

the members of the church a budget or finance committee, of which the pastor and the treasurer shall be members, to prepare for the consideration of the board an estimate of the amount needed for the support of the preachers and for the other expenses of the circuit.

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

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

Suggested Order of Business

¶ 271. 1. Devotions.

2. Election of a secretary.

3. Calling of the roll.

4. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. Election of a treasurer.

6. Election of an auditor.

7. Election of a committee on charities.

8. Inquire (1) Are there any sick?

(2) What is the status of membership?

a. Have any been received on probation?

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

c. Are there any whose probation has expired?

d. Have any been received into full connection?

e. Have any died?

f. Have any been otherwise removed?

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

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

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

(6) Are there any exhorters to be recommended for

local preacher's license? Are there any local preachers to be recommended for renewal of licenses?

(7) Have any been married or baptized?

(8) Treasurer's Report:

- a. Amount raised as ordered by the conference.
- b. Amount raised for pastoral support.
- c. Amount raised for district superintendent's claim.
- d. Report of other money received and disbursed.
- e. Balance in the treasury.

(9) Are there any claims to be presented?

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

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

(12) Reports of department heads:

- a. Report of the Sunday-school superintendent.
- b. Report of the president of the W. M. S.
- c. Report of the advisor(s) of the F. M. Y.
- d. Report of the director of C. Y. C.

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

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

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

(16) Is the church property insured?

(17) Are the advices and requirements regarding the cultivation of vocal music found in Par. 93 being observed?

9. Reading the minutes.

10. Adjournment.

CHAPTER XV

THE CIRCUIT MEETING

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

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

3. The annual circuit meeting shall decide the number of stewards to be elected upon the circuit and also the number to be elected by each society. Where there is but one society, stewards, Sunday-school superintendents and trustees (when it is not in conflict with the charter or the laws of the state) may be elected by the annual circuit meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by the societies in which they occur.

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

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

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

annual circuit or society meeting to the district or conference superintendent.

Suggested Order of Business

¶ 281. 1. Devotions.

(Secretary of the official board acts as secretary.)

2. Calling of the roll.
3. Report of treasurer of official board, Par. 270, Sec. 3.
4. Election of tellers.
5. Election of delegates to the annual conference.
6. Election of reserve delegates.
7. Decide the number of stewards for each society on the circuit.
8. Receive the report of the trustees.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Approval of the minutes.
11. Adjournment.

CHAPTER XVI

THE SOCIETY MEETING

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

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

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

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

Suggested Order of Business

¶ 291. 1. Devotions.

2. Roll call.

3. Election of a secretary.

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

5. Election of tellers.

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

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

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

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

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

11. Election of a Christian Youth Crusaders Committee and a Christian Youth Crusaders Director.

12. Election of trial committee (if necessary).

13. Decision regarding incorporation (if necessary).

14. Annual report of workers.

15. Election of trustees (if the state law allows). (See Par. 461.)

16. Miscellaneous business.

17. Approval of minutes.

18. Adjournment.

Each class elects its own class leader. The preacher in charge may nominate. (See Par. 371, Sec. 1.)

PART IV
THE MINISTRY

CHAPTERS

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

CHAPTER I

QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK

I. The Call to Preach

¶ 300. Examination of Those Who Think They Are Moved by the Holy Ghost to Preach.—1. The following questions shall be asked the candidates, namely: Do you know God as a pardoning God? Have you the love of God abiding in you? Do you desire nothing but what is the will of God? Do you believe that entire sanctification is the work of God wrought instantaneously upon the heart of the consecrated, believing soul subsequent to justification? Do you believe you are called of God to preach the gospel?

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

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

II. Rules for a Preacher's Conduct

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be sure never to disappoint a congregation.

Begin at the time appointed.

Always suit your subject to your audience.

Choose the plainest texts you can.

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

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

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

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

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

Let your deportment be serious, weighty and solemn.

III. Spiritual Qualifications

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

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

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

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

They are either instituted or prudential.

The instituted are:

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

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

2. Searching the Scriptures—reading regularly, some part

every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully, with notes; seriously, with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practicing what you learn there; meditating, at set times and by rule; hearing the Word at every opportunity, with prayer, before, at, after. Have your Bible always about you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IV. Matter and Manner of Preaching

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

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

V. Where to Preach

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

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

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

VI. Pastoral Visitation and Enforcement of Practical Religion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. "Lastly, we are unskilled in the work. How few know how to deal with men so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers; to choose the fittest subjects, and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness, terror, love, and meekness?"

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

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

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

It is objected, 2. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will. And all the success with them will repay all your labors. Oh, let us herein follow the example of St. Paul! (1) For our general business, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind. (2) Our special work, Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock. (3) Our doctrine, Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (4) The place, I have taught you publicly, and from house to house. (5) The object and manner of teaching, I ceased not to warn every one night and day, with tears. (6) His innocence and self-denial herein, I have coveted no man's silver or gold. (7) His patience, Neither count I my life dear unto myself.

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

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

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

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

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

Chiefly because we do not properly use the means. 1. How few wait upon the Lord in secret prayer until his blessing comes on the soul? 2. Do we know the obligation and benefit of fasting and abstinence? 3. How often do we practice it? 4. How little there is of self-denial? 5. How few bring their tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord? 6. How much there is of consecration to our own wills instead of the will of the Lord? 7. How few manifest a disposition to submit themselves one to another? 8. What a want there is of properly governing the tongue. The neglect of these alone is sufficient to account for our feebleness and faintness of spirit. We should amend from this hour.

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

1. We should preach expressly on each of these heads. 2. Read in every society the sermon on evil speaking. 3. The leaders should closely examine and exhort every person to put away the accursed thing. 4. The preachers should warn every society that none who is guilty herein can

remain with us. 5. Extirpate from our church all buying or selling of goods which have not paid the duty laid upon them by government. 6. Extirpate bribery, receiving anything, directly or indirectly, for voting at any election. 7. Strongly advise our people to discountenance all treats given by candidates before or at elections, and not to be partakers in any respect of such practices. Show no respect to persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing.

VII. Employment of Time

¶ 316. We advise you, 1. As often as possible, to rise at five. 2. From five to six in the morning, and from five to six in the evening, to meditate, pray, and read the Scriptures with notes, and the closely practical parts of what Mr. Wesley has published. 3. From seven in the morning till twelve (allowing one hour for breakfast) read with much prayer some of our best religious books.

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

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

VIII. Union Among Ourselves

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

known, of the evil of division in principle, spirit, or practice, and of the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we divide, we shall destroy ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

In order to a closer union with each other,

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

IX. Union with Others

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

CHAPTER II

MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES

I. Reception on Probation

¶ 320. 1. A local preacher or evangelist who has been duly recommended by his quarterly conference may be received on probation by an annual conference after satisfactorily completing the Preliminary course of study (Par. 503, Sec. 1), and when so received he shall have from the annual conference a certificate of his relation signed by the president and the secretary. But the requirements of this paragraph shall not be so fully enforced as to preclude the reception of a person who, in the judgment of the annual conference, is possessed of such natural gifts and graces as to promise at least a fair degree of success in the work of God, and who has the recommendation of two thirds of the stationing committee.

2. Women may be received on probation and into full membership and be ordained deacon, on the same conditions as men, provided always that this shall not be regarded as a step toward ordination as elder, and provided further that no woman whose husband is a member of an annual conference either on probation or in full relation shall be eligible to be received into the conference. Upon being received on probation a woman automatically loses the seat in conference she may have had under Par. 360, Sec. 4.

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

4. A preacher on probation in an annual conference is no longer a member of a society to be reported with the local

preachers whose licenses are renewed by a quarterly conference. Instead he holds his membership in the annual conference and is counted with the preachers; but he is not entitled to vote.

5. A probationer shall be allowed a maximum of four years to complete the course of study required for admission into the conference in full membership (Par. 503, Sec. 2). Should he fail to complete the course of study in that time, his status as probationer may be continued only upon recommendation of the conference examining board.

II. Reception into Full Membership

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

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

(17) Are you in debt?

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

III. Reception from Other Denominations

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

2. We do not recognize the credentials of a minister from another denomination if he has remarried and has a divorced wife living, or if his wife has a divorced husband living.

IV. Ordination Credentials

¶ 323. 1. Every minister, whether local or itinerant, whose ordination is recognized by an annual conference, shall be entitled to a parchment from the president of the conference, certifying the fact of his ordination.

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

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

V. Termination of Conference Membership

¶ 324. Conference membership may be terminated by:

1. Voluntary location.

2. Location through action of the conference under the provisions of Par. 250.

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

CHAPTER IV

BISHOPS

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

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

a. To meet at least once a year.

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

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

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

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

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

~~3. To establish new societies.~~

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

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

6. To transfer a preacher from one conference to another, with the consent of the preacher and of the conference to

which he is transferred; provided, that no preacher shall be transferred to another conference without a certificate of his good standing and general acceptability, given by his annual or his quarterly conference.

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

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

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

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

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

10. To receive from one whom they have appointed to

hold an annual conference a comprehensive written report of all the administrative proceedings which arise in that conference.

¶ 332. The bishops shall be amenable to the General Conference for the discharge of their official duties, and for their Christian conduct to the annual conferences to which they belong.

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

¶ 334. A bishop shall receive a retirement credit of 5% of the salary rate in effect for bishops at the date of his retirement for each year of his service as a bishop of not to exceed a total of 60%.

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

When a bishop or former bishop retires he shall receive a claim for the amount of his accrued retirement credits as set forth above and shall be entitled to draw up to 60% of the current salary of bishops—the amount being determined by his accumulated percentage credits times the current salary rates for bishops.

The difference between the regular retirement claim, or social security claim, and the amount called for in this provision shall be made up from the bishop's salary fund.

CHAPTER V

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

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

1. To look after the spiritual and temporal interests of the church within his district; to take charge of circuits without preachers; and to have general oversight of the work on his district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. No minister shall serve in the office of superintendent in the same conference for a term exceeding eight consecutive years.

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

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

¶ 343. The superintendent shall be supported by the conference or district to which he is elected, each circuit contributing its proportion as agreed upon by the annual or the quarterly conference. A stationed superintendent shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed. The district shall assist when necessary. A conference or district budget is recommended for the traveling superintendent's support.

CHAPTER VI

PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

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

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

3. To examine each of the leaders concerning his method of leading his class, observe which leaders are the most useful and have these meet the other classes as often as possible, and see that all the leaders are persons not only of sound judgment, but truly devoted to God. (See also Par. 371, Sec. 4.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. To report quarterly to the official board the entries made in the record book during the quarter.

9. To leave to his successor a particular account of the

circuit, with the permanent record book and a list of the subscribers to our periodicals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. To recommend everywhere decency and cleanliness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25. To perform the following duties on special occasions:

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

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

(3) To hold a Children's Day service the second Sunday in June. Par. 152, IX, 3.

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

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

(6) To read the General Rules once a year in every congregation and once a quarter in every society. Par. 345, Sec. 16, above.

(7) To see that a fast is held in every society on Friday preceding every quarterly meeting. Par. 345, Sec. 20, above.

Par. 346 PASTORS OR PREACHERS IN CHARGE

(8) To foster Sunday schools and child evangelism.

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

CHAPTER VII

SUPERNUMERARY AND RETIRED PREACHERS

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

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

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

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

PART V
LOCAL PREACHERS AND LAY HELPERS

CHAPTERS

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

CHAPTER I

LOCAL PREACHERS

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

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

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

4. The examination of local preachers may be oral.

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

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

¶ 353. Every local elder, local deacon, or local preacher shall have his name enrolled in the quarterly conference journal and shall be amenable to his quarterly conference

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER II

LICENSED EVANGELISTS

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

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

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

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

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

5. The provisions of Par. 181, Sec. 9 (3), apply to licensed evangelists.

CHAPTER III

EXHORTERS

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

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

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

CHAPTER IV

DEACONESSES

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

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

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

3. A candidate for deaconess' license must first be recommended to the quarterly conference by the society of which she is a member.

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

5. The annual conference, after consideration of the gifts, graces and usefulness of a person thus recommended, may grant her a license as a deaconess, good for one year only unless renewed.

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 364. The Wesley-Roberts Deaconess School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a recognized deaconess training school for Christian young women desiring to take the course outlined in the DISCIPLINE, Paragraphs 509-510, in connection with a practical course in nursing and city mission work.

CHAPTER V

BANDS AND BAND WORKERS

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

2. The rules and regulations of bands shall be subject to the approval of the annual conferences to which the leaders belong, or within which they hold their membership.

3. All bands shall be under the direction of district superintendents, evangelists, or pastors by whom organized. No band leader shall appoint or hold meetings where they will interfere with the regular work of any preacher duly appointed to a circuit or district, without his consent.

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

CHAPTER VI

CLASS LEADERS

¶ 371. 1. Class leaders shall be elected in the last quarter of the conference year. The preacher in charge may nominate, and the class shall elect the leader by ballot. Any member of the society, whether or not the nominee of the pastor, shall be eligible to election as leader.

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER VII

STEWARDS

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

2. The number of stewards in each circuit shall not be less than three.

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

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

PART VI
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTERS

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

CHAPTER I

CHURCH TRIALS

I. Object of Church Discipline

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

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

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

II. General Directions

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

1. Every crime forbidden in the Word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, shall subject a member to expulsion from the church.

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

unless he also represents the conference. The body to which the accused is amenable shall pay the costs of prosecution.

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

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

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

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

7. In all appeal cases the appellant shall present the counsel for the church a statement in writing of the grounds of his appeal, at least five days before the trial of the appeal. The appellate court must confine itself to the grounds of the appeal but is entitled to all relevant information that will throw light upon the appeal as presented.

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

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

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

11. Persons expelled after such forms of trial shall have

no privileges of society or sacraments in our church without contrition, confession, and reformation satisfactory to the conference or society from which they have been expelled.

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

III. Trial of Preachers in Full Membership

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

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

¶ 406. Any traveling preacher who, in violation of Par. 329, willfully neglects or refuses to do the work assigned him by his annual conference, except in case of sickness or other unavoidable circumstance, shall be brought, by the district superintendent or the bishop, before a committee of three ministers and three laymen, which shall have power to suspend him from all the functions of a preacher until the ensuing session of the annual conference, which shall have final determination of the case and power to render the suspension final.

¶ 407. If a charge of immorality or of unchristian conduct is brought against a preacher in the interval of the annual

conferences, the district superintendent shall call a committee of not less than three nor more than six traveling preachers and an equal number of laymen, which shall have power to suspend until the next session of the annual conference, with which shall rest the decision of the case.

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

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

¶ 410. All cases brought before an annual conference, either by complaint or by appeal, may be, and must be if the defendant prefers, referred to a committee of not less than four from each branch, which, in the presence of the president of the conference or of an elder whom he may appoint with the consent of both parties, shall, either during the session of the conference or after its adjournment, try the case and decide upon its merits, and its decision shall have the same effect as that of the annual conference.

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

¶ 412. All cases brought before the General Conference

by appeal, may, with the consent of both parties, be referred to a committee of not less than six ministerial and six lay delegates, which, in the presence of one of the bishops, shall hear the case and decide upon its merits; and its decisions shall have the same effect as that of the General Conference.

IV. Form of Procedure

I. FORM FOR A BILL OF CHARGES

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

II. ORDER OF CONDUCTING CHURCH TRIALS

- ¶ 414. 1. Devotional exercises.
2. Reading of the action of the society meeting or conference by which the committee to try the case was appointed, and the names of the committee.
3. The appointment of a secretary.
4. Reading the charges and specifications by the secretary.
5. Answer by the accused in person or by counsel.
6. Statement of the case, and line of evidence by the prosecution.
7. Evidence of the prosecution, and cross-examination by the defense.
8. Statement of the case and line of defense, by the defense.
9. Evidence for the defense, and cross-examination by the prosecution.
10. Rebutting evidence for the prosecution.
11. Rebutting evidence for the defense.
12. Summing up the case by the prosecution.
13. Summing up the case by the defense.
14. Should it be deemed proper to allow the prosecution to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.
15. Instructions of the presiding officer upon the form of bringing in their verdict.
16. The verdict.
17. The court shall announce the verdict and impose the penalty fixed by the trial committee.

V. Surrender and Restoration of Credentials

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

2. When a local elder or deacon is expelled, the district superintendent shall require of him the credentials of his ordination, to be filed with the papers of the annual conference; and should he, at any future time, produce to the annual conference a certificate of his restoration, signed by the president and countersigned by the secretary of the quarterly conference, his credentials may be restored to him.

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

VI. Proceedings Against a Preacher on Probation

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

VII. The Trial of a Local Preacher

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIII. The Trial of an Accused Lay Member

1. GROUND OF COMPLAINT—DISCIPLINARY LABOR—PENALTIES

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

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

2. Whenever it becomes necessary to appoint a committee to admonish and labor with an erring member, if after admonishment and labor he persists in his way, he may be cited by that committee to appear before the official board to show cause why his membership should not be terminated. In no event shall his membership be terminated until the official board by ballot vote of two thirds of the total membership has so ordered.

3. Should it become necessary to cite a member to show cause why his membership should not be terminated, let the committee appointed to admonish and labor issue the citation and attach thereto a statement of the charge constituting the error. The citation should state the time and place he is to appear before the official board. The citation must be served on the member personally or by registered mail not less than ten days before the hearing. Should the official board find good cause for the termination of his membership, or should he fail to appear, his membership in the church may be terminated at the expiration of thirty days. If, however, within thirty days after the final action of the official board he request a trial, it shall be granted.

2. NOTIFICATION OF TIME AND PLACE OF TRIAL

¶ 422. Any member against whom a charge is brought shall be furnished, by the persons bringing the charge, or by the presiding officer of the tribunal to which he is judicially responsible, with a copy of the charges against him, at least fourteen days before the trial, unless he demands an earlier trial. He shall also, at least ten days prior to its election, be notified of the place of the election of the committee to try the case.

3. ELECTION OF TRIAL COMMITTEE

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

¶ 424. If the society shall refuse to appoint such a committee, the quarterly conference shall appoint a committee to try the case, and if, after conviction, the member appeals to the quarterly conference, no member of that committee shall be eligible to sit as a juror in the trial of the case.

4. PRESIDING OFFICER

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

5. RIGHT OF APPEAL

¶ 426. Any member who has been tried and convicted by a committee, shall be entitled to an appeal to the next quarterly conference, provided he did not voluntarily absent himself from the trial, and provided he gave notice of his intention to appeal at the time of his condemnation, or within thirty days after having been notified thereof. Should he be tried and convicted by the quarterly conference, he shall have the right of an appeal to the ensuing annual conference, provided that within thirty days of having been notified of the verdict he files the appeal and that he has complied with the other requirements of this paragraph.

6. RESTRICTIONS UNDER PENALTY

¶ 427. A member under penalty for unchristian conduct shall not be permitted to exercise any official functions,

except that of trustee in states where the civil law does not, for such a reason, permit the suspension from office of a trustee. He shall vacate all offices (except that of trustee as explained above) and surrender all credentials, to be held during the period of the penalty by the secretary of the body which issued them.

7. RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

¶ 428. 1. A person placed on probation in accordance with the provisions in Par. 421, Sec. 1, may, at the expiration of the probation, have his membership restored upon recommendation of the official board, a three-fourths vote of the society, and satisfactory answers to the questions in Par. 87.

2. A member who has been expelled and later proved innocent may be restored to membership by vote of the society from which he was expelled.

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

¶ 429. 1. The Board of Administration shall have the power to cite a society, a quarterly conference, or an annual conference to appear before it to show cause, if any it has, why it should not be declared in a state of insubordination when reliable information reaches the board that the accused body is openly in a state of insubordination and disobedience. Notice of the order to show cause shall be given in a clear and definite statement of the facts constituting the state of insubordination so that the accused body may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon the secretary of the accused body. Should the Board find it guilty or should it admit guilt, the Board shall have the power to suspend it of all rights and of recognition as a Free Methodist body until the ensuing General Conference, which shall have final disposition of the case.

2. Should the convicted body reform and pledge its loyalty to the church and the DISCIPLINE and show contrition for its insubordination, the Board of Administration shall have the power to reinstate it.

X. Citation of Preacher to Show Cause

¶ 430. 1. A bishop shall have the power to cite a preacher to appear before a committee of not more than six persons, three of whom shall be ministers and three laymen, there to show cause, if any he may have, why he should not be declared in a state of insubordination and maladministration when the bishop has reasonable cause to believe that the preacher is in a state of insubordination or in violation of the DISCIPLINE, or when he has been accused of willful neglect in the administration of the DISCIPLINE or refusal of work assigned to him by the annual conference.

2. Should the preacher be so cited, he shall be furnished with a statement of facts purporting to constitute the insubordination and maladministration, stating time, place, and action. The citation shall show the date, hour, and place where he is to appear, and the names of the members of the committee appointed by the bishop. Should the committee find him guilty of maladministration and insubordination, or should he plead guilty, the committee shall have the power to suspend him of all rights as a minister until the sitting of his annual conference, with whom the final decision of his case shall be; and should the conference take no action, or refuse to take action, a trial committee may be appointed by the Board of Administration, consisting of not less than six and not more than twelve persons, one half of whom shall be ministers and one half laymen, before whom the preacher shall be tried, according to the procedure for trial of preachers, and if he is found guilty, the committee shall have the power to censure, rebuke, or expel him according to the terms of the DISCIPLINE.

Paragraphs 429 and 430 shall not be so construed as to deprive the accused of the right to challenge for cause any person appointed to sit on the trial committee.

CHAPTER II

INSOLVENCIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

¶ 440. In a dispute between two or more lay members concerning the payment of debts, or other matters not involving personal character, which cannot be settled by the persons concerned, the preacher in charge of the circuit shall inquire into the circumstances and recommend a reference, consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff, another chosen by the defendant, and a third chosen by the first two, the three arbiters being members of the church.

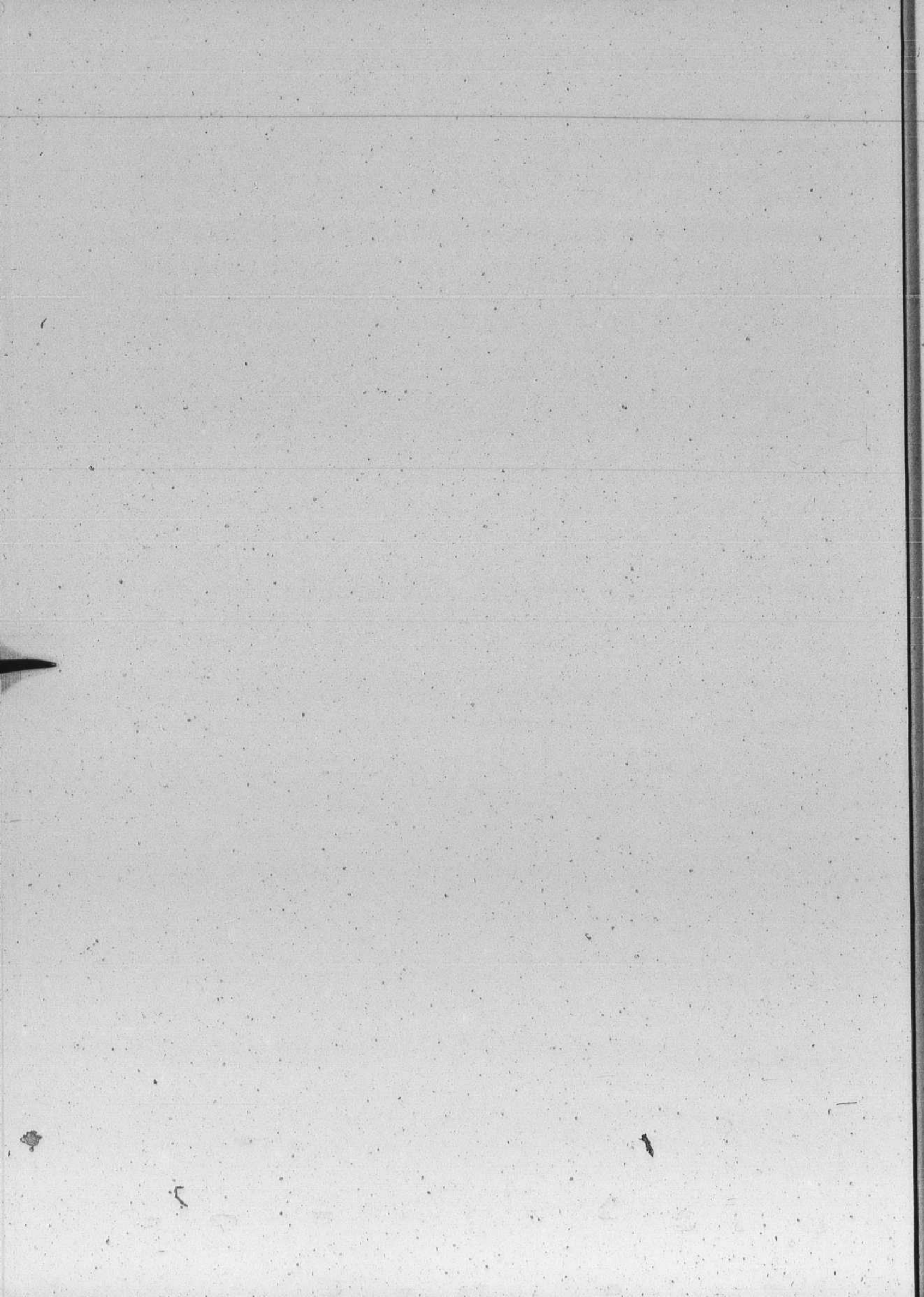
¶ 441. Should one of the disputants be dissatisfied with the judgment given, he may appeal to the ensuing quarterly conference, which may for sufficient reason grant a second arbitration, in which each party shall choose two arbiters, and the four arbiters shall choose a fifth, the judgment of the majority of whom shall be final; and any person refusing to abide by that judgment shall be excluded from the church.

¶ 442. If any member of the church shall refuse, in case of debt or other dispute, to refer the matter to arbitration, when recommended by his pastor, or shall enter into a lawsuit with another before such measures are taken, he shall be expelled by a regular trial according to the DISCIPLINE, unless the case be of such a nature as to require or justify a process of law.

¶ 443. When a complaint is made against any member of the church for nonpayment of debt and when the accounts are adjusted and the amount is ascertained, the preacher in charge of the circuit shall call the debtor before a committee of at least three, to show the cause why he does not make payment. The committee shall determine what further time shall be granted him for payment; and should he refuse to comply, he shall be expelled; but in that event he may appeal to the quarterly conference, the decision of which shall be final; and in case the creditor complains that justice is not done him, he may lay his grievance before the quarterly conference, and its decision shall be

final; and if the creditor refuses to comply, he shall be expelled. In case the debtor refuses or neglects to comply with the findings of the committee or of the quarterly conference, the creditor may have recourse to the civil courts without affecting his membership in the church.

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



PART VII
TEMPORAL ECONOMY

CHAPTERS

- I. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS**
- II. CHURCH PROPERTY**

CHAPTER I

SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS*

I. Support of Bishops

¶ 450. The salaries of our bishops shall be raised by the general service fund.

II. Support of District Superintendents

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

A home purchased for the superintendent can be rented to others only if he consents and receives the rental.

III. Support of Preachers in Charge

¶ 452. 1. It shall be the duty of the finance committee recommended in Par. 270, Sec. 5, to prepare, after consulting with the preacher in charge, an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of the preacher or preachers stationed with them, and to present the estimate to the official board for action.

2. The finance committee shall report regularly to the official board.

3. The membership is requested to co-operate heartily with this plan, giving not less than one tenth of the net annual income for the Lord's work.

4. If a pastor refuses to occupy the parsonage, the official board may, without his consent, rent it to others but must pay him the money received from it.

* For the support of retired ministers, see Plan for Conference Claimants, Pars. 123-128, and for bishops, Par. 334.

IV. Support of Evangelists

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

CHAPTER II

CHURCH PROPERTY

I. Trustees—Election and Duties

¶ 460. Any board of trustees in the Free Methodist Church, whether conference, district, or local, shall consist of not less than three nor more than nine persons, of whom two thirds shall be members of the Free Methodist Church.

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

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

3. Trustees shall be elected only in a manner allowed by the laws of the state in which the election is held, and shall hold office for a term fixed by the body electing them and until their successors are elected.

¶ 462. When for a period of one year a duly elected trustee refuses by his action to attend legally called meetings of the board of trustees, the body electing him shall declare his place on the board vacant and at once elect a successor to fill the unexpired term; and whenever a member of the Free Methodist Church who holds the office of trustee is dismissed by letter, withdraws from the church, is expelled, or moves beyond the bounds of the body which elected him, that body may declare his place vacant and at once elect a successor to fill the unexpired term, except where either of such declarations is in conflict with the law of the state.

¶ 463. A board of trustees is subject at all times to the direction and control of the body which created it and to the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church. Local trustees

are subject to the official board as well as to the society. When action of a board of trustees is required, it can be exercised only by official vote of the board in a regularly called meeting.

¶ 464. 1. The office of trustee is a responsible one, and its duties are to be taken seriously. A board of trustees shall have and hold in trust any and all property committed to it. It shall see that titles are good; that deeds are drawn in harmony with the laws of the state; that they contain the trust clause given in Par. 466; that they are immediately recorded; and that abstracts and other valuable papers are safely stored. The board of trustees shall be responsible to the electing body for the general oversight of the property committed to it, and, when so directed by the electing body, shall supervise expenditures for repairs, improvements, and alterations. A board of trustees may be appointed the building committee for a new building.

2. Annually and whenever else the chairman of the electing body may require, the president of the board of trustees shall make to the electing body a report of all business transacted, including a statement of the financial and material condition of all property entrusted to it.

3. Prohibitive measures. A board of trustees shall not accept a deed which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, his heirs, or assigns. A board of trustees shall not permit church property to be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered for current expenses. No other denomination shall be permitted to hold stated appointments in any of our churches without the consent of both the preacher in charge and a majority of the board of trustees.

II. Incorporation and Deeds

¶ 465. Before an annual conference, a quarterly conference, a circuit, or a society purchases real estate, let a reliable lawyer be consulted. Provide him with a copy of our DISCIPLINE for reference, and wherever the law of the state or territory will permit, proceed to incorporate. The articles of

incorporation, wherever the law will permit, should provide that the corporation shall be subject to the rules, regulations, doctrines, and DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church, incorporated as "The Free Methodist Church of North America," as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of that church in so far as they do not contravene the laws of the state, and that the secular affairs of the corporation shall be managed by trustees elected according to the provisions of this chapter. When incorporation is complete the deed shall be made out directly to the owning body in its corporate name and shall without exception contain the trust clause given in the following paragraph.

¶ 466. In states where the law requires church property to be held by trustees, and in states where incorporation can not be secured as provided for in the preceding paragraph, let all deeds be made to trustees, naming them and their successors in office, and containing the following trust clause: "In trust for the use and benefit of the membership of the Free Methodist Church of North America, incorporated under the name of 'The Free Methodist Church of North America,' subject to the DISCIPLINE, usages and ministerial appointments of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared; and, if sold, the proceeds shall be disposed of and used in accordance with the provisions of said DISCIPLINE, and of the civil law; and in further trust and confidence that in the houses of worship now erected or that may hereafter be erected on said premises hereby conveyed, the seats shall be forever free; and in further trust and confidence that the said trustees and their successors in office shall permit at all times the preachers who may be duly authorized according to the DISCIPLINE of the said Free Methodist Church, to hold religious services in said houses of worship according to said DISCIPLINE."

¶ 467. Whenever it becomes advisable and the electing body so authorizes, the trustees may sell or encumber or otherwise dispose of or convey church property by securing the consent of the superintendent of the district in which the property lies and of the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America; provided that in all

cases the proceeds of such sale or encumbrance shall be used for the purchase or improvement of property for the same uses and deeded to the same corporation or trustees, or held subject to the order of the annual conference in which the property lies.

¶ 468. Whenever any property is no longer used for church purposes and is declared abandoned by the annual conference, the trustees, if any remain, shall sell it and turn over the proceeds of sale to the annual conference. Should the local trustees refuse to do so, their offices shall be declared vacant by the annual conference and shall be replaced by the Conference Board of Trustees. If no such trustees remain, the trustees of the annual conference shall take possession of the property by due process of law. The annual conference may authorize the conference board of trustees to sell and convey such property, the proceeds of sale to be used as the conference may direct, in accordance with the civil law.

III. Erection of Churches

¶ 469. 1. All our houses of worship must be built plain and neat, and no more expensive than is absolutely required for comfort, convenience, and stability, and with all seats free. Let the architecture and interior arrangements of our churches be planned and constructed to contribute to a distinctively evangelical simplicity and reverence in worship which makes the preaching of the Word central in the service. It is understood that we will build in keeping with prevailing architecture of the surrounding area and with such attractiveness as to commend the gospel to the community.

2. No step shall be taken involving pecuniary liability in erecting houses of worship or parsonages, or in purchasing church property of any kind, until the financial plan be approved by the proper conference boards as determined by the annual conference.

3. No houses of worship, parsonages, or other church buildings shall be erected on leased ground, except on reservations or in other places where it is impossible to secure a deed in fee, or without the unanimous consent of

the Board of Church Extension and Aid Society of the annual conference in whose territory the property is situated.

4. Each annual conference shall appoint a committee of not less than three on "Church Buildings and Locations," and no church shall be built within the bounds of the conference without this committee's approval in writing both of the location and the plan of the building and of the title of the property. A society which selects a location or erects a church building without such consent shall not receive aid from the Church Extension and Aid Society. This committee shall make sure that proper accommodations have been made for the Sunday school before giving its approval.

5. The Executive Commission is authorized to collect information on heating, lighting, ventilating, and comfortable seating of churches; to secure cuts, drawings, and working plans of church buildings which conform to Free Methodist standards; and to make the information and plans available to societies desiring to build. All societies intending to build are urgently requested to secure this information from the Executive Commission and to make such use of it as local conditions permit.

PART VIII
CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER
CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER I

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

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

2. Illinois (1860). The Illinois Conference shall embrace all that part of the state of Illinois north of a line beginning at Fort Madison, Iowa, running east to the Illinois River, thence down the river to a point due west of Fowler, Indiana, and thence east to the state line. It shall include also Beloit, Wisconsin, and Davenport, Iowa.

3. Susquehanna (1862). The Susquehanna Conference shall embrace the counties of Tioga, Sullivan, and Bradford, in the state of Pennsylvania, and all that part of the state of New York east of the Genesee Conference and north of a line beginning at Great Bend, Pennsylvania, and running due north to the Delaware and Hudson railroad, thence east along that railroad to Oneonta, and thence due east to the state of Massachusetts; but not including the villages situated immediately upon that portion of the Delaware and Hudson railroad. This conference shall also include Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and the province of Quebec.

4. Michigan (1865). The Michigan Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Michigan in the two southern tiers of counties; the part of Eaton County south of a line running east and west five miles north of Charlotte; and the parts of Oakland and Macomb Counties east of Novi

Road and south of a line running east and west one mile north of Twelve Mile Road.

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

6. Northern Iowa and Minnesota (1872). The Northern Iowa and Minnesota Conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Minnesota south of a line running due west from Stillwater, Minnesota, to Lac qui Parle Lake and thence up the north and east bank of the Minnesota River, to the 46th parallel of latitude, and thence west to the east line of South Dakota, including Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, and Lac qui Parle counties in Minnesota, and that portion of Iowa not included in the Iowa, West Iowa and Dakota conferences.

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

8. Iowa (1875). The Iowa Conference shall include that portion of the state of Iowa (except Davenport) lying east and south of the following lines: Beginning at the southeast corner of Decatur county, thence north to Hamilton county, thence along the east line of Hamilton and Wright counties to the northeast corner of Wright county, thence east to Clayton on the Mississippi River. It shall also include the city of Des Moines according to its corporate limits of 1898.

9. Wisconsin (1875). The Wisconsin Conference shall include the state of Wisconsin except Beloit.

10. North Michigan (1876). The North Michigan Conference shall embrace that portion of the state of Michigan lying north of the Michigan Conference and west of a line

running north and south parallel with the eastern boundary of Eaton County, except the towns of Grayling, Frederick, Gaylord and Vanderbilt, in Crawford and Otsego counties. It shall also include the Upper Peninsula and Drummond's Island.

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

12. Central Illinois (1879). The Central Illinois Conference shall include that portion of the state of Illinois not included in the Illinois and Wabash Conferences. On the east it shall be bounded by a line running from Shelby county south through Teutopolis, Illinois, and then south to Shawneetown. It shall also include the city of St. Louis, Missouri.

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

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

15. West Kansas (1883). The West Kansas Conference shall include all of the state of Kansas not in the Kansas Conference.

16. Dakota (1883). The Dakota Conference shall embrace the state of North Dakota; that part of Montana lying east of the 110th meridian; and all of South Dakota except that portion included in the Nebraska Conference.

17. Pittsburgh (1883). The Pittsburgh Conference shall include all that part of the state of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running across the state due north and south through the east boundary line of Potter county, and not included in the Oil City Conference. It shall also include Cosco, Pa., all the towns from the Pennsylvania state line to Bridgeport on the west bank of the Ohio River in which

the Pittsburgh Conference has organized societies, and the state of West Virginia.

18. California (1883). The California Conference shall embrace all the state of California lying north of San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Inyo counties, and the state of Nevada.

19. East Michigan (1884). The East Michigan Conference shall embrace all that part of Michigan lying north of the Michigan Conference and east of a line running north and south parallel with the eastern boundary of Eaton County. It shall also include the towns of Grayling, Frederick, Gaylord, and Vanderbilt, in Crawford and Otsego counties.

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

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

22. West Iowa (1885). The West Iowa Conference shall embrace all of the state of Iowa lying west of the Iowa Conference, and south of a line running west from the northeast corner of Wright county along the county lines to the Big Sioux River, and Dakota county, Nebraska.

23. Wabash (1885). The Wabash Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Indiana lying south and west of a line beginning at the northwest corner of Benton county and running east to the city of Wabash; thence south to the north boundary line of Madison county; thence following north and east boundary line of that county to southeast corner; and thence east to Ohio state line; that part of Illinois bounded by a line running west from Fowler, Indiana, to a point six miles west of the Champaign branch of the Illinois Central railroad, thence southwest parallel with that railroad to the south line of Shelby county, and thence along the Springfield branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to Shawneetown; and Jefferson County, Kentucky.

24. Colorado (1886). The Colorado Conference shall embrace the state of Colorado, the state of Utah, and that part

of New Mexico lying west of the 106th meridian.

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

26. Nebraska (1890). The Nebraska Conference shall include the state of Nebraska, except Dakota county; all the state of Wyoming; and six counties in South Dakota bounded by a line commencing at the southeast corner of Shannon county and running north to the White River and east along it to its junction with the Missouri River; thence along the Missouri River to the south line of South Dakota.

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

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

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

30. Washington (1896). The Washington Conference shall include all of the state of Washington (except Clark county) west of the Columbia River and the eastern boundaries of Grant and Okanogan counties; Alaska; and that part of British Columbia west of a line running from the southern border north following the crest of the Monachee Range to Mount Robson and further extend along the crest of the Rocky Mountain Range to the border of the Yukon territory.

31. West Ontario (1896). The West Ontario Conference shall include all that part of the province of Ontario lying west of the following boundary line: The Niagara River, the

west bounds of the counties of Peel and Simcoe, and the west bounds of the Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing districts.

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

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

34. Oil City (1899). The Oil City Conference shall include that part of the state of Pennsylvania (except Cosco) lying west of a line running north and south along the east side of Potter county, and north of a line beginning at the Ohio state line and running due east along the south bounds of Lawrence county to the west bounds of Clearfield county, thence south to the southwest corner of Clearfield county, thence east along the south bounds of Clearfield and Center counties to the eastern boundary line mentioned above; the counties of Huntington, Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder, Union, Lycoming, and Clinton and that part of Blair county north of the line from east to west through Altoona, all in the state of Pennsylvania; and the towns of Conneaut and North Kingsville in the state of Ohio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

41. North Indiana (reorganized 1922). The North Indiana Conference shall embrace that part of the state of Indiana lying north of the Wabash Conference.

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

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

¶471. Any question of boundaries that may arise in the interim of the General Conference, shall be referred to the Executive Commission.

PART IX
THE RITUAL

CHAPTERS

- I. BAPTISM**
- II. THE LORD'S SUPPER**
- III. MARRIAGE**
- IV. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD**
- V. ORDINATION SERVICES**
- VI. DEDICATION OF CHURCHES**

CHAPTER I

BAPTISM

¶ 480. 1. Adult persons and the parents or guardians of every child to be baptized shall have the choice of immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

2. We will on no account whatever make a charge for administering baptism.

I. Of Infants

[The minister coming to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following:]

¶ 481. Dearly beloved, inasmuch as our Saviour, Christ, saith, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God; and as the holy apostle St. Peter declares that, "The promise is unto you and to your children," therefore this child has been brought hither that he may be consecrated by this solemn ordinance to the service of his Creator, and that he may receive the sign and seal of the covenant of grace into which God is mercifully pleased to enter with all His children;

I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant unto this child, that he being made partaker of the divine nature may grow up into Christ our living head in all things, till he comes in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; and unto these parents the needed grace that they may properly discharge all the duties they owe to this child which God has given them.

[Then shall the minister say:]

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succor, the covenant-keeping God, we thank thee that thou hast made it our

privilege to dedicate our children to thy service, that they may live to thy glory, and gain everlasting life. We call upon thee for this child that he may be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, and be sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, and enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing. We pray thee for these parents, that they may realize how great is the responsibility resting upon them touching the proper training of those entrusted to their care; we beseech thee to grant upon them the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that both by precept and example they may so lead this child in the narrow way of life, that both parent and child may come to the everlasting kingdom, which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the people stand up and the minister shall say:]

Hear the words of the gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth chapter, commencing with the thirteenth verse:

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them. And his disciples rebuked those that brought them; but when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

[Then shall the minister demand of the parents or guardian severally, as follows:]

Ques. Dost thou, in the presence of God, and of these witnesses, solemnly dedicate this child to the Lord, that he may live in his service all his days?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in his behalf, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that, in the training of this child, thou wilt not follow nor be led by them; and so that, as far as in thee lies, thou wilt prevent him from following the same?

Ans. I do.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE Par. 481.5

Ques. Dost thou believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Wilt thou, out of the same, diligently teach this child the statutes and commandments of the Most High; and wilt thou train him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Ans. I will.

[Then the minister shall take the child into his hands and say to the friends of the child:]

Name this child.

[And then, naming it after them, he shall sprinkle or pour water upon it, or, if desired, immerse it in water, saying:]

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Then he shall say, all kneeling:]

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

[Then shall the minister conclude with extemporary prayer.]

II. Of Children Under Twelve

¶ 481.5. In lieu of the questions to parents or guardians in Par. 481, the following may be asked candidates for baptism who are under twelve years of age:

1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and do you desire to be baptized in His name?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you intend by this act to testify to all the world that you are a Christian and will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Answer: I do.

3. Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do.

4. Trusting God to help you, will you resist temptation always and keep from doing those things which you know to be sinful or displeasing to God?

Answer: I will.

5. Will you attend the church services, and do those things you know a Christian should do?

Answer: I will.

III. Of Those of Riper Years

¶ 482. Dearly beloved, since all men are by nature sinners, and have nothing in themselves by which they can be delivered from the guilt and pollution of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man can see the Lord, we invite you to join with us in fervent prayer for these persons, that they may have grace always to keep their covenant with God, and that they may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

[Then shall the minister say:]

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succor, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon thee for these persons; that they, coming to thy holy baptism, may by this rite truthfully testify to that inner washing through faith in the precious blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and that they may enjoy the everlasting benediction of this heavenly washing and come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord.

[Then shall the people stand up, and the minister shall say:]

Hear the words of the Saviour as recorded in the gospel written by St. Matthew, in the twenty-eighth chapter. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

[Then the minister shall speak to the person to be baptized in this wise:]

Well beloved, who here present yourselves for holy baptism, you have heard how the congregation hath prayed that God would continue his loving favor toward you and bring you unto his eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping God, hath promised by his only begotten Son whom he yielded up for our redemption that he would grant these gracious favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the presence of this congregation that you, renouncing the devil and all his works, will implicitly believe God's holy word and obediently keep his commandments.

[Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized, severally:]

Ques. Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Ques. Dost thou believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord? and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary? that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried? that he arose again on the third day? that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the communion of saints; the remission of sins; the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Ans. All this I steadfastly believe.

Ques. Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Ans. This is my desire.

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

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

[Then shall the minister say:]

Almighty and everlasting God, author of life eternal, grant that the regenerating grace which thou hast so

mercifully vouchsafed to these persons may not have been bestowed in vain. Grant also that they may enjoy that greater baptism of the Holy Ghost to the end that all carnal affections may be destroyed in them and that every Christian grace and virtue may freely live and grow in them. Amen. Almighty God, Father of all mankind, Eternal Son, Deliverer of thine Israel, Holy Spirit, Guide of thy people, grant that these persons may have constant victory over the world, the flesh and the devil, and that they may enjoy the fullness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the minister take by the right hand each person to be baptized, and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name and then sprinkle or pour water upon him (or if he shall desire it, shall immerse him in water), saying:]

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling, concluding with extemporary prayer and the benediction.]

CHAPTER II

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

I. General Directions

¶ 483. 1. Let all our ministers exercise due care to see that no person known to be living an immoral life, or to be guilty of any disreputable practice be admitted to the Lord's table among us until he shall have given satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment of life.

2. All persons properly included in the general invitation may be allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper among us.

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

[The elder may say:]

¶ 484. Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and, meekly kneeling, make your humble confession to Almighty God.

[Then may this general confession be made:]

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail the manifold sins and wickedness of our past lives, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our past misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever

hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Or in place of it the elder may say the Lord's Prayer; the people repeating it with him.]

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

[Then may the elder say:]

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to

gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may live and grow thereby, and that being washed through his most precious blood, we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

[Then may the elder say the prayer of consecration, as follows:]

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who made there, by his oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that his precious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these, thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;

[Here the elder may take the plate of bread into his hand.]
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the cup;

[Here he may take the cup in his hand.]
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this

[And here he may lay his hand upon all the vessels which contain the wine.]
is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

[Then may the minister first receive the communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner (if any there be present), and after that to the people also, in order, into their hands. And when he delivers the bread he shall say:]

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

[And the minister that delivers the cup may say:]

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

[If the consecrated bread or wine shall be all spent before all have communicated, the elder may consecrate more, by repeating the prayer of consecration.

When all have communed the minister shall return to the Lord's table and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Here the elder may offer extemporary prayer, concluding with this blessing:]

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

CHAPTER III

MARRIAGE

[At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:]

¶ 485. Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and His Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence, and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commanded of St. Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be taken in hand unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

[Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall deliver this charge:]

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If these solemn vows be kept inviolate, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home you establish will abide in peace.

[Then shall the minister ask the man]

M., wilt thou have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

[The man shall answer]

I will.

[Then shall the minister say unto the woman]

N., wilt thou have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

[The woman shall answer]

I will.

[Then shall the minister ask:]

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

(Answer: I do)

[Then shall the minister say]

Since it is your desire to take each other as husband and wife, you will indicate the same by joining your right hands, and by repeating after me the marriage vow.

I, (Man's Christian name) take thee, (Woman's Christian name) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

I, (Woman's name) take thee, (Man's name) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

[Then may the minister say:]

Henceforth you will no longer be twain but one. Your paths will be united; your responsibilities will increase, but your joys will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest in your relations one to the other, and with God with whom you make this covenant. By coming into this temple of God (Alternate: By seeking the ministry of the church), you hereby recognize that this covenant is more than a legal contract, being a bond of union made in heaven, into which you enter discreetly and reverently.

[Then, the couple kneeling, the minister shall say:]

Let us pray.

[Here may be offered the following prayer, or an extemporaneous prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer.]

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let thy blessing descend and rest upon these thy children, whom we bless in thy name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honor and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt nor decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as thy gifts to be employed in thy service. May they so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the couple arise and the minister shall instruct them to join their right hands, and he placing his on top of theirs shall say:]

Forasmuch as M. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their troth each to the other, and declared the same by joining hands; (Alternate: by authority committed unto me as a minister of the Church of Christ) I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Amen.

[Then shall the minister add this blessing:]

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace that you may live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

CHAPTER IV

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

¶ 486. We will on no account make a charge for burying the dead.

[The minister, meeting the corpse, and going before it shall say:]

I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die (John 11: 25, 26).

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another (Job 19:25-27).

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (1 Tim. 6:7; Job 1:21).

[At the grave, while the corpse is being laid in the earth, the minister shall say:]

Man that is born of woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up and is cut down like a flower: he fleeth as it were a shadow and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.

[Then while the earth shall be cast upon the body, the minister shall say:]

Inasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother, (sister, or child) we therefore commit his, (or her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write: from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE COLLECT

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally; we meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him; and at the general resurrection, on the last day, may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

CHAPTER V

ORDINATION SERVICES

I. Ordination of Elders

[When the time appointed for ordination shall have come one of the elders shall present unto the president those who are to be ordained, saying:

"I present unto you these persons (reading their names aloud) to be ordained elders." Then the president shall say unto the people:]

¶ 487. Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain elders. For after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if any of you know any impediment or crime in any of them, for which he ought not to be received into this holy ministry, come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If no crime nor impediment be alleged, then shall be said the collect, epistle, and gospel, as follows:]

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy church, mercifully behold these, thy servants, now called to the office of elder, and replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name and the edification of thy church, through the mercies of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE—EPHESIANS 4: 7-13

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far

above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL.—ST. JOHN 10:7-16

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

[And that done, the president shall say unto them as follows:]

You have heard, brethren, in the lessons taken out of the gospel and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this office is whereunto ye are called.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time; and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you; so that as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing,

and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that ye may so endeavor yourselves from time to time to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ, here assembled, may also understand your minds and will in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, ye shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the gospel ministry, and to perform the duties of an elder?

Ans. I think so.

President: Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

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

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

A. I will do so by the help of the Lord.

P. Will you be ready with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the

whole, within your charge, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

A. I will, the Lord being my helper.

P. Will you be diligent in prayers, and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and such studies as help to a knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

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

P. Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourself and your family according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourself and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

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

P. Will you maintain and set forward as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among those who are or may be committed to your charge?

A. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

[That done, the president shall pray in this wise, and say:]

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thine infinite love and goodness toward us hast given to us thine only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life, for these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness we render unto thee most hearty thanks; we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee, for these, and all other, thy benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit, so that thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

[When this prayer is done, those to be ordained should remain kneeling, and the president, and the elders present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each of them, and the president shall say:]

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office

and work of an elder in the Church of God now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[They shall continue to kneel, and the president shall deliver to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:]

Take thou authority to preach the Word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation.

[Then the president shall say:]

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessings, that they may be clothed with righteousness and that thy Word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant us also that we may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of thy most holy Word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the increase of thy kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

II. Ordination of Deacons

[When the time appointed for the ordination shall have come, one of the elders shall present unto the president those who are to be ordained, saying: "I present unto you these persons (reading their names aloud) to be ordained deacons." Then the president shall say to the people:]

¶ 488. Brethren, if any of you know any crime or impediment in any of these persons presented to be ordained deacon, for which he ought not to be admitted to that office, come

forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If no crime nor impediment be alleged, then shall be said the following collect and epistle:]

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church, and who didst inspire thy apostles to choose into the order of deacons thy first martyr, St. Stephen, with others; mercifully behold these thy servants, now called to the like office and administrations; replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE—1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

Deacons in like manner must be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons if they be blameless. Women in like manner must be grave, not slanderous, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have served well as deacons gain to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[Then shall the president examine each one of those who are to be ordained, in the presence of the people, after the manner following:]

President: Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edification of his people?

Ans. I trust so.

P. Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

A. I do believe them.

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

A. I will.

P. It appertaineth to the office of a deacon to assist the elder in divine service. And especially when he ministereth the holy communion, and to help him in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth, and in the absence of the elder to baptize. And, furthermore, it is his office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

A. I will do so by the help of God.

P. Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives (and the lives of your families) according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make (both) yourselves (and them), as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

A. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

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

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

[The president, laying his hands severally upon the head of each one of them, shall say:]

Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Then shall the president deliver to each one of them the Holy Bible, saying:]

Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, and to preach in the same.

[Then one of them, appointed by the president, shall read the gospel.]

Luke 12: 35-38: Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord

when he cometh shall find watching. Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

[Then shall be said the collects following:]

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to accept and take these thy servants into the office of deacon of thy Church; make them, we beseech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble and constant in their ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that they having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son, Christ Jesus, may so well behave themselves in this inferior office, that they may be found worthy to be called into the higher ministries in thy Church, through the same, thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ; to whom be glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

CHAPTER VI

DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

[The congregation being assembled, let an appropriate hymn be sung. Afterward, let extemporary prayer be offered. Then shall the minister, or some one appointed, read:]

¶ 490. The first lesson, Psalm 84:

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

The second lesson, Hebrews 10: 19-26:

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is

faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

[Then let an appropriate hymn be sung; after which the minister shall deliver a sermon suitable to the occasion. Contributions may then be received from the people.]

[Then let the trustees stand before the altar, and one of them, or some one in their behalf, say unto the minister:]

We present unto you this building, to be dedicated as a church for the service and worship of Almighty God.

[Then shall the minister request the congregation to stand, while he repeats the following declaration:]

DECLARATION

Dearly beloved, it is meet and right, as we learn from the Holy Scriptures, that houses erected for the public worship of God should be specially set apart and dedicated to religious uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. With gratitude, therefore, to Almighty God, who has signally blessed his servants in their holy enterprise of erecting this church, we dedicate it to his service, for the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the holy sacraments, and for all other exercises of religious worship and service, according to the DISCIPLINE and usages of the Free Methodist Church.

[Then let the dedicatory prayer be offered.]

PART X
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

CHAPTERS

- I. CENTRAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING
- II. PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS
- III. LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS
- IV. COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES
- V. COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS
- VI. COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

CHAPTER I

CENTRAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING

¶ 500. 1. The responsibility for setting up or approving and supervising the various programs in the church for the education and training of ministers shall rest with a Central Board of Ministerial Training.

2. This board shall consist of the Chairman of the Commission on Christian Education (who shall be ex-officio chairman); the bishops of the church; the Dean of John Wesley Seminary Foundation (or his appointee); the presidents (or their appointees) of three of the Free Methodist colleges in the United States and Canada approved for ministerial training, to be selected by the Board of Administration; the Director of Service Training; the Executive Secretary of the Department of Educational Institutions; and three additional members to be named immediately following General Conference by the Board of Administration.

3. The Executive Secretary of the Department of Educational Institutions (or the General Educational Secretary, if one is named) shall be the secretary and executive officer of the board. He shall work with the various schools and colleges in their ministerial training programs and cooperate with the several conferences in their ministerial guidance activities, and be responsible for keeping a central file of credits of all ministers in conference relation throughout the church, who are amenable to any Conference Board of Ministerial Training. Such board shall be composed of the Conference Board of Membership and Guidance, and the Conference Board of Examiners.

4. The specific duties of the Central Board of Ministerial Training shall be:

(a) To approve programs of the various schools which offer theological and collegiate training for prospective Free Methodist ministers.

(b) To approve correspondence courses for candi-

dates who fail to get required courses while in regular college attendance.

(c) Be an appeal board to make final decision in specific cases where the candidate feels his case has been handled unfairly by any school or agency other than his own conference. (Each annual conference has final authority in a given case, including the educational requirements. The review of any candidate's educational requirements shall be by unanimous vote of the Conference Guidance Committee.)

(d) To define standards for uniform procedures for reporting the work done at, under the supervision of, or evaluated by, approved schools and agencies, and to keep a complete file of such reports.

(e) Specify activities (and set up standards for their evaluation) having to do with itinerant credit which may be earned through supervised practical service.

CHAPTER II

PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR TRAVELING PREACHERS

¶ 501. *Standards and Credits.*

1. *General Statement.* The required ministerial training involves: 1) Basic studies and 2) Professional Studies. The basic studies are carried out in the usual way in high school and college. The professional studies may be done in three different ways: a) Graduate theological study in an approved Free Methodist institution; b) Undergraduate theological study in an approved Free Methodist college; and c) Correspondence work covering the courses set up for this purpose, to be administered by the Department of Service Training. Theological work done in non-Free Methodist schools shall be referred to John Wesley Seminary Foundation for evaluation.

2. *College and Seminary Recommended.* Candidates for the ministry are encouraged to complete a four-year college course of study leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree, or its equivalent. It is further recommended that, wherever feasible, they also complete a course leading to the Bachelor of Divinity degree, or its equivalent, under the supervision of John Wesley Seminary Foundation.

3. Provision is made whereby, under special conditions involving an exceptional candidate who enters the ministry in later years, a person may be permitted to meet the educational requirements for ordination as a traveling deacon, as follows: a. Satisfactory completion of course of study for local preachers who wish to be ordained elders. (See Paragraphs 505-508.) b. Unanimous approval of the Conference Board of Ministerial Training. c. A three-fourths vote of the annual conference.

¶ 502. *Graduate and Undergraduate Theological Studies.*

1. The John Wesley Seminary Foundation and the approved colleges and schools of the church have been established and are maintained, among other reasons, for the education and training of ministers.

2. The various programs for the education of ministers under the direction of John Wesley Seminary Foundation and the departments of religion in the colleges and schools of the church are subject to approval and annual review by the Central Board of Ministerial Training.

3. Each school approved for giving ministerial training shall keep an up-to-date record concerning the progress and status of each student in training.

a. This record shall include: 1) Bible and other credits in a religion major; 2) Other academic credits; 3) Itinerant credits in supervised practical service; and 4) Evaluation credentials, including recommendations from teachers, supervisors, ministers, superintendents, and others.

b. These reports shall be sent annually by each school to the Central Board of Ministerial Training.

c. In the event of a ministerial student transferring

from one school to another, it shall be the responsibility of the school attended most recently to collect and maintain an up-to-date record of such student. Such institution shall also be responsible for summarizing and evaluating such record for the benefit of the Central Board of Ministerial Training.

¶ 503. *Courses of Study for Traveling Preachers.*

1. *Preliminary Course* (for those in preparation for reception on probation).

a. *Basic Studies*: A four-year high-school course, or its equivalent as determined by the Central Board of Ministerial Training.

b. *Professional Studies.*

1) At least two semester credits in Free Methodist Polity and Doctrine, including the doctrine of holiness, in an approved college or seminary.

2) In lieu of 1), the candidate may qualify by completing the following courses by correspondence: Introduction to Christian Doctrine (including the doctrine of holiness); and Introduction to Free Methodism.

2. *Courses of Study for Probationers* (in preparation for ordination as deacon).

a. Completion of two or more years of a Bachelor of Arts course, with a minimum of 19 semester hours in Religion as follows: Bible Study—6 hours; Systematic Theology—3 hours; Church History—3 hours; Practical Theology—7 hours; shall meet the educational requirements for deacon's ordination.

b. For those who have finished college without completing the courses in Religion as listed above, one year, or its equivalent, under the direction of John Wesley Seminary Foundation shall meet the educational requirements for deacon's ordination.

c. In lieu of either "a" or "b" a probationer may meet the educational requirements for ordination as deacon through correspondence study as follows: English Composition and Speech—8 semester hours; History—3 hours; Psychology—3 hours; Bible Study—6 hours; Systematic Theology—3 hours; Church History—

3 hours; Practical Theology—7 hours.

d. A probationer shall complete a minimum of two years of itinerant service to become eligible for deacon's orders. (See Par. 504 for method of earning itinerant credit while in school through supervised practical service.)

3. *Courses of Study for Deacons* (in preparation for ordination as elder).

a. Completion of the work of the Bachelor of Divinity degree, or its equivalent, under the direction of the John Wesley Seminary Foundation, shall meet the educational requirements for elder's ordination.

b. In cases where students do not plan to enroll in seminary, they may meet the educational requirements for elder's ordination by *completing a major in Religion* in their Bachelor of Arts work in a Free Methodist College. This *major* shall constitute the following courses in Religion as a minimum: Bible Study—12 hours (semester); Systematic Theology (including the doctrine of holiness)—8 hours; Church History—6 hours; Homiletics—3 hours; Religious Education—3 hours; Church Administration—2 hours; Pastoral Care—2 hours.

c. In lieu of either "a" or "b" a deacon may meet the educational requirements for ordination as elder by completing additional correspondence courses, as follows: Social Science (excluding History)—6 hours; History (U. S. or Canadian)—3 hours; Philosophy and Ethics—5 hours; Bible Study—6 hours; Theology (including the doctrine of holiness)—5 hours; Church History—3 hours; Church Administration—2 hours; Pastoral Care—2 hours.

d. A deacon must serve two years after ordination to become eligible for elder's orders. (See Par. 504 for method of earning itinerant credit while in school, through supervised practical service.)

¶ 504. *Itinerant Credit for Supervised Practical Service.*

1. Itinerant credit may be earned either under conference appointment or under supervised practical service while the

candidate is attending an approved Free Methodist school.

2. Each year of supervised practical service by a regular student in the course of study for traveling preachers in an approved Free Methodist school shall be equivalent to one year of itinerant service, as required for ordination as deacon or (within the limitation stated in Par. 504, Sec. 2-d) as elder, under the following conditions:

a. The candidate must have been received on probation in an annual conference.

b. He must be under church supervision and report regularly to his quarterly conference, which shall carefully examine him upon his call, his doctrine, and his other qualifications.

c. He must have favorable recommendations from his superintendent and from the Conference Board of Ministerial Training.

d. He may not earn more than two years of itinerant credit during his four years in college. He may not be ordained deacon even though he has earned two years of credit in supervised practical service, unless he 1) has completed, or practically completed, a four-year course with an approved major in Religion, or 2) has previously had at least one year of pastoral experience. He may not be elected to elder's orders until he has had one year of pastoral experience in the Free Methodist Church.

e. John Wesley Seminary Foundation students may not earn, through supervised practical service, more than three years of itinerant credit during both college and seminary training.

f. The Central Board of Ministerial Training shall define activities in which practical service may be rendered for itinerant credit, and set up standards of judging accomplishments therein. Credits must be earned in accordance with these standards.

CHAPTER III

COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS

I. For Local Preachers Who Are to Be Examined by the Quarterly Conference

FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 505. 1. *Theological Compend*—Binney.
2. *Plain Account of Christian Perfection*—Wesley.
3. Articles of Religion and General Rules of the *Free Methodist Discipline*.

Collateral reading:

Fishers of Men—Roberts.

The Story of Our Church—Howland.

Wesley's *Sermons*, Volume I, sermons 1 to 15 inclusive.

SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 506. 1. *The Book We Teach*—Weatherspooch.
2. *Handbook of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology*—Hogue, Part I.

Collateral reading:

Perfect Love—Wood.

Person of Christ—Schaff.

Wesley's *Sermons*, Volume I, sermons 16 to 30 inclusive.

The examination of local preachers and evangelists may be conducted orally.

II. For Local Preachers Who Wish to Be Ordained Deacons

(The examination of local preachers who wish to be ordained shall be conducted by the annual conference. Let the examining committees and the candidates be present at the seat of conference for examinations not later than the first day of the session. Candidates not present at that time forfeit their right to examination for that year. Examiners shall report the standing of candidates in each book according to a scale of ten, six being passing.)

- ¶ 507. 1. *Handbook of Theology*—Field, first half; or *Divinity*—Ralston, pages 9 to 191.

2. *The Heart of the Old Testament*—Sampey.

Collateral reading:

History of the Free Methodist Church—Hogue, Volume I.

The Path of Prayer—Chadwick.

The Dynamic of Service—A. Paget Wilkes.

III. For Local Deacons Who Wish to Be Ordained Elders

¶ 508. 1. *Handbook of Theology*—Field, second half; or *Divinity*—Ralston, pages 329 to 543.

2. *The Life of Christ*—Stalker.

3. *A Brief Life of Paul*—Olmstead.

Collateral reading:

History of the Free Methodist Church—Hogue, Volume II, chapters 1 to 12 inclusive and chapter 21.

Secret Societies—Brown.

The Way to Pentecost—Chadwick.

CHAPTER IV

COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES

FIRST YEAR

- ¶ 509. 1. *Free Methodist Discipline*.
2. *The Book We Teach*—Weatherspoon.
3. *American Red Cross and Home Hygiene*.
Collateral reading:
1. *The Way to Pentecost*—Chadwick.
2. "A Corn of Wheat"—Root.

SECOND YEAR

- ¶ 510. 1. *Theological Compend*—Binney.
2. *Plain Account of Christian Perfection*—Wesley.
Collateral reading:
1. *The Path of Prayer*—Chadwick.
2. *The Story of Our Church*—Howland.
3. *The Dynamic of Service*—A. Paget Wilkes.
4. *Fishers of Men*—Roberts.

The examination of deaconesses shall be conducted by the annual conference board of examiners, and may be conducted orally. A deaconess having completed the foregoing two-year course is eligible to be licensed by the annual conference, according to Par. 363, Sec. 6.

CHAPTER V

COURSE OF READING FOR CLASS LEADERS

¶ 511. The following course of reading for class leaders is recommended by the General Conference in the belief that it will meet a general need throughout the church, and that the few inexpensive volumes therein named will not only edify all class leaders who will carefully read them, but also increase their efficiency in dealing with those under their care in this responsible office.

Discipline of the Free Methodist Church.

Theological Compend—Binney.

Christian Perfection—Wesley.

Perfect Love—Wood.

Fishers of Men—Roberts

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life—Smith.

Story of Our Church—Howland.

Possibilities of Grace—Lowery.

The Dynamic of Service—A. Paget Wilkes.

The Path of Prayer—Chadwick.

"By My Spirit"—Jonathan Goforth.

The Way to Pentecost—Chadwick.

CHAPTER VI

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

¶ 512. 1. There shall be a Committee on Curriculum to represent and serve all the agencies of the church which may desire to designate or develop for publication books, pamphlets, papers, lessons, or study helps for use in the church or any of its agencies.

2. The Committee on Curriculum shall be composed of a representative each of the F. M. Y., the Department of Sunday Schools, the Department of Sunday-School Publications, the Department of Service Training, the Publishing House, the Association of Free Methodist Colleges, and two members from the Central Board of Ministerial Training *not otherwise on the Board*, one of whom shall be the Executive Secretary of the Department of Educational Institutions. The bishop in charge of the Commission on Christian Education shall be chairman *ex-officio* of the Committee on Curriculum. The members of the Committee on Curriculum shall be appointed by the Executive Commission.

3. The Committee on Curriculum is authorized, by the formation of appropriate subcommittees if necessary, to initiate and approve material for use in service training courses, to authorize the development of new Sunday-school materials when needed, to approve the selection of materials for F. M. Y., Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, camp meetings, child evangelism, and similar uses, when these are to receive general recommendation.

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PART XI
APPENDIX

CHAPTERS

- I. INCORPORATION
- II. DIRECTORY OF GENERAL OFFICERS
- III. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS
- V. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
- VI. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
- VII. CONSTITUTION OF JUNIOR MISSIONARY SOCIETY
- VIII. FORMS

CHAPTER I

INCORPORATION

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Under the Laws of California*

Office of the
Secretary of State

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

¶ 520. That we, the undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens and residents of the State of California, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under Title XII, Article I of the Civil Code of the State of California.

AND WE HEREBY CERTIFY:

FIRST: That the name of the corporation shall be THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

SECOND: That the purposes for which it is formed are religious, charitable and benevolent, and especially:

To conduct religious services, to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and assist in improving and ameliorating the moral and social conditions of humanity; to purchase, own, sell, mortgage and lease real estate and other property as may be necessary for the purposes of this

* Editor's Historical Note (1943). Originally the church was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, April 30, 1873, as "The Free Methodist General Conference of North America." The General Conference of 1915 authorized the board of trustees of the General Conference to incorporate in the state of Illinois. Pursuant to this order, a charter was granted by the state of Illinois, December 2, 1915, under the title "The Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America." This incorporation was approved by the General Conference of 1919 and was duly authorized to assume all the duties and exercise the prerogatives of the original incorporation. The General Conference of 1931 ordered a consolidation of the several boards into a Board of Administration. The General Conference of 1935 authorized the Board of Administration to form a new incorporation. Pursuant to this order, a corporation known as "The Free Methodist Church of North America" was formed in 1937, whose articles of incorporation are set forth above.

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

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

To carry on a general publishing and printing business including that of stationers, printers, lithographers, stereotypers, electrotypers, photographic printers, photolithographers, engravers, die-sinkers, book printers, account book manufacturers, dealers in parchments, dealers in stamps, advertising agents, designers, draftsmen, ink manufacturers, book sellers, publishers, paper manufacturers, and dealers in the materials used in the manufacture of paper, and dealers in or manufacturers of any other articles or things of a character similar or analogous to the foregoing, or any of them, or connected therewith for the furtherance of the general objectives of this corporation.

To receive property by devise or bequest, subject to the laws regulating the transfer of property by will, and to otherwise acquire and hold all property, real or personal, including shares of stock, bonds and securities of other corporations.

To act as trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation or for the benefit of any of its members, or members of their families, and to receive, hold and administer and expend funds and property subject to such trusts.

To convey, exchange, lease, mortgage and encumber, transfer upon trust or otherwise dispose of all property, real or personal.

To borrow money, contract debts and issue bonds, notes and debentures, and to secure the same.

To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation including the conduct of any business for profit, providing said profits are used for the objects of said corporation and not distributed to the members thereof.

THIRD: That the principal office for the transaction of business of said corporation is to be located in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

FOURTH: That the terms for which said corporation is to exist is perpetual.

FIFTH: That it is a corporation which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and therefore there shall be no capital stock.

SIXTH: That this corporation shall be successor to and take the property of the following corporations which are hereafter to be dissolved:

The Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Conference Claimants of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.

The Board of Church Extension of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation.*

This corporation shall also become the successor of the

* Editor's Note (1943). On October 28, 1943, the Board of Administration of the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America in session at Winona Lake, Indiana, took the following action: That the respective officers of the Board of Trustees of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Conference Claimants of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Church Extension of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation; the Board of Education of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation, take any necessary steps or execute any necessary papers for the dissolution of these corporations and to transfer any and all of the assets of said corporations to the Free Methodist Church of North America, a California Corporation, their successor.

Free Methodist Publishing House, an Illinois Corporation, and The General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America, an Illinois Corporation, whenever the same shall be dissolved and ordered consolidated with this corporation by an order of the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

SEVENTH: That said corporation shall be subject to the rules, regulations and DISCIPLINE of the The Free Methodist Church of North America as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America in so far as the same do not contravene or conflict with the laws of the State of California or the several states of the United States.

The DISCIPLINE, rules and regulations of The Free Methodist Church as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America shall at all times be a part of the by-laws of this corporation.

EIGHTH: That the names and addresses of the persons who are to act in the capacity of directors until the selection of their successors, and who shall be known as trustees, are:

NAMES	ADDRESSES
CLAUDE A. WATSON	Los Angeles, California
B. E. ILER	Santa Monica, California
A. G. BALL	Los Angeles, California

That the number of trustees may be changed by a by-law duly adopted or amended by the members, authority for which is hereby expressly conferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, for the purpose of forming this corporation under the laws of the State of California, we, the undersigned, constituting the incorporators of this corporation including the persons named hereinabove as the first directors of this corporation, have executed these Articles of Incorporation this 15th day of January, 1937:

CLAUDE A. WATSON
B. E. ILER
A. G. BALL

BY-LAWS

BY-LAWS OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ARTICLE I

Members

¶ 530. Section 1: The several members of the Board of Administration of The Free Methodist Church of North America, elected by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, shall constitute the members of this corporation.

Section 2: All meetings of members except as herein otherwise provided shall be held as directed by the corporation or by the Board of Directors of said corporation.

Section 3: The regular annual meeting of the members shall be held after the 15th of October and on or before the 15th of November in each year, the time and place to be fixed by the Board of Administration or a committee designated by them.

The annual meeting of the members and of the Board of Directors may be held either in or out of the state of incorporation, as fixed by the Board of Administration or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Notice of the annual meeting of members shall be given in writing to members entitled to vote, by the secretary (or assistant secretary) by sending a copy of the notice through the mail, charges prepaid, to the address of each such member as the same appears on the records of the corporation, or as supplied by a member for the purpose of notice, not less than fourteen (14) days before such meeting, or by publication of such notice in *The Free Methodist* paper published at Winona Lake, Indiana, for at least two (2) weeks before said meeting.

Section 5: Special meetings of the members may be called at any time for any purpose or purposes whatsoever, by the president, or by the Board of Directors, or by any three or more members thereof.

Section 6: Notice of special meetings of the members,

stating the time, and in general terms the purpose or purposes thereof, shall be mailed by the secretary to each member entitled to vote, at his address as the same appears on the records of the corporation, or as supplied by the member for the purpose of notice, at least one week prior to the date of the special meeting.

Section 7: Should the address of any member not appear on the records of the corporation, then notices of any meetings of the members shall be mailed, addressed to such member at Winona Lake, County of Kosciusko, State of Indiana.

Section 8: An entry of the service of notice of a meeting of the members, given in the manner above provided, shall be made in the minutes of the proceedings of the members, and such entry, if read and approved at a subsequent meeting of the members, shall be conclusive on the question of such service.

Section 9: When all the members are present at any meeting, however called or notified, and sign a written consent thereto, or when the members present, and the members not present at such meeting, give their written consent thereto, and such written consent is made a part of the records of such meeting the proceedings had at such meeting are valid, irrespective of the manner in which the meeting is called, or the place where it is held.

Any member of the Board of Directors of this corporation may be removed from office according to paragraph 103, section 2, of the FREE METHODIST DISCIPLINE of 1935 [Par. 111, Sec. 2, of the present DISCIPLINE] and any amendments thereto, duly adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America.

Section 10: At any meeting of the members, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 11: Any regular or called meeting of the members may adjourn from day to day, or from time to time, without further notice, until its business is completed; and any regular or called meeting of the members may adjourn from day to day, or from time to time, without further notice, if for any reason there be not present a quorum to

transact business, in person or by proxy, such adjournment and the reasons therefor being recorded in the journal of the proceedings of the members; and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at any meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

Section 12: The president, or, in his absence, the vice-president, or, in the absence of the president and vice-president, a chairman, elected by the members present, shall call the meetings of the members to order, and shall act as the presiding officer thereof.

Section 13: The secretary of the corporation shall act as secretary at all meetings of the members, and in his absence the presiding officer may appoint any person to act as secretary.

Section 14: At the regular annual meeting of the members held in the month of November subsequent to the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, the members entitled to vote shall elect by ballot a Board of Directors as constituted by these by-laws, and the articles of incorporation of this corporation.

Section 15: All proxies must be in writing, executed by the members themselves, or by their duly authorized attorneys, and must be filed with the secretary of the corporation at or before the meeting of the members.

ARTICLE II

Directors

Section 1: The corporate powers, business, and affairs of the corporation shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by a board of five directors.

Section 2: No person shall be elected or appointed a director unless he is a member in good standing of The Free Methodist Church of North America. If a director shall cease at any time to be a member in good standing of The Free Methodist Church of North America, he shall

thereby cease to be a director, but no act of the corporation, its officers or directors shall be invalidated by reason thereof.

Section 3: Each director shall hold office for eight years or for such shorter period as he may have been appointed, and until his successor shall have been elected.

Section 4: Any vacancy occurring in the office of director by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, except vacancies caused by the removal of the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of the Civil Code of the State of California, shall be filled by an appointee of the majority of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum. Such director, so appointed, shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the members, or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose prior thereto.

When one or more of the directors shall give notice of his or their resignation to the Board, effective at a future date, the Board shall have the power to fill such vacancy or vacancies to take effect when such resignations shall become effective. Each director so appointed shall hold office during the remainder of the term of office of the resigning director or directors, or until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 5: Immediately after the election of directors at the annual meeting of the members on the first November subsequent to the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America, the directors shall meet for the purpose of organization, the election of officers, and the transaction of other business.

Section 6: All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as directed from time to time.

Section 7: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held annually on or after the 15th day of October and on or before the 15th day of November, the time and place to be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8: Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called at any time on the order of the president or on the order of two (2) or more directors.

Section 9: Notices of special meetings of the Board of Directors, stating the time, and in general terms the purpose or purposes thereof, shall be mailed or telegraphed or personally delivered to each director, not later than five days before the day appointed for the meeting. An entry of the service of notice, given in the manner above provided, shall be made in the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and such entry, if read and approved at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, shall be conclusive on the question of service. If all the directors shall be present at any directors' meeting, however called or noticed, and sign a written consent thereto which is entered on the record of such meeting, or if the majority of the directors are present, and those not present sign a written waiver of notice of such meeting, whether prior to or after the holding of such meeting, which said waiver shall be filed with the secretary of the corporation, and entered on the record of such meeting, any business may be transacted at such meeting, and the transactions of such meeting shall be as valid as if had at a meeting regularly called and noticed.

Section 10: Each director shall register his address with the secretary, and notices of meetings mailed or telegraphed to such address shall be valid notices thereof.

Section 11: A majority of the whole number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and every act or decision of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, made or done when duly assembled, shall be valid as the act of the Board of Directors; but a majority of those present at the time and place of any stated or special meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the same from time to time, or from day to day, without further notice, until a quorum shall attend, and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

Section 12: The Board of Directors shall have full power

and authority to borrow money on behalf of the corporation, including the power and authority to borrow money from any of the members, directors or officers of the corporation, and otherwise to incur indebtedness on behalf of the corporation, and to authorize the execution of promissory notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of the corporation, and to agree to pay interest thereon; to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, assign, exchange, lease, and otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, and otherwise encumber the property, real and personal, and the franchises of the corporation; to purchase, lease, and otherwise acquire property, real and personal, on behalf of the corporation; and generally to do and perform, or cause to be done and performed, any and every act which the corporation may lawfully do and perform, providing said total indebtedness of the corporation does not exceed the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

Section 13: The directors of this corporation shall serve without compensation except for their actual expenses.

Section 14: The Board of Directors may appoint an executive committee of such Board, and may delegate to such committee any of the powers and authority of the Board of Directors, except the power to adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws. Such executive committee shall be composed of members of the Board of Directors and shall act only in the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall be subject at all times to the control of the Board of Directors.

Section 15: The business of the Board of Directors may be conducted by mail. Any matter submitted by the secretary to the members of the Board shall, when approved by a majority of the Board and recorded in the minutes of the Board by the secretary, be a legally approved act of the Board.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1: The executive officers of the corporation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2: All of the officers of the corporation shall be elected by ballot by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

President

Section 1: The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. He shall have general charge of the business of the corporation, shall execute, with the secretary, in the name of the corporation, all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed.

Section 2: The president shall also have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Vice-President

Section 1: The vice-president shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the president, in case of the absence or disability of the president.

Section 2: The vice-president shall also have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Secretary

Section 1: The secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the members and of the Board of Directors in books provided for that purpose. He shall attend to the giving and serving of notices of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and otherwise. He shall execute, with the president, in the name of the corporation, all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, and, with the president, shall sign all certificates of membership of the corporation. He shall be the custodian of

the corporate seal of the corporation, and when so ordered by the Board of Directors shall affix the seal to deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments. He shall keep and have charge of the journal of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members, the book of by-laws, and such other books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of secretary, subject to the control of the Board of Directors. (He shall perform the duties of the treasurer in case of the absence or disability of the treasurer.)

Section 2: In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his refusal or neglect to act, notices may be given and served by the president, or by the vice-president, or by any person thereunto authorized by the president, or by the vice-president, or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

Treasurer

Section 1: The treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept, full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books to be kept for that purpose. He shall receive and deposit, or cause to be received and deposited, all moneys and other valuables of the corporation in the name and to the credit of the corporation, in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation only as directed by the Board of Directors of the corporation and shall take proper vouchers for such disbursements. He shall render to the president of the Board of Directors and to the members, whenever they may require, accounts of all his transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer, subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Seal

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable seal for the corporation, which shall be in circular form, which will contain the following inscription: The Free Methodist Church of North America, Incorporated Jan. 15th, 1937, Los Angeles, California.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1: The DISCIPLINE, rules and regulations of The Free Methodist Church as from time to time adopted by the General Conference of The Free Methodist Church of North America shall at all times be a part of the by-laws of this corporation.

ARTICLE X

Section 1: The by-laws of this corporation may be amended at any annual meeting of the members of the corporation by a majority vote of those present and voting.

Form of Bequest

¶ 531. Form of bequest of money or other personal property: "I give and bequeath to The Free Methodist Church of North America the sum of dollars, to be used and appropriated by that body to religious, charitable, missionary or educational purposes."

Real estate:

"I grant and devise (full description of the land)."

CHAPTER II

DIRECTORY OF GENERAL OFFICERS

¶ 540. Bishops

Leslie Ray Marston, 311 North Prairie Street, Greenville, Illinois
Mark D. Ormston, Spring Arbor, Michigan
Charles V. Fairbairn, 1122 South Walnut Street, McPherson, Kansas
J. Paul Taylor, 843 Wyatt Street, Greenville, Illinois

¶ 541. Publisher

Lloyd H. Knox, Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 542. Editors

James F. Gregory, *The Free Methodist*, Winona Lake, Indiana
Ernest Keasling, *Youth in Action*, Winona Lake, Indiana
Royal S. Nelson, *The Sunday School Journal*, Winona Lake, Indiana
Benjamin L. Olmstead, *Sunday School Literature*,
Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 543. General Secretaries

A. S. Hill, General Secretary Conference Claimants, Church and
Parsonage Aid Society, and Transportation, Winona Lake, Indiana
Ernest Keasling, General F. M. Y. Superintendent,
Winona Lake, Indiana
Byron S. Lamson, General Missionary Secretary,
Winona Lake, Indiana
Royal S. Nelson, General Sunday School Secretary,
Winona Lake, Indiana
L. W. Northrup, General Evangelistic Secretary, Greenville, Illinois
Claude A. Watson, Secretary of General Conference and Board of
Administration, 5939 Monterey Road, Los Angeles 42, California

¶ 544. Treasurers

Lillian T. Beeson, Treasurer General Woman's Missionary Society,
North Chili, New York
A. S. Hill, General Church Treasurer and Director of Finance,
Winona Lake, Indiana

¶ 545. Directors

Myron F. Boyd, Director Light and Life Hour, Winona Lake, Indiana
Floyd M. Todd, General Director Department of Intermediate Youth,
Winona Lake, Indiana
Orville S. Walters, Director of Service Training, 1272 Medford Ave.,
Topeka, Kansas

CHAPTER III

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS

¶ 546. Board of Directors of The Free Methodist Church of North America

Office: Winona Lake, Indiana

Bishop L. R. Marston, President C. A. Watson, Secretary

Terms expire in 1959

Bishop L. R. Marston C. A. Watson A. W. Secord

Terms expire in 1963

Bishop M. D. Ormston G. A. Hall

¶ 547. Judicial Council

O. S. Walters, Chairman W. C. Mavis, Vice-Chairman
M. C. Baker G. W. Stevens
R. W. Howell E. P. Van Valin

Alternates

E. A. Cutler L. A. Robart
C. D. DeCan M. G. Smith

¶ 548. Board of Administration

Bishop L. R. Marston, President	C. A. Watson, Secretary
Bishop M. D. Ormston	Elmer McDowell
Bishop C. V. Fairbairn	J. S. Mitchell
Bishop J. P. Taylor	W. J. Parmerter
W. S. Adams	D. I. Percell
C. T. Denbo	L. A. Robart
W. D. Ferguson	H. A. Smith
George Fuller, Jr.	Walker Towns
G. A. Hall	F. D. Voller
Roy Harrington	J. E. Wade
Forrest S. Hayden	R. H. Warren
B. F. Hibbett	H. A. White
E. A. Holtwick	W. L. Woods
Lowell L. Kline	C. Hoyt Watson
L. J. Lindsey	

¶ 549. Executive Commission

Bishop L. R. Marston, Chairman

W. D. Ferguson	W. J. Parmerter
Roy Harrington	J. E. Wade
J. S. Mitchell	C. Hoyt Watson, Secretary

¶ 550. Commission on Missions

Bishop M. D. Ormston, Chairman	
Ella Maze Daniels	H. A. Smith
George Fuller, Jr.	R. H. Warren
G. A. Hall	H. A. White
B. S. Lamson, Secretary	W. R. Woods
Adine E. McDowell	

¶ 551. Commission on Christian Education

Bishop C. V. Fairbairn, Chairman	
C. T. Denbo, Secretary	D. I. Percell
Forrest Hayden	L. A. Robart
E. A. Holtwick	Walker Towns

¶ 552. Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension

Bishop J. P. Taylor, Chairman	
W. S. Adams	L. J. Lindsey
B. F. Hibbett	Elmer McDowell
Lowell Kline	F. D. Voller, Secretary

¶ 553. Central Board of Ministerial Training

Bishop C. V. Fairbairn, Chairman	
Bishop L. R. Marston	Merlin G. Smith
Bishop M. D. Ormston	O. S. Walters
Bishop J. Paul Taylor	R. H. Warren
Glenn A. Hall	C. Hoyt Watson
H. Johnson Long	The Executive Secretary
W. C. Mavis	of the Department of
B. L. Olmstead	Educational Institutions

¶ 554. Editorial Board

Bishop C. V. Fairbairn, Chairman	
Bishop L. R. Marston	C. T. Denbo
Bishop M. D. Ormston	J. E. Wade
Bishop J. Paul Taylor	C. Hoyt Watson

¶ 555. F. M. Y. Council

Ernest Keasling, General Superintendent	
Tom Oschwald	Dwight Horton
Robert Andrews	Jack Mottweiler

¶ 556. Committee to Investigate Problems of the Ministry

Bishop L. R. Marston	
Bishop M. D. Ormston	Bishop J. Paul Taylor
Bishop C. V. Fairbairn	W. C. Mavis

¶ 557. Board of Directors, Publishing House

Bishop L. R. Marston, President	
W. D. Ferguson	W. J. Parmerter
Roy Harrington	J. E. Wade
J. S. Mitchell	C. Hoyt Watson

¶ 558. Editors of the "Discipline"

E. H. Munn, Chairman	G. A. Hall
R. R. Blews	C. A. Watson

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS

¶ 560. 1. *Roberts' Rules of Order* in the latest edition shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure in the General Conference, the annual conferences, and all other official bodies of the church.

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

3. The Friday preceding each quarterly meeting, each annual conference, and each General Conference shall be observed by our people as a day of fasting and prayer.

4. A general officer may retire when he reaches the age of seventy years. Otherwise he shall retire after the election of his successor at the end of the General Conference nearest his seventy-fifth birthday. (See Pars. 333, 334 for further particulars upon the retirement of bishops.)

5. Each general officer, superintendent, pastor, and evangelist shall make to his annual conference a financial report of his receipts from the field. This report shall be published in the statistical tables of the conference.

6. The proper officers shall publish in the *Conference Minutes* annually full and detailed statements of the assets, liabilities, net worth, and financial standing of the various church boards and of the Publishing House.

7. A minister's quarterly conference relationship is fixed by his annual conference; he cannot, therefore, be a member of a quarterly conference in another annual conference in which he may be supplying work.

¶ 561. Special Days to Be Observed.

1. Children's Day. Par. 152, IX-3.

2. Day of fasting and prayer for general evangelism. Par.

181, Sec. 4.

3. Day of fasting on Friday preceding the session of the annual conference and of the General Conference. Par. 560, Sec. 3.

4. Men and Missions Day.

CHAPTER V

¶ 570. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America, organized in General, Conference, District and Local units, auxiliary to the Commission on Missions.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to promote missionary intelligence, to deepen interest in world evangelism and to secure systematic contributions for missions.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

1. The general society shall be composed of the general officers, two representatives on the Commission on Missions, one delegate from each conference, and an additional delegate from each conference for each seven hundred active members.

2. The delegates and reserve delegates are to be elected by their respective conference societies at the annual session immediately preceding the session of this society.

3. No person shall be elected as delegate to this body who is not a member of the Free Methodist Church and an active member of the Woman's Missionary Society, nor any person who is a delegate or reserve delegate to the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The meetings of this society shall be held quadrennially

at the time and place of the General Conference, when a report of its operation, condition and prospects shall be presented. An election by ballot of general officers and representatives on the Commission on Missions shall be held at that time.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. The officers of this society shall be a president, first vice-president, second vice-president and stewardship secretary, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, mission study secretary, treasurer, editor of *The Missionary Tidings*, and Junior superintendent.

2. A nominating committee may be chosen to submit nominations to the society.

3. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

1. No person shall be eligible to office in this society who is not a member of the Free Methodist Church and an active member in the Woman's Missionary society.

2. No general officer, except the treasurer, may serve more than twelve years consecutively in the same office. The treasurer may do so if re-elected by a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The general officers together with the representatives on the Commission on Missions shall constitute a general executive committee to administer the affairs of the organization and to transact business in the intervals of the quadrennial meeting. Five of these officers shall constitute a quorum.

2. The executive committee shall meet annually at the time and place of the meeting of the Commission on Missions.

3. The executive committee shall elect (a) a superintendent of foreign boxes and (b) a literature agent, and these shall report annually to the executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There shall be an advisory committee of three members elected by the society.

ARTICLE IX

METHODS

No methods of raising money or of conducting meetings shall be used which are not in harmony with the DISCIPLINE of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE X

CONTINGENT FUND

Five per cent of the funds of this society shall be reserved as a contingent fund and deposited in a savings bank.

ARTICLE XI

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

A judiciary committee shall be appointed to serve as a court of appeal in case of inquiry into any act or decision of the president of this body, the executive committee or any member thereof, or the board of directors or any member thereof. This committee shall consist of three members elected by ballot in quadrennial meeting. Inquiry may originate in any society—local, district or conference—but shall be brought before this body only by the executive committee of a conference society.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any quadrennial meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

¶ 571. Constitution of Local, District, and Conference Units of the
Woman's Missionary Society

ARTICLE I

NAME

This society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of local district conference, auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to promote missionary intelligence, to deepen interest in world evangelism, and to secure systematic contributions for missions.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

1. The payment of twenty-five cents a quarter, or one dollar a year, shall constitute membership in the local society, and the payment of twenty-five dollars raised or given for that purpose shall constitute Life membership. The payment of ten dollars or more shall constitute membership "In Memoriam."

2. Men are welcomed as honorary members on payment of dues.

3. No one may hold at the same time membership in more than one local W. M. S., but any woman under thirty may belong to both the W. M. S. and the F. M. Y. at the same time.

4. Membership in the local society shall constitute membership in the district and conference.

5. A certificate of membership shall be given when a member transfers from one society to another.

6. The names of the officers of the conference and district societies, together with the names of the members present at an annual meeting shall constitute the roll.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

1. Local meetings shall be held monthly. Each society shall decide at its first meeting how many members shall constitute a quorum.

2. District meetings shall be held quarterly at the time and place of the District Quarterly Meeting, or at a time and place set by the District Executive Committee. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

3. The conference society shall meet annually at the time and place of the Annual Conference. One-half the members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. The officers of this society shall be a president, first vice-president and mission study secretary, second vice-president and stewardship secretary, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, Junior superintendent, and literature agent, elected by ballot. In the conference society a Box superintendent may also be elected. These officers shall constitute an executive committee to transact business in the interim of meetings. The executive committee shall have power to fill vacancies in the offices of the society. The term of office shall hold until the close of the next annual meeting or until successors are elected. The local and district officers may be elected before or after conference. The district presidents shall be members of the Conference Executive Committee.

2. A nominating committee may be chosen.

3. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

1. All conference and district officers and all local presidents must be members of the Free Methodist Church and active members of the Woman's Missionary Society; Junior superintendents must be members of the Free Methodist

Church and active or honorary members of either the W. M. S. or F. M. Y. All other officers may be either active or honorary members of the W. M. S. and as far as possible must be members of the Free Methodist Church.

2. No local or district officer, except the treasurer, may serve more than four years, and no conference officer, except the treasurer, more than eight years consecutively in the same office. The treasurer may do so if re-elected by a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE VII

SPECIAL FUNDS

1. No money raised by the payment of dues shall be applied to any special fund nor shall the money raised for special funds be applied on life membership.

2. A working fund for local, district, or conference may be raised by offerings and held by the treasurer for such purposes.

CHAPTER VI

¶ 572. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. Adine E. McDowell, President, 1213 East Henry St., Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Grace M. Lindsey, First Vice-President, 407 N. Perry Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Ruth L. Cochrane, Second Vice-President and Stewardship Secretary, 26 West Dravus Street, Seattle 99, Washington.

Mrs. Etta S. Cowan, Recording Secretary, Box 163, 220 Hall St., Holland, Ohio.

Mrs. Viola Walton, Corresponding Secretary, 12 Hill St., Elgin, Illinois.

Miss Mildred E. Van Norwick, Mission Study Secretary, 804 Harrison St., Flint, Michigan.

Mrs. Lillian T. Beeson, Treasurer, North Chili, New York.

Mrs. Bessie Reid Kresge, Editor of *The Missionary Tidings*, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Mrs. Mary Loretta Rose, Junior Superintendent, 801 N. Front St., Philipsburg, Pennsylvania.

¶ 573. Members of the Commission on Missions

Mrs. Adine E. McDowell, 1213 East Henry St., Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Ella Maze Daniels, Winona Lake, Indiana.

¶ 574. Members of the Advisory Committee

Mrs. Minnie D. Ormston, Spring Arbor, Michigan.

Miss Alice E. Walls, R. 4, Iona Station, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Lucy K. Kellum, 4263 Norfolk Avenue, St. Louis 10, Missouri.

¶ 575. Members of the Judiciary Committee

Mrs. Maude Watson, 5937 Monterey Road, Los Angeles 42, California.

Mrs. Florence Archer, 1632 Dominion Avenue, Pasadena 7, California.

Mrs. Carrie Dake Kline, Wessington Springs, South Dakota.

CHAPTER VII

¶ 576. Constitution of Junior Missionary Society

ARTICLE I

This society shall be known as the Junior Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church, auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Society.

ARTICLE II

The object of this society shall be (1) to promote spiritual welfare, (2) to impart missionary instruction, and (3) to teach the practice of Christian Stewardship.

ARTICLE III

The payment of five cents a month or any sum agreed upon by the local W. M. S. shall constitute membership.

The payment of ten dollars shall constitute Junior-Life membership.

A Junior Life Member moving to another society may be given a Life Membership card of transfer, stating the name of the society where he was made a Life Member, and his Life Membership counted in the society where he resides.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings shall be held at least monthly, and an election of officers annually or semi-annually.

ARTICLE V

The officers of this society shall be a superintendent, a president, two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, each acting until a successor is elected.

The superintendent shall be an active or honorary member of the W. M. S. or F. M. Y. and a member of the Free Methodist Church. The other officers may be either boys or girls.