund, shall be distributed.

¶ 159. Duties of the executive secretary of the Department of Educational Institutions.

1. He shall be the executive officer of the Department of Educational Institutions of the Commission on Christian Education.

2. He shall promote the interests of approved educational institutions of the Free Methodist Church.

3. He shall visit the educational institutions of the church from time to time with a view to improving the educational, financial, and spiritual phases of their work.

4. He shall attempt to counsel Free Methodist young people enrolled as advanced students in graduate and professional schools in the United States and Canada.

5. He shall maintain a record of all ministerial students under the guidance of the Department of Educational Institutions and in John Wesley Seminary, and shall interview them concerning their problems, programs, and progress.

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

¶ 160. The department shall be financed from unrestricted gifts, bequests, etc., and receipts from such other sources as may be approved by the Board of Education.

¶ 161. Annual Conference Board

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

2. The board shall report to the annual conference, and



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

3. Each annual conference within the patronizing territory of an educational institution which maintains a Living Endowment program shall elect a conference director of the program.

4. It shall be the duty of the conference board of education

(1) To organize by the election of a president and a secretary-treasurer to serve one year or until their successors are elected, and to appoint such committees as are necessary to accomplish its work.

(2) To hold at least one meeting each year for the consideration and promotion within the annual conference of the general and local interests of education.

(3) To provide for a visitation each year of the educational institutions with which it is associated.

(4) To present the cause of education to the annual conference, and to assist as far as possible in raising money to carry out the instructions of the annual conference.

¶ 162. Educational Institutions.

The educational institutions hereby approved by the Free Methodist Church are:

*Seminary:* John Wesley Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky

(Not under the Department of Educational Institutions, but directly controlled by the Board of Administration. See Par. 165.)

*Senior Colleges:* Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois

Seattle Pacific College, Seattle, Washington

Roberts Wesleyan College, North Chili, New York

*Junior Colleges (with associated secondary schools):*

Spring Arbor Junior College, Spring Arbor, Michigan

Wessington Springs College, Wessington Springs, South Dakota

\* Los Angeles Pacific College, Los Angeles, California  
Central College, McPherson, Kansas

Lorne Park College (one year of college), Port Credit, Ontario

*Bible School:* Moose Jaw Bible College, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

\* In process of qualifying as a four-year college

¶ 163. Guiding Principles

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

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

3. The Bible schools and colleges shall give attention to a wholesome and systematic program of physical education. Interscholastic games shall be directed 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, the faculty, and the executive committee of the board of trustees of the Free Methodist school scheduling the games. Membership in athletic conferences or leagues not under Christian auspices is forbidden. Football, except such modified forms as touch football and soccer, is forbidden.

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

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5. The president and the faculty shall be charged with the responsibility of insuring that all student publications and programs are in harmony with the rules and standards of the Free Methodist Church.

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

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

8. All instructors engaged in teaching Bible, doctrine, and other subjects in the religious field shall be required to sign the following statement on forms provided by the Department of Educational Institutions:

I have read the following statement taken from the Free Methodist DISCIPLINE Par. 33, of the position of the Free Methodist Church upon the doctrine and experience of holiness (entire sanctification) and am in complete agreement with it.

Date ..... Signature .....

Institution .....

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

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

This statement is to be filed with The Department of Educational Institutions, Commission on Christian Education of

the Free Methodist Church, Winona Lake, Indiana.

9. A complaint of violation of any of these principles shall first be presented to the Commission on Christian Education, and should it be found valid, it shall be referred to the Board of Administration, which shall hear all the evidence and, until the violation has ceased, apply the penalty to any school found guilty.

#### ¶ 164. Canadian Educational Institutions.

Because of the international differences in educational standards and practices, Canadian educational institutions shall operate under the control of the Canadian Executive Board, subject to the "Guiding Principles" set forth in Par. 163. Canadian schools shall be exempt from supervision by the Department of Educational Institutions except upon request of the Canadian Executive Board with reference to special problems.

#### ¶ 165. John Wesley Seminary

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

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

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

4. *Affiliation:* The Board of Control may affiliate the institution with such other seminary organizations as it may deem desirable or necessary, provided such institutions are

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unqualifiedly evangelical and Wesleyan in doctrine as interpreted by the Free Methodist Church.

5. *Guiding Principles:* All the "Guiding Principles" in Par. 163 above shall apply to John Wesley Seminary except 1, but 9 shall be modified to allow complaints to be brought first to the Seminary Executive Board rather than to the Commission on Christian Education.

¶ 166. Christian Elementary Day Schools

The Commission on Christian Education shall encourage and promote the establishing of Christian elementary day schools wherever approved by the Conference Board of Christian Elementary Day Schools and the commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 167. Endowment Funds

1. All endowment funds allotted by the general church to educational institutions (including John Wesley Seminary)

shall be held for safe and proper investment by the Finance Committee of the Board of Administration, and the interest accruing therefrom shall be paid annually to the proper representatives of the schools.

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

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

#### IV. Department of Young People

##### ¶ 168. General Organization

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

2. The Free Methodist Youth Council shall consist of the general superintendent and the four regional directors.

3. The Free Methodist Youth general superintendent shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The Free Methodist Youth organization, through its Quadrennial Body, may nominate by ballot. The general superintendent of Free Methodist Youth shall serve under the direction of the Commission on Christian Education.

4. For further particulars see the constitution of Free Methodist Youth, which follows.

##### ¶ 169. The Constitution of Free Methodist Youth.

#### ARTICLE I

##### NAME

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

contribution to the church and the world, there shall be an organization known as Free Methodist Youth, a department of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

## ARTICLE II

Slogan: "United to Make Christ Known"

Motto: "Others"

## ARTICLE III

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To seek and maintain among its members the highest type of Christian experience and life through regeneration and baptism of the Holy Spirit, to encourage growth in grace, and to prepare for efficient membership in the Free Methodist Church;
2. To enlist, inspire, and train young people to win the lost youth of their generation;
3. To study the needs of the various fields and become intelligent supporters of the full missionary program;
4. To encourage Christian stewardship and raise money for projects sanctioned by the general authorities of the church in ways consistent with the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church.

## ARTICLE IV

### THE LOCAL FMY

#### A. MEMBERSHIP

1. Active members shall be young people of good moral character between the ages of fourteen and thirty-five inclusive, who desire to unite for worship, instruction, and service under the direction of the Free Methodist Church.
2. Persons over thirty-five years of age may be honorary members upon payment of annual dues.

