

DISCIPLINE

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST
CHURCH OF AMERICA



WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
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DISCIPLINE

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF AMERICA

ORIGIN AND CHARACTER

¶ 1. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America grew out of a separation from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the result of the connection of that body with slavery, and the arbitrary character of its government.

¶ 2. O. Scott, J. Horton and L. R. Sunderland withdrew in November, 1842. At the same time the first number of a weekly paper was issued called the True Wesleyan, in which they announced their withdrawal, setting forth their reasons. In December following Luther Lee withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and also L. C. Matlack. These withdrawals are to be regarded as the commencement of the movement which led to the Wesleyan organization. There were previous separations, but the organization of the community, whose system of doctrine and polity is presented in the following pages, must date its commencement as above.

¶ 3. The most extensive prior separation took place in Michigan, which resulted in the organiza-

tion of a Conference, but they united in the general organization at Utica, hereafter mentioned, and formed the basis of what is now the Michigan Annual Conference. The first Wesleyan church which was organized as a part of the present Denomination, was in Providence, R. I.

¶ 4. Soon after the withdrawal of Scott, Horton, Sunderland, Lee and Matlack, measures were taken to hold a convention, which transpired at Andover, Mass., February, 1843. This resulted in a call for a General Convention, which was held at Utica, N. Y., commencing May 31, 1843, at which a general organization was effected and a Discipline adopted. The first General Conference was held in October, 1844, at which the Discipline underwent some modifications.

¶ 5. In October, 1848, the second General Conference was held; and, in the light of the four years' additional experience, the Discipline underwent a thorough revision, principally to improve it in simplicity, and in the arrangement of its parts; since then it has been further revised, and, with confidence that it will be approved, it is presented to the Church, whose system of doctrine and rules of practice it contains, and to the Christian public, whose inspection it invites.

¶ 6. It will be seen by the candid reader that the system of government is essentially republican, and is conformed to the Scriptures and primitive usages, in all fundamental matters—under such modifications in what is merely prudential, as are demanded by the circumstances of the times in

which we live. For amplitude of provision to meet all the exigences of an ecclesiastical organization—and for simplicity, rendering it easy to be comprehended, it is believed this little book stands unrivaled.

¶ 7. It is not presented as a substitute for the Holy Scriptures, but as an epitome of the doctrines, morals and ecclesiastical polity contained in the Sacred Volume. All who read this volume, and especially those who adopt it as the rule of their faith and practice, should never forget for one moment, that, to secure the end of religion, they must add to their creed, however truthful it may be, sincerity of heart and purity of life. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord! Lord! shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord."

PART I

THE CHURCH

I THAY

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SECTION II. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES.
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SECTION I

ARTICLES OF RELIGION

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

¶ 8. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity,—the Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Ghost.

Gen. 1: 1; 17: 1; Ex. 3: 13-15; 33: 20; Deut. 6: 4, Psalms 90: 2; 104: 24; Isa. 9: 6; Jer. 10: 10; John 1: 1, 2; 4: 24; 5: 18; 10: 30; 16: 13; 17: 3; Acts 5: 3, 4; Rom. 16: 27; 1 Cor. 8: 4, 6; 2 Cor. 13: 14; Eph. 2: 18; Phil. 2: 6; Col. 1: 16; 1 Tim. 1: 17; 1 John 5: 7, 20, Rev. 19: 13.

II. The Son of God

¶ 9. The only begotten Son of God was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried—to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men, and to reconcile us to God.

Mark 15; Luke 1: 27, 31, 35; John 1: 14, 18; 3: 16, 17; Acts 4: 12; Rom. 5: 10, 18; 1 Cor. 15: 3; 2 Cor. 5: 18, 19; Gal. 1: 4; 2: 20; 4: 4, 5; Eph. 5: 2; 1 Tim 1: 15; Heb. 2: 17; 7: 27; 9: 28; 10: 12; 1 Peter 2: 24; 1 John 2: 2; 4: 14.

III. The Resurrection of Christ

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

Psalms 16: 8-10; Matt. 27: 62-66; 28: 5-9, 16, 17; Mark 16: 6, 7, 12; Luke 24: 4-8, 23; John 20: 26-29; 21; Acts 1: 2; 2: 24-31; 10: 40; Rom. 8: 34; 14: 9, 10; 1 Cor. 15: 6, 14; Heb. 13: 20.

IV. The Holy Ghost

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

Job 33: 4; Matt. 28: 19; John 4: 24-26; Acts 5: 3, 4; Rom. 8: 9; 2 Cor. 3: 17; Gal. 4: 6.

V. The Sufficiency and Full Authority of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

¶ 12. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand the books of the Old and New Testaments. These Scriptures we do hold to be the inspired and infallibly written Word of God,

fully inerrant in their original manuscript and superior to all human authority.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts, The Epistle to the Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude and Revelation.

Psalms 19:7; Luke 24:27; John 17:17; Acts 17:2, 11; Rom. 1:2; 15:4; 16:26; Gal. 1:8; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Rev. 22:14, 19.

VI. The Old Testament

¶ 13. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to mankind through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses, as

touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity be received in any commonwealth, yet notwithstanding no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

Matt. 5: 17-19; 22: 37-40; Luke 24: 27, 44; John 1: 45; 5: 46; Rom. 15: 8; 2 Cor. 1: 20; Eph. 2: 15, 16; 1 Tim. 2: 5; Heb. 10: 1; 11: 39; 1 John 2: 3-7.

VII. Relative Duties

¶ 14. Those two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, contain the sum of the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures; and are the measure and perfect rule of human duty, as well for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, as for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler, and all men as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Wherefore all men are bound so to order all their individual and social and political acts as to render to God entire and absolute obedience, and to secure to all men the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the greatest happiness of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.

Lev. 19: 18, 34; Deut. 1: 15, 17; 2 Sam. 23: 3; Job 29: 16; 31: 13, 14; Jer. 21: 12; 22: 3; Matt. 5: 44-47; 7: 12; Luke 6: 27-29, 35; John 13: 34, 35; Acts 10: 34, 35; 17: 26; Rom. 12: 9; 13: 1, 7, 8, 10; Gal. 5: 14;

6: 10; Titus 3: 1; James 2: 8; 1 Peter 2: 17; 1 John 2: 5; 4: 12, 13; 2 John 6.

VIII. Original or Birth Sin

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

Gen. 8: 21; Psalms 51: 5; Jer. 17: 9; Mark 7: 21-23; Rom. 3: 10-12; 5: 12, 18, 19; Eph. 2: 1-3.

IX. Free Will

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

Prov. 16: 1; 20: 24; Jer. 10: 23; Matt. 16: 17; John 6: 44, 65; 15: 5; Rom. 5: 6, 7, 8; Eph. 2: 5-9; Phil. 2: 13; 4: 13.

X. Justification of Man

¶ 17. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not our own works or deservings: Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a

most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

Acts 13: 38, 39; 15: 11; 16: 31; Rom. 3: 28; 4: 2-5; 5: 1, 2, 9; Eph. 2: 8, 9; Phil. 3: 9; Heb. 11.

XI. Good Works

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

Matt. 5: 16; 7: 16-20; John 15: 8; Rom. 3: 20; 4: 2, 4, 6; Gal. 2: 16; Phil. 1: 11; Titus 3: 5; James 2: 18, 22; 1 Peter 2: 9, 12.

XII. Sin After Justification

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

Psa. 32: 5; 95: 7, 11; Eccl. 7: 20; Jer. 3: 13-15; Matt. 24: 12; John 5: 14; Gal. 5: 4, 7; Eph. 5: 14; Heb. 3: 7-13, 15; James 3: 2, 8; 1 John 1: 8, 9; 2: 12; Rev. 2: 5.

XIII. Regeneration

¶ 20. Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God; this work is received through faith in Jesus Christ, whereby the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate, so that they love God and through grace serve Him with the will and affections of the heart—receiving the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba Father.

John 1: 12, 13; 3: 3, 5; Rom. 8: 15, 17; Gal. 3: 26; 4: 5, 7; Eph. 1: 5; 2: 5, 19; 4: 24; Col. 3: 10; Titus 3: 5; James 1: 18; 1 Peter 1: 3, 4; 2 Peter 1: 4; 1 John 3: 1.

XIV. Entire Sanctification

¶ 21. Entire sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is cleansed from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus Christ. It is subsequent to regeneration, and is wrought when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, and is thus enabled through grace to love God with all the heart and to walk in His holy commandments blameless.

Gen. 17: 1; Deut. 30: 6; Psa. 130: 8; Ezek. 36: 25-29; Matt. 5: 48; Luke 1: 74, 75; John 17: 2-23; Rom. 8: 3, 4; 11: 26; 1 Cor. 6: 11; 14: 20; Eph. 4: 13, 24; 5: 25-27; Phil. 2: 5, 7; Col. 4: 12; 1 Thess. 3: 10; 5: 23; 2 Thess. 2: 13; 2 Tim. 3: 17; Titus 2: 12; Heb. 9: 13, 14; 10: 14, 18-22; James 1: 27; 4: 8; 1 Peter 1: 10; 2 Peter 1: 4; 1 John 1: 7, 9; 3: 8, 9; 4: 17, 18; Jude 24.

XV. The Sacraments

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

There are two sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel: that is to say, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord.

Matt. 26: 26-28; 28: 19; Mark 14: 22-24; Rom. 2: 28, 29; 4: 11; 1 Cor. 10: 16; 11: 23-26; Gal. 3: 27.

XVI. Baptism

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

Num. 8: 7; Isa. 52: 15; Ezek. 36: 25; Matt. 3: 13-17; Mark 1: 10; 16: 16; John 3: 22, 26; 4: 1, 2; Acts 2: 38, 41; 8: 12, 13-17; 9: 18; 16: 33; 18: 8; 19: 5; 22: 16; 1 Cor. 12: 13; Gal. 3: 27-29; Col. 2: 11, 12; Titus 3: 5.

XVII. The Lord's Supper

¶ 24. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather it is a Sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily and with faith receive the same, it is made a medium through which God doth communicate grace to the heart.

Luke 22: 19, 20; John 6: 53, 56; 1 Cor. 5: 7, 8; 10: 3, 4, 16; 11: 28.

XVIII. The One Oblation of Christ Finished Upon the Cross

¶ 25. The offering of Christ, once made, is that perfect redemption and propitiation for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore, to expect salvation on the ground of our own works, or by suffering the pains our sins deserve, either in the present or future state, is derogatory to Christ's offering for us, and a dangerous deceit.

Acts 4: 12; Rom. 5: 8; 8: 34; Gal. 2: 16; 3: 2, 3, 11; 1 Tim. 2: 5, 6; Heb. 7: 23-27; 9: 11-15, 24-28; 10: 14.

XIX. The Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

¶ 26. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same or exactly alike, for they have always been different and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word.

Every particular church may ordain, change or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification.

Acts 15: 10, 28, 29; Rom. 14: 2-6, 15, 17, 21; 1 Cor. 1: 10; 12: 25; 14: 26; 2 Cor. 13: 11; Gal. 5: 1, 13; Col. 2: 16, 17; 2 Thess. 3: 6, 14; 1 Tim. 1: 4, 6; 1 Peter 2: 16.

XX. The Second Coming of Christ

¶ 27. The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is a very precious truth, and this good hope is a powerful inspiration to holy living and godly effort for the evangelization of the world. We believe the Scriptures teach the coming of Christ to be a bodily return to the earth and that He will cause the fulfillment of all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil. Faith in the imminence of Christ's return is a rational and inspiring hope to the people of God.

Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:1-4; Psalm 17:15; Isaiah 11:1-12; Zech. 14:1-11; Matt. 24:1-51; Matt. 26:64; Mark 13:26-37; Luke 17:26-37; Luke 21:24-36; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 1:7, 8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:27, 28; James 5:7, 8; 2 Pet. 3:1-14; 1 John 3:2, 3; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 22:6, 7, 12, 20.

XXI. The Resurrection of the Dead

¶ 28. We hold the scriptural statements concerning the resurrection of the dead to be true and worthy of universal acceptance. We believe the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ was a fact of history and a miracle of supreme importance. We understand the manner of the resurrection of mankind to be the resurrection of the righteous dead, at Christ's second coming, and the resurrection of the wicked at a later time, as stated in Revelation 20:4-6. Resurrection will be the reuniting of soul and body preparatory to final reward or punishment.

Job 19:25-27; Psalm 17:15; Daniel 12:2; Matthew

22: 30-32; Matthew 28: 1-20; Luke 14: 14; John 5: 28, 29; Acts 23: 6-8; Romans 8: 11; 1 Corinthians 6: 14; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 4: 14; 2 Corinthians 5: 1-11; 1 Thessalonians 4: 14-17; Revelation 20: 4-6.

XXII. The Judgment of Mankind

¶ 29. The Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all mankind and the acts of His judgment to be based on His omniscience and eternal justice. His administration of judgment will culminate in the final meeting of mankind before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be administered.

Ecclesiastes 12: 14; Romans 14: 10, 11; 2 Corinthians 5: 10; Acts 17: 31; Romans 2: 16; Matthew 10: 15; Luke 11: 31, 32; Acts 10: 42; 2 Timothy 4: 1; Hebrews 9: 27; Matthew 25: 31-46; Revelation 20: 11, 12, 13; 2 Peter 3: 7.

Footnote.—It is not to be understood that a dissenting understanding on the subject of the millennium shall be held to break or hinder either church fellowship or membership.

APPENDIX A

The Reaffirmation of the Doctrines of Our Faith

¶ 30. Be It Resolved, That the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, now in its twenty-first quadrennial session, do hereby declare and reaffirm our faith and adherence to those Doctrines that have been held as fundamental.

1st. We reaffirm our faith in the Bible, as the inerrant and inspired Word of God, containing a sufficient revelation of God's will to man in order to secure his eternal salvation and perfect in its system of religion and moral teachings and precepts;

2nd. We reaffirm our faith in the Deity of Jesus Christ, who was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin Mary, free from moral taint of nature, and perfect in His life and conduct;

3rd. We reaffirm our faith in the expiatory death, and vicarious atonement of Christ, which adjusted matters in the government of God so that mercy and grace could be extended to the sinner;

4th. We reaffirm our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; that He arose with the same body that was placed in the tomb, supernaturally transformed from its physical properties to that of spiritual;

5th. We reaffirm our faith in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and that He now occupies the throne of His mediation;

6th. We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine and promise of His second coming "in like manner" as He went away;

7th. We reaffirm our faith in the creation of man by the immediate creative act of God, according to the Bible narrative, and not by the process of evolutionary transition from a lower order of animalism to his present physical and intellectual condition;

8th. We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of the fall of man from that holy state in which he was created, to his present sinful and depraved state, 'and of his own nature is inclined to evil and that continually";

9th. We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of regeneration, or the "new birth," by which the sinner becomes a child of God, through faith in Jesus Christ by which the sinner is delivered from the power of sin, and is enabled through grace to love and serve God;

10th. We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of entire sanctification, by which work of grace the heart is cleansed by the Holy Spirit from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, and is enabled through grace to love God with all his heart and to walk in His holy commandments blameless. By the act of cleansing it is to be interpreted and taught by our ministry and teachers that it is not a "suppression" or a "counteraction" of "inbred sin" so as to "make it inoperative"; but "to destroy" or "to eradicate" from the heart so that the believer not only has a right to heaven, but is so conformed to God's nature that he will enjoy God and heaven forever. These terms are what we hold that cleansing from all sin implies.

[Adopted by the General Conference held at Fairmount, Ind., in 1923.]

SECTION II

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES

¶ 31. A Christian Church is a society of believers in Jesus Christ, assembling in any one place for religious worship, and is of divine institution.

¶ 32. Christ is the only head of the Church, and the Word of God the only rule of faith and conduct.

¶ 33. No person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, and obeys the Gospel of God our Savior, ought to be deprived of Church membership.

¶ 34. Every man has an inalienable right to private judgment in matters of religion, and an equal right to express his opinion in any way which will not violate the laws of God or the rights of his fellow men.

¶ 35. Church trials should be conducted on Gospel principles only; and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, the propagation of unchristian doctrines, or for neglect of duties enjoined by the Word of God.

¶ 36. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointment; and all