#### B. ADVISOR

1. It shall be the duty of each church society to elect an advisor(s) of Free Methodist Youth who, with the pastor, shall become responsible for the organization of the local society; and they, together with the president(s), shall become

responsible for the promotion of the local society. The (age department(s) of the) local FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. The advisor(s) shall be members of the Free Methodist Church over twenty-five years of age. When elected they shall become members of the official board and report regularly to that body.

#### C. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the society shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, directors of Education, Evangelism, Missions, and Service, and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program.

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

#### D. MEETINGS

1. A weekly service shall be held, if possible on Sunday evening.

2. A business meeting of each age department shall be held at least once in three months. Each age department shall decide at its first business meeting how many shall constitute a quorum.

3. Nothing shall be allowed in the organization or activities of the FMY which is contrary to the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church, such as pageants, dramatics, socials, or bazaars, as commonly understood, or the engaging of un-saved members as leaders of religious services; but this does not prohibit such young people's gatherings as contribute to the goal of the organization.

#### E. FUNDS

1. Money shall be raised by tithes and offerings to support the approved financial interests of the church and the FMY.

2. Each age department of the local shall be responsible for raising its share of the Youth Fund as apportioned by the Youth Council, which shall be used for operating expenses of the general FMY. Honorary membership dues shall be applied on the Youth Fund.

3. All money raised by the age department(s), except for departmental operating funds, will be handled by the Youth Council treasurer and these funds will be submitted to the



conference (district) FMY treasurer. The Youth Council treasurer shall be responsible for collecting such funds from the departmental treasurer(s).

#### F. COMMITTEES

1. Each age department shall have its own program committee. The program committee shall be composed of the vice-president of the age department as chairman, and such members as are elected by the officers for that department.

2. A nominating committee may be elected to bring in nominations prior to the election of officers.

3. The president is an ex-officio member of all committees.

#### G. VOTING

1. All active members shall have the power to vote.

2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

3. No honorary member may be elected to office by FMY except for president, and then only when no active member qualifies constitutionally. When elected, he shall have the power to vote.

#### H. DELEGATED BODIES

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

#### I. THE YOUTH COUNCIL

1. There shall be a Youth Council in each society which shall coordinate and direct the youth activities of the society. This Council shall be responsible to the official board.

2. The members of the Youth Council shall be the president, vice-president and advisors of each youth department, the pastor, and a Sunday School Board representative selected by the F. M. Y. The secretary and treasurer of the Youth Council shall be elected by the Youth Council from among the departmental secretaries and treasurers. In the society where there is only one youth department, the secretary and treasurer of that youth department shall be members of the Youth Council. The chairman of the Youth Council shall be one of its members, elected at its first meeting.

## ARTICLE V

### THE DISTRICT FMY

(Where deemed advisable the organization of a Youth Council, the three age departments, and directors for Education, Evangelism, Missions and Service on the district level shall be encouraged. The provisions of Article V apply only to districts which have such organization.)

#### A. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a local society shall constitute membership in the District FMY.

#### B. ADVISOR

1. The district quarterly conference shall elect a district FMY advisor, who with the district superintendent shall be responsible for the organization of a district FMY; and they, together with the president, shall be responsible for the promotion of the district FMY. The district FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. The advisor shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church over thirty years of age.

3. The advisor shall report regularly to the quarterly conference.

#### C. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The District Superintendent of the church shall be a member of the District Youth Council.

#### D. OFFICERS

1. From the designated list in Article IV, Section C, such officers may be elected as are necessary for the effective promotion of the district FMY. The president when elected shall become a member of the conference FMY Youth Council.

2. Where no district organization exists, a district promoter may be elected and shall become a member of the conference FMY Youth Council.

3. All officers shall be members of the Free Methodist Church.

#### E. MEETINGS

Business meetings shall be held at the time and place of

the district quarterly meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

#### F. FUNDS

The treasurer shall keep a record of all money received from local treasurers and forward it to the conference treasurer.

#### G. COMMITTEES

1. The Youth Council shall be composed of the regularly elected FMY officers, the FMY advisor, and the district superintendent. This Council shall direct the activities of the district FMY and be responsible to the quarterly conference.

2. The program committee shall be appointed by the youth council.

3. A nominating committee may be elected to bring in nominations prior to the election of officers.

#### H. VOTING

1. All active members shall have the power to vote.

2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

### ARTICLE VI

#### THE CONFERENCE FMY

##### A. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in any age department of the local FMY shall constitute conference membership.

##### B. ADVISOR

1. Each annual conference shall elect a conference FMY Advisor, who with the superintendent(s) shall become responsible for the organization of the conference FMY; and they, together with the president, shall become responsible for the promotion of the conference FMY. The conference FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. The advisor shall be a member of the Free Methodist Church over thirty years of age.

3. The advisor shall report to the annual conference.

##### C. CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT

1. The annual conference shall elect from the district

superintendents of the church one or more to serve on the FMY Youth Council. The FMY may nominate by ballot.

2. Where there is a conference superintendent, he shall serve on the FMY Youth Council.

#### D. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the conference FMY shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, directors for Education, Evangelism, Missions, and Service, and any other officers deemed necessary to carry on the program, which may include promoters of the three age departments.

2. All officers shall be members of the Free Methodist Church, residing within the conference, and have had at least one year of experience as a local officer.

3. Officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting.

4. The Youth Council shall fill all vacancies.

#### E. MEETINGS

The meetings of the conference society shall be held at the time and place of the annual conference or at the annual FMY convention.

#### F. FUNDS

1. The approved financial interests of the church and FMY shall be promoted by the conference FMY.

2. Final responsibility for raising the Youth Fund lies with the conference FMY.

3. Funds may be raised for conference projects.

#### G. COMMITTEES

1. The conference Youth Council shall be composed of the regularly elected officers of the conference FMY, the district presidents or promoters, the FMY advisor, and one or more conference (district) superintendents. This committee shall direct the activities and promote the interests of the FMY throughout the conference.

2. Each conference FMY shall nominate one or more of its members who is a member of the Free Methodist Church and submit the nomination to the Annual Conference to be considered for membership on the Conference Evangelistic Board.

3. A nominating committee shall be elected by the delegated conference body or the Youth Council to submit nominations prior to the election of officers. Not more than two members of the Youth Council may serve on this committee. The superintendent(s) and FMY advisor shall be ex-officio members of the nominating committee.

#### H. VOTING

1. The delegates and conference officers shall compose the voting body of the FMY annual conference or convention.

2. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

3. The quorum shall be determined at the first business session of the annual FMY conference or convention.

#### I. DELEGATED BODIES

1. After the third year of the quadrennium each annual conference or convention shall elect one or more delegates to the FMY Quadrennial Body.

2. Representation to the FMY Quadrennial Body shall be based on the average active membership of the conference for the first three years of the quadrennium. The number of delegates shall be determined as follows: 1-500 members, one delegate; 501-1000 members, two delegates, and so forth.

3. Delegates to the FMY Quadrennial Body shall be active members of the FMY and members of the Free Methodist Church residing within the conference the year prior to the election, and intending to reside there the year following the Quadrennial Meeting.

### ARTICLE VII

#### THE FMY QUADRENNIAL BODY

##### A. MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be a FMY Quadrennial Body, composed of the conference delegates and the regional directors, 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 Quadrennial Body, or, when this is not possible, the General Missionary Secretary may appoint a representative, provided that

this shall not obligate the general FMY treasurer to pay the traveling expenses.

**B. SUPERINTENDENT**

1. A general superintendent of the FMY shall be elected by the General Conference of the church. The FMY Quadrennial Body may nominate by ballot.

2. The general superintendent shall serve under the Commission on Christian Education and shall report annually to that body.

**C. OFFICERS**

1. The presiding officers of the quadrennial meetings shall be the four regional directors, each presiding in turn and the others being meanwhile co-chairmen.

2. The Quadrennial Body shall elect a secretary who may appoint one or more assistants.

3. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the general FMY.

**D. COMMITTEES**

A nominating committee, composed of two members from each region (nominated by the delegates and the regional director from their region), shall be elected by the quadrennial body at the first sitting.

**E. ELECTIONS**

The Quadrennial Body shall elect four members of the FMY, one for each region, to be known as regional directors. A regional director shall have had at least two years of pastoral experience and shall be between the ages of 25 and 35 inclusive when elected.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**THE FMY COUNCIL**

1. The FMY Council shall consist of the four regional directors and the general FMY superintendent.

2. The Council shall plan the work of the regional directors, and direct the activities of the general FMY during the interim of the quadrennial meetings.

3. The Council shall report to and be directly amenable

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to the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education.

4. Any vacancies occurring in the Council shall be filled by the Board of Administration through the Commission on Christian Education. The FMY Council may nominate.

5. The Council shall elect one of its members to serve as an associate member of the Commission on Christian Education, one as an associate member of the Commission on Evangelism, and one as an associate member of the Commission on Missions. The three commissions shall each appoint one member to serve as a counselor to the FMY superintendent on matters of mutual interest.

6. The operating expense of the general FMY as incorporated in their approved budget, shall be paid from funds raised by the FMY. The Commission on Education shall approve the FMY budget and determine the percentage to come from each fund subject to the approval of the Board of Administration. All money raised for general church interests shall be channeled through the local, district (where such exists), conference and general FMY treasurers.

## ARTICLE IX

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Devotions.
2. Calling of the roll.
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Committee and officer reports and discussions.
6. New business.
7. Programs, addresses, and other activities.
8. Reading and correcting minutes.
9. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE X

### RULES OF ORDER

*Roberts' Rules of Order* shall be the standard of parliamentary usage.

## ARTICLE XI

### AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the FMY Quadrennial Body, subject to the approval of the General Conference.

### V. Department of Intermediate Youth

#### ¶ 169.3. General Organization

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

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

#### ¶ 169.6. The Constitution of the Christian Youth Crusaders.

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

To promote the spiritual welfare of Intermediate Youth and to provide Christian direction for their legitimate activities there shall be an organization known as the Christian Youth Crusaders of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

## ARTICLE II

### OBJECTIVES

1. To lead boys and girls of the intermediate age into a genuine experience of salvation from sin, to promote their spiritual welfare, and to acquaint them with the history, teachings and activities of the Free Methodist Church.

2. To provide a wholesome outlet for some of the characteristic adolescent interests and to provide Christian direction for their week-day activities.

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



### ARTICLE III

#### MEMBERSHIP

1. Members shall be boys or girls from eleven to fourteen years of age, inclusive, who desire to unite for activities, instruction, and worship under the direction of the Christian Youth Crusaders.

2. Where practicable, a junior division of Christian Youth Crusaders may be established to minister to the ages eight, nine and ten inclusive.

3. A registration card shall be given to each member annually by the Department of Intermediate Youth when his registration fee is received at Christian Youth Crusaders headquarters. This shall constitute a certificate of good standing to another local organization of the Christian Youth Crusaders or for admission into the Free Methodist Youth organization.

4. Anyone within the proper age limit may belong to the Christian Youth Crusaders and the Free Methodist Youth at the same time.

### ARTICLE IV

#### ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

1. The Christian Youth Crusaders shall be under the general direction of the Commission on Christian Education, and promotional activities connected therewith shall be carried on by the Director of Intermediate Youth, to be chosen by the Commission.

2. Each annual conference shall elect a Director of the Christian Youth Crusaders. He shall be nominated by the committee on nominations of the annual conference and shall be amenable directly to the annual conference. He shall be a member ex officio of the conference board of Christian education or the conference Sunday-school board. The conference Christian Youth Crusader director shall have general supervision of summer camps for children held in the conference, working in cooperation with the conference board of Christian education or the conference Sunday-school board.

3. A district director may be elected by the district quarterly conference.

4. Each society shall elect a Christian Youth Crusaders committee of interested adults whose duty shall be to nominate a Christian Youth Crusaders director and to give support in every practical way to local Christian Youth Crusaders activities.

5. Each society shall elect a Christian Youth Crusaders director. The director must be a member of the Free Methodist Church and regularly attend Sunday school and church. He shall work under the direction of the official board and in cooperation with the Sunday-school board and the pastor.

6. The local Christian Youth Crusaders director shall be a member of both the official board and the Sunday-school board.

7. It shall be the duty of the director of each local Christian Youth Crusaders chapter to function as provided by the general Christian Youth Crusaders manual.

## ARTICLE V

### OFFICERS

1. The local Christian Youth Crusaders shall elect from its membership a leader known as the Marshal. The director may nominate. The Marshal shall be a member and regular attendant of the Free Methodist Sunday school.

## ARTICLE VI

### MEETINGS

1. Christian Youth Crusaders shall have three types of meetings, the Sunday-school class, a Sunday afternoon or evening meeting, and a week-day or week-night meeting. No meeting shall be arranged at any time so as to interfere with the attendance of members at any of the regular meetings of the church.

a. The Sunday-school class need not be changed in any way except that the director wherever possible should be the teacher of the class.

b. The Sunday afternoon or evening may be devoted to prayer, visiting the sick, any other appropri-

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ate Sunday service project, to study or to discussion under the guidance of the director.

c. The week-day or week-night meetings shall be designed to develop the members physically, socially, spiritually and mentally, with one night each month stressing Free Methodist missions.

2. No methods shall be used nor activities engaged in which are not in harmony with the spirit and letter of the Free Methodist Discipline.

### ARTICLE VII

#### FUNDS

1. Each Christian Youth Crusaders member shall pay an annual registration fee which is to be sent to Christian Youth Crusaders headquarters.

2. Money for local needs may be met by collections from members, by offerings from interested adults, or by appropriations from local church boards.

3. A self-denial offering for missions is to be received the last meeting of each month.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### MATERIALS

1. The Department of Intermediate Youth shall provide manuals, printed matter, and materials to assist the organization in all phases of this work. Manuals shall be approved by the Committee on Curriculum before publication.

#### VI. Department of Service Training

##### ¶ 170. General Organization

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

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

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

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

## 2. Duties of the Director

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

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

## 3. Finances of the Department

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

## ¶ 171. Conference Organization

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

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

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Or the educational work of the conference may be unified by the selection of a conference board of Christian education to direct Sunday-school work, the C. Y. C., the F. M. Y., and Service Training.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM AND CHURCH EXTENSION

¶ 180. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Board of Evangelism and the Church Extension Society. It shall elect seven of its members, in accordance with Par. 111, Section 3, to be the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension. The acts of this commission shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

#### I. Evangelism

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

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

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

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

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

6. Each annual conference is required to organize a Conference Evangelistic Board, which shall carry on aggressive evangelistic work within its bounds. This board shall have power to raise funds and to employ evangelists, band workers and helpers to labor within the conference bounds, who, with the concurrence of the district superintendents, shall be authorized to establish new societies, provided that it make provision and be responsible for the support of all the laborers which it employs.

7. The Conference Evangelistic Board, on annual confer-

ence Sunday, is to take an offering of cash and subscriptions, and retain 90% of the receipts in the conference for annual conference evangelism, and send 10% to the general church treasurer to be used by the commission for general evangelism in the weaker conferences.

8. The general evangelistic secretary elected by the General Conference according to Par. 104, Sec. 1, shall be an ex officio member of the commission. He shall keep the records of the commission, receive and answer all correspondence relative to evangelism in the church; and, together with the bishop who is president of the commission, shall have general supervision of the entire evangelistic work, subject to the direction and approval of the Commission. He shall travel at large throughout the church and raise money for evangelism, inspire the spirit of aggressive evangelism, plan for and supervise the extension of work into new fields, and discover and use available evangelistic talent in our schools, conferences, F. M. Y., and elsewhere, to promote, in co-operation with conference evangelistic boards and district superintendents, an aggressive general program.

The general evangelistic secretary shall receive a salary to be fixed by the Executive Commission.

9. General evangelists may be elected by the General Conference in accordance with Par. 104, Sec. 1.

(1) General evangelists, except when assigned to special fields by the General Conference, shall travel at large under the direction of the Commission on Evangelism, open new fields, organize new societies and provide them with temporary pastors, preparatory to the organization of new conferences. A new society organized in an existing conference shall be under the care of the superintendent of the adjacent district.

(2) They shall have oversight of other evangelists laboring in immediate connection with them.

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

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

10. The Light and Life Men's Fellowship, having the promotion of evangelism as one of its principal objectives, sustains an auxiliary relationship to the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension, and may select a representative to serve as a member of the Commission.

## II. Church Extension

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

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

3. The general church treasurer shall be the treasurer of the Church Extension Society. The general evangelistic secretary shall be the secretary of the Church Extension Society, and shall be responsible for promotion of the general program of church extension, subject to the direction and approval of the Commission.

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



## CHAPTER VII

### THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD

¶ 190. 1. There shall be a Canadian Executive Board to be elected by the Canadian conferences on the following basis. At the first session after each General Conference, each Canadian annual conference shall elect one elder and one lay member to represent it on the board, provided that when a conference shall reach a membership of eight hundred in full relation, it shall be entitled to one additional ministerial and one additional lay representative for every subsequent six hundred full members. For method of election, see Dominion Act of Incorporation, schedule A, page 8.

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

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

4. The Canadian conferences shall be permitted to retain all money raised within their bounds except those parts of the General Service Fund otherwise assigned in Sec. 3. All general funds so held, except those which may be directly related to any of the co-operating conferences, those raised for the Commission on Missions and for the Sunday School Department as provided in Par. 152, Art. X, those the Canadian Executive Board may contribute to the Commission on Evangelism, and those which any Canadian conference wishes to use in taking advantage of the provisions of Par. 131, shall be administered by the Canadian Executive Board.

5. The Canadian Executive Board shall receive annually according to the business furnished from within the bounds

of these Canadian conferences an appropriate amount of the profits of the Free Methodist Publishing House.

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

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

8. 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 VIII

### SOUTH AFRICA MISSION CONFERENCE

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

2. With the exception of Sections 2 and 3 of Par. 203, these articles may be amended by the Commission on Missions after consultation with the South Africa Conference.

#### I. Membership

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

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

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

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

#### II. Native Self-Support

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

raise money for the development of the work within its bounds.

### III. Prerogatives

¶ 203. 1. The district superintendents who have served during the year, an equal number of lay members to be elected by ballot on the first day of the session, together with the president of the conference, shall constitute the stationing committee. The president shall be chairman with vote.

2. This conference may elect one missionary who is in the homeland as a delegate to the General Conference.

3. The three classes of members specified above shall sit and vote as one body on all matters coming before the conference, according to the DISCIPLINE, with the exception of the reserved subject which shall be considered in the missionary meeting according to Par. 204.

### IV. Missionaries and the Mission Meeting

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

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

2. The mission shall perform the following functions:

(1) Appoint all missionaries laboring within the bounds of the conference, including those in school, farm, and medical work, to their fields.

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

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

(4) The mission shall be under the control of, and all its actions subject to the approval of, the Commission on Missions.

3. A missionary in charge of a mission station shall direct the work of pastors and evangelists on the circuit and may preside at the official meetings of the circuit.

V. The Executive Committee

¶ 205. 1. The executive committee shall be composed of three members of the Mission who may be nominated by the Mission and shall be elected by the Commission on Missions.

2. The executive committee shall have power during the interim of the annual meeting of the mission to transact any business that would ordinarily come before the mission. When a majority of the committee deems it advisable, a special meeting of the mission may be called. Timely notice of such special meeting shall be given and members should endeavor to be present.

## CHAPTER IX

### JAPAN CONFERENCE

#### I. The Annual Conference

¶ 210. 1. The Annual Conference shall be composed of the following members:

(1) Ministerial delegates. Elders and deacons. Missionaries shall be eligible for membership when they have been in Japan two years, and shall have completed the course of study of the Japanese language and are members in good standing of an annual conference of the Free Methodist Church.

(2) Lay delegates. Each local church which belongs to the conference is entitled to one lay delegate, and whenever there is more than one preacher in full conference relation appointed to a local church, the church shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every such additional preacher.

(3) Ministers on probation. A minister on probation shall have a voice in the annual conference.

2. Ministerial members shall be received into conference membership in the manner prescribed in Paragraphs 320-322 inclusive of the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church.

#### II. Officers

3. The Annual Conference shall elect by ballot from the Japanese ministerial members, a conference superintendent and a secretary. The term of office of each shall be one year, but they shall hold office until their successors are elected. In the case of a vacancy in the office of superintendent or secretary, the Board of Directors shall elect a successor to fill out the unexpired term.

#### III. Annual Meeting

4. The conference shall be held annually during the month of March or April.

## IV. Order of Business

5. The conference shall transact the following business:

(1) Reports of ministers and churches on the year's work. President of the conference shall call preachers' attention to Paragraphs 301-306, 310 of the DISCIPLINE.

(2) Report of Board of Directors and standing committees.

(3) Treasurer's report.

(4) Reception of new members.

(5) Revision or amendments of regulations.

(6) Election of directors, advisors, district superintendents, various committees and Annual Conference treasurer and auditors. Election shall be by ballot.

(7) Nominate directors and advisors of Osaka Christian College School Corporation.

(8) Budget for coming year.

(9) Matters concerning the control and management of the property.

(10) Matters concerning the establishment of new churches.

(11) Executive and administrative affairs of local churches, and other important business of this conference.

## V. Procedure, Prerogatives, Appeals

6. (1) Business shall be decided by a majority vote. In case of tie the chairman may decide.

(2) According to these rules, Paragraphs 181-6, 255-258, and 320-1 of the DISCIPLINE shall apply to the Annual Conference.

(3) This Annual Conference shall contribute to the General Conference travel and entertainment fund of the general service fund on a per member basis, and their delegates shall be transported from the coast of United States to the seat of the General Conference, and entertained from this fund as are other General Conference delegates.

(4) This conference shall not vote on constitutional changes of the Free Methodist Church.

(5) All appeals made from the decisions and rulings of

the president of the conference shall be presented to the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church for final action.

### VI. Stationing Committee

¶7. (1) This committee shall be composed of the conference superintendent of last year, president of the conference, superintendent of the mission, and an equal number of elders and laymen elected by ballot on the first day of conference. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

The number of ministerial and lay delegates shall be equal to the number of districts.

(2) This committee shall appoint or change the station of the workers, pastors, district superintendents (when the Annual Conference shall elect) and missionaries in charge of local churches in accordance with the need. These may be returned to their previous charges whenever in the judgment of the stationing committee, the need of the work requires.

(3) Whenever it is necessary to transfer a preacher to another church, this committee shall call the preacher and the lay delegate, and after the investigation of the circumstances of both preacher and church, it shall decide his station.

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

(5) The 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.

### VII. The Quarterly Conference

¶211. 8. The quarterly conference shall be governed by paragraphs 260-262 of the DISCIPLINE.



## VIII. Churches

¶ 212. 9. Organization of churches. When a church is to be organized, it should receive the recognition of the annual conference through the recommendation of the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located.

## 10. Classification of churches.

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

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

(3) Evangelistic hall. An evangelistic hall is a society which has not yet reached the status of an organized church.

(4) Mission church. A mission church is a church which has no organization or an organized church that is aided by the mission.

## 11. Relation of churches to the conference.

(1) Self-supporting churches shall be under the control of the conference and entitled to elect lay delegates who shall enjoy the privileges of full relationship therein.

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

(3) Evangelistic halls shall be under the control of the conference and shall have the right of non-voting lay representation in the annual conference.

(4) Mission churches shall be under the control of the mission. The organized mission churches shall be entitled to send delegates to the annual conference who shall have equal privileges with the delegates of aided churches.

The unorganized mission church shall have the right of non-voting lay representation in the annual conference. When such a church desires to become an organized church, it must receive the recommendation of both the mission and the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located.

12. The business of the churches shall be governed by Paragraphs 270-291.

13. Ministers and laymen of churches which belong to this conference shall confess the Articles of Religion of the Free Methodist Church and adhere sincerely to the General Rules.

### IX. Board of Directors

¶ 213. 14. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the conference superintendent, two Japanese elders, and two elders of the mission elected by the annual conference. Missionary directors may be nominated by the mission.

15. The Board of Directors shall transact the following business:

(1) All matters pertaining to annual conference that are committed to the board.

(2) All matters that shall be in the jurisdiction of the annual conference, but shall arise in the interim of conferences and shall need immediate attention.

16. The conference superintendent shall call the Board of Directors and he shall be the chairman of it.

17. The board shall have its own secretary and treasurer.

18. The board shall have three or more advisors who shall be preachers or lay delegates. The advisors shall attend, without fail, all the meetings of the board, and when requested to do so by the board, the advisors may vote.

The secretary shall inform of the board meetings by letters to the directors and advisors prior to the opening of the meeting.

19. The board may advise and make recommendations to the mission concerning the distribution of missionaries and situation of new mission fields.

### X. Standing Committees

¶ 214. 20. (1) To transact the business, the annual conference shall have standing committees as follows:

- a. Evangelism committee
- b. Doctrine and education committee
- c. Committee on examination in the course of study

- d. Seminary committee
- e. Sunday-school committee
- f. Young people's committee
- g. Women's committee
- h. Kindergarten committee
- i. Publishing committee
- j. Finance committee
- k. Scholarship committee
- l. Welfare committee
- m. Committee of superannuate fund

(2) Chairman of each committee and the committees shall be elected at the session of the annual conference.

(3) The jurisdictional matters of each committee shall be defined through the approval of the conference.

4. The term of office for the chairman of each committee and the members of the committee shall be decided by the conference.

#### XI. Finance

¶ 215. 21. Funds shall be classified under two heads as follows:

(1) Funds raised by the conference for its work shall be under the conference control.

(2) Funds allocated by the Commission on Missions for the missionaries and their work shall be controlled by the mission.

22. Salaries of pastors and workers.

(1) The standard of salaries for pastors and workers shall be decided by the Board of Directors. Salaries of pastors and workers serving self-supporting churches shall be paid by that local church. Salaries of pastors and workers serving aided churches shall be supplemented by money from the treasurer of the Board of Directors.

(2) Pastors and workers shall, in case of special financial need, present their request to the Board of Directors after it has been approved by the official board of the church.

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

(4) Expenses of ministers, ministers on probation, and lay delegates to the annual conference shall be defrayed by the conference, except that when necessary, the conference may assess each local church.

## XII. Administration of Church Property

¶ 216. 23. In order to own, manage, transfer and utilize land, buildings and all other property which are for the accomplishment of the purpose of this conference according to the law of Japan, the conference shall be incorporated as the Japan Free Methodist Conference Corporation (Shadan).

24. All churches and parsonage property in which the missionary board has funds invested shall be held in trust by the Japan Free Methodist Conference Corporation (Shadan) and may be transferred or disposed of only by the permission of the General Missionary Board, and on such terms as it may require.

25. Churches and parsonage property to which the Commission on Missions and the Japanese churches together, or the Japanese churches only, have contributed funds, shall be held in the name of the Japan Free Methodist Conference Corporation (Shadan) and shall not be disposed of without duly consulting those churches and securing their consent to the terms.

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

## XIII. Minister Training Institute

¶ 217. 27. Training of ministers shall be done in Osaka Christian College. (Osaka Kiristokyo Gakuin)

## XIV. Amendments

¶ 218. 28. These rules shall be amended by the conference if two-thirds of members attending the conference ap-

prove and if said amendments be approved by the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

#### XV. Appendix

¶ 219. 29. These rules are valid when they do not conflict with the laws of Japan.

30. These rules shall be a part of the By-laws of the Constitution of the Japan Free Methodist Conference Corporation (Shadan) and the conference and the Board of Directors in these rules shall be identical to the general meeting and Board of Directors in the constitution of the Shadan.

#### 31. The Mission.

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

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

(3) The school (Osaka Christian College) shall be under the control of the mission and shall be administered by the mission in cooperation with the conference.

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

(5) The regulations of this paragraph may be amended by the mission, with the sanction of the Commission on Missions provided that amendments which in any way conflict with the rights and privileges of the conference have also the approval of more than two-thirds of the members attending conference.

CHAPTER X  
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

¶ 220. The Free Methodist Church is a public and religious non-profit organization. This church is subject to the laws of the land.

I. Name. The name of this organization shall be: "Dominican Free Methodist Church."

II. Aims. The aims of this organization are religious, charitable, and educational; especially to conduct religious services, cultivate association among the members, and raise the moral standard in the community.

III. This non-profit organization may buy, sell, mortgage, exchange, receive and administer properties and gifts in the Dominican Republic and in other countries with the object of forwarding the aims listed above.

IV. Domicile. The headquarters for transaction of business shall be in Santiago, province of Santiago.

V. Members. The membership of this organization shall be made up according to the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

VI. Limiting regulations. This corporation shall be subject to the rules and DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church of North America as it may be adopted from time to time by the General Conference of the same, when these rules do not conflict with the laws of the Dominican Republic. (The DISCIPLINE and rules of the Free Methodist Church of North America shall always be a part of the rules of this organization.)

VII. This constitution may be amended in any regular session of the annual conference (Paragraph 240-258 of the DISCIPLINE) by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the conference and approval of the General Missionary Board.

VIII. The directors shall consist of one representative of

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the Free Methodist Mission, three ministerial representatives and one lay representative.

**Dominican Conference**

¶ 221. Membership. There shall be three classes of members.

1. Ministerial members.

(1) Missionaries and Dominican preachers who have been recognized by the provisional conference. Hereafter, the preachers who are not missionaries shall be received as members of the conference according to the DISCIPLINE.

(2) Eligible foreign missionaries after having been two years in this country shall be received as members of the conference upon recommendation of the Missionary Body.

2. Lay members. Lay members shall be designated in accordance with the DISCIPLINE.

3. Honorary members. All missionaries, members of the local mission board, not eligible as active members (such as wives of active members) shall be recognized as honorary members.

¶ 222. The churches. A church is an organized group that has received the recognition of the annual conference upon recommendation of the district quarterly conference to which it belongs.

1. There shall be three classes of churches.

(1) The self-supporting church covers all expenses including the support of her pastor and other workers.

(2) An aided church is one that has not come up to the standard of self support, even though it pays its general expenses and part of the pastor's salary.

(3) A dependent church is one that is supported entirely by the Missionary Board or by one or more of the self-supporting churches.

2. Relation of the churches to the conference.

(1) The self-supporting churches shall be under conference control and shall enjoy all the privileges of full connection. (See Paragraph 62 of the DISCIPLINE.)

(2) The aided churches shall be under conference control and shall enjoy the same privileges as the self-supporting

churches.

An aided church should become self-supporting within a period of ten years, at the most. If, at the end of this period, it has not attained to this standard, its delegate shall not have the right to vote in the annual conference until this shall be accomplished.

(3) A dependent church shall be under the control of those who support it and shall have non-voting lay representatives in the annual conference after being recommended by those who support it and by the district quarterly conference to which it belongs. It shall have the same voting privilege as self-supporting and aided churches.

¶ 223. The stationing committee. The stationing committee shall be composed of the conference president, the district superintendents who have served during the conference year, an equal number of lay members named according to the DISCIPLINE, and as many missionaries, named by the local mission board, as shall be necessary to equal the number of native members. This committee will station all pastors, district superintendents, missionaries in charge of circuits, who may be returned to the same circuits or districts whenever, in the judgment of the stationing committee, the needs of the work justify it; and members of working committees of organizations under conference control.

¶ 224. Administration.

1. Every organization under conference control shall have an executive committee consisting of missionaries and natives, the number to be determined by the conference.

2. There shall be a Conference Board of Administration consisting of two native elders elected by ballot in the conference and two missionaries elected by the local mission board. When there is only one district superintendent, he shall be a member of the board without the need of election.

(1) During the interim of conference, this board shall manage all the business within the jurisdiction of the conference.

(2) This board shall elect one of its members as president, except that when there is only one district superintendent, he shall be president.



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(3) This board shall elect its own secretary and treasurer.

(4) In case of necessity this board may elect one or more counselors.

(5) This board shall meet in regular session twice a year and as many times as two or more members shall deem necessary.

¶ 225. Finance.

1. The funds shall be administered as follows:

(1) Funds appropriated by the Missionary Board for the missionaries and dependents shall be controlled by the local mission board.

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

2. Pastors' salaries.

(1) The pastors' and workers' salaries of the self-supporting churches shall be determined by the local churches.

(2) The pastors and workers shall present their financial needs to the Board of Administration after their requests have been approved by the official board of their church.

3. The traveling expenses of pastors, delegates and other workers having business with the conference shall be paid from conference claims.

4. Aided churches shall receive help proportionate to their income for a limited time from the Missionary Board or from the self-supporting churches.

5. Dependent churches shall receive economic aid for a period of time not to exceed five years or until they reach the status immediately higher.

6. The workers receiving salaries shall not engage in any other remunerative employment, except in an emergency for a limited time; in this event they shall proceed according to Section 2 (2), as a worker is expected to give full time to his charge.

¶ 226. Properties.

1. It is understood that properties includes both real and movable.

2. Titles of properties bought with funds sent by the

Missionary Board shall be in the name of "The General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America."

3. Titles of properties purchased by funds from the Missionary Board and the Dominican churches shall be in the name of "The General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America," but may not be disposed of without the consent of the Dominican Conference.

4. Titles of properties bought by the Dominican Free Methodist Church shall be in the name of the same and shall not be disposed of without the consent of the local church if the society is properly organized.

5. All costs of repair, insurance, taxes, etc., shall be paid by the local church having the use of the property. Whenever a local church cannot meet the expenses of repairs, building program, etc., permission to solicit funds outside of the circuit must be obtained from the Conference Board of Administration.

¶ 227. The local mission board has its own regulations.

¶ 228. Limit of prerogatives.

1. This conference may elect one or more delegates to the General Conference, but must be responsible for their expenses.

2. This conference cannot vote on the constitutional principles of Paragraphs 75-78 of the DISCIPLINE.

3. The rules of the local mission board shall not be in conflict with the rights and privileges of this conference.

¶ 229. Appeals and amendments.

1. All appeals occasioned by decisions and rulings of the presiding officer of the conference shall be presented to the Commission on Missions for final approval.

2. These articles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the annual conference subject to the approval of the General Missionary Board.

## CHAPTER XI

### PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE CONFERENCE

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

#### I. Membership

¶ 231. There are two classes of membership as follows:

##### 1. Ministerial Members.

(1) Missionaries and Japanese preachers holding membership in good standing in conferences shall on presentation of their certificates of standing or parchments become members of the conference. Ministerial members shall be received into conference membership in the manner prescribed in Paragraphs 320-322.

(2) Unordained charter members.

##### 2. Lay Members.

(1) Lay members shall be elected according to Paragraphs 62 and 280, Sec. 2.

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

#### II. Churches

¶ 232. 1. Organization of Churches. When a church is organized it shall receive the recognition of the annual conference through the recommendation of the mission and the quarterly conference in whose territory it is located.

##### 2. Classification of Churches.

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

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

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

### 3. Relation of Churches to the Conference.

(1) Self-supporting Churches. Self-supporting churches shall be under the control of the conference and shall enjoy all the privileges of full relationship therein. (See Par. 62.)

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

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

### III. Stationing Committee

¶ 233. 1. Those who have served as district superintendents during the year, an equal number of lay members to be elected by ballot the first day of the session, the president of the conference, and the superintendent of the mission, shall constitute a stationing committee, of which the president shall be chairman with vote. If there is only one district superintendent in active service during the year, additional elders and lay members may be elected according to the number of districts. Should the superintendent be serving as district superintendent, an additional elder shall be elected from the body of the conference to serve on the stationing committee.

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

#### IV. Board of Administration

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

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

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

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

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

#### V. Finances

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

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

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

2. Salaries of pastors and workers:

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

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

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

(4) Expenses of pastors, workers and delegates to the annual conference shall be defrayed by the societies which

they represent, except that when necessary the expenses of pastors and workers only may be met by a fund created by the conference.

### VI. Church Property

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

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

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

### VII. Prerogatives

¶ 237. 1. This conference may elect delegates to the General Conference as provided for in Par. 64 of the Free Methodist Discipline.

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

### VIII. The Mission

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

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

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

**IX. Appeals and Amendments**

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

2. With the exception of Article VIII, Sec. 1, and Article IX, Sec. 3, these articles may be amended by the conference, subject to the sanction of the mission, the Commission on Missions, and the General Conference.

3. Article VIII, Sec. 1, may be amended by the mission, with the sanction of the Commission on Missions and the General Conference, provided that amendments which conflict with the rights or privileges of the conference must have the approval of the conference also.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 245. 1. Each annual conference may have a standing committee on conference membership and guidance, the personnel of which shall be the members of the Stationing Committee making appointments, with additional members as deemed advisable by the electing body, not to exceed twelve members nor to be less than five, which shall be invested with the responsibility of carefully screening the candidates for reception into the conference whether on probation or in full relation. The committee shall keep out those unsuited to membership and guide and counsel those who are received, that they may be able to meet all the demands of their holy office.

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

3. The committee shall, in addition, provide opportunity for expression of each pastor in the matter of his appointment, shall make careful study of the problem of manning the work and shall relay all such information with recommendations to the Stationing Committee.

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

This committee shall act only as a committee of preliminary investigation, to determine if there is a probable cause for

such accusation and report such findings to the conference. The committee's report upon a particular case must, except with the consent of the accused to expunge it, be placed in the conference records, with a statement of the findings and the final disposition.

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

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

¶ 248. Each annual conference shall elect one or more superintendents to man the work, and may elect one or more pastors to serve as assistants to the superintendent. The territory embraced by each annual conference shall be divided into districts, and over each district one of the elders shall be appointed by the conference as district superintendent. The conference may instruct a superintendent to work under the general direction of an advisory committee, provided that there be no infringement of the disciplinary powers of the superintendent.

¶ 249. 1. The district superintendents and an equal number of lay members of the conference (one from the districts of each superintendent), to be elected by ballot the first day of the session, shall, together with the president of the conference, constitute a stationing committee, of which the president shall be chairman and have a casting vote. When an annual conference has but one district superintendent, it may, if it so desires, increase the number of members on the stationing committee by electing one additional elder and an additional layman. If for any reason a district superintendent is not able to serve on the stationing committee, the conference shall elect one of its elders to take his place. No person who is recommended to the annual conference to be received on probation, nor a supply,

though acting as a delegate, shall be eligible to serve on the stationing committee.

2. It shall be the duty of the stationing committee to appoint the preachers to their several fields of labor each year.

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 253. Each annual conference shall elect an annual conference Board of Claimants of not less than three nor more than seven members. The presiding bishop or his appointee shall be ex officio chairman of this board during the session of the annual conference. The duties of the board are outlined in the plan for conference claimants. (See Par. 125, Sec. 3, and Par. 128, Sec. 3, for duties of the annual conference, relating to care of superannuate preachers.)

¶ 254. Each annual conference is required to organize a

conference evangelistic board which shall be authorized to carry on aggressive evangelistic work within its bounds. This board shall have power to raise funds and to employ evangelists, band workers and helpers to labor within the conference bounds, who, with the concurrence of the district superintendents, shall be authorized to establish new societies, provided that it make provision and be responsible for the support of all the laborers which it employs.

¶ 255. Members of an annual conference may be appointed as evangelists. They shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of those appointed to circuits, and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, so far as they apply to their circumstances. They shall be subject to the restrictions of Par. 181, Sec. 9 (3). No preacher, however, shall be granted an evangelist's relation to the conference unless he states in writing that he intends to devote at least three-fifths of his time to the work of an evangelist, and if he shall fail to report to his conference the required number of weeks so devoted, he shall not be granted that relation the following year.

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

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

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

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

¶ 257. Each annual conference shall inquire:

1. What are the names of preachers and delegates having a seat in this conference?
2. Who are the stationing committee?
3. What preachers are admitted on probation?
4. Who remain on probation?

5. Who are admitted into full membership?
6. Who are the deacons?
7. Who have been elected and ordained elders this year?
8. Who have located this year?
9. Who are the supernumerary preachers?
10. Who are the retired preachers?
11. Who have been received by transfer, and from what conferences? (It is the duty of the conference receiving a preacher by transfer to send notice of his reception to the secretary of the conference from which he has transferred.)
12. Who have withdrawn from the conference this year?
13. Who have been given certificates of good standing with a view to transfer to another conference?
14. Have any been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints?
15. Have any been expelled?
16. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation? Have they, during the past year, discharged their duties to God, themselves, and one another? (See Paragraphs 301-306, 310-311 and 345, Sec. 2. Let the president call attention to these portions of the DISCIPLINE.)
17. Who have died this year?
18. What is the number of church members? (Gain or loss of membership in a society as reported in the statistical forms refers to full members only.)
19. What is the number of ministers on probation and in full membership in this conference?
20. Amount collected for conference claimants? For the bishops? For general missions? For the annual conference missionary fund? For foreign missions? For educational fund?
21. Number of Sunday schools? Of officers and teachers? Of scholars? Of members on the cradle roll? Of members in the home department? Of volumes in library?
22. What has been expended during the year on the circuits for Sunday schools? What has been raised in the Sunday schools for foreign missions and other benevolences?
23. How many copies of the *Free Methodist* are taken?
24. What amounts are recommended for the superannuated

preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers?

25. At the last session prior to the General Conference, the question shall be asked, What amount is necessary for us to raise toward defraying the expenses of delegates to the General Conference and the entertainment of the General Conference?

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

27. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

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

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

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

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

2. Four sessions of the quarterly conference shall be held each year, in connection with the general quarterly meetings at such times and places as it may designate, provided, however, that upon the written request of one half of the preachers on the district and an equal number of lay members of the quarterly conference, the district superintendent may call a special session. (For exceptions, see Par. 340, Sec. 4.) A quarterly 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 quarterly conference of the year may fix the time and the place of the first meeting of the ensuing year.

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

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

5. The quarterly 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 quarterly conference shall
  - (1) Hear complaints.
  - (2) Try appeals.
  - (3) Grant and renew licenses to preach. (See Paragraphs 261, 350-353.)
  - (4) License band workers.
  - (5) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference for admission on probation as traveling preachers.
  - (6) Recommend suitable persons to the annual conference to receive deaconess' license.
  - (7) Recommend suitable local preachers to the annual conference to receive ordination as deacons and elders.
  - (8) Elect a district advisor of the F. M. Y. The district F. M. Y. may nominate.
  - (9) In co-operation with the district superintendent, appoint and hold camp meetings as the interests of the cause of God may require. It may set the time of the camp meeting of the following year.

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

#### Order of Business for Quarterly Conference

- ¶ 262. 1. Call to order by district superintendent or, in his absence, by the secretary.
2. Devotions.
  3. Calling of the roll. (At the first session of the year a roll should be made out and then called.)
  4. Election of secretary.
  5. Election of treasurer.
  6. Election of auditor.
  7. Reading of the minutes of previous session.
  8. Financial report of district superintendent.
  9. Report of treasurer.
  10. Report of committees.
  11. Is there any unfinished business?

12. Is there any new business?
13. Are there any complaints?
14. Are there any appeals?
15. Shall we hold any camp meetings this year? If so, how many? When? Where?
16. Are there any recommendations for local preacher's license? For evangelist's license? For band worker's license?

17. Reports from preachers on condition of their charges, Sunday schools, instruction in Christian living and church membership (see Par. 345, Sec. 23), the number of subscribers to the *Free Methodist*, with statements that the permanent records on their circuits are up to date.

18. Reports of evangelists and deaconesses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

case of failure to do so, the quarterly 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 quarterly conference deposited for safe keeping? If so, where?

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

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

30. Reading and approval of minutes.

31. Adjournment.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE OFFICIAL BOARD

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

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

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

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

5. It is recommended that the official board elect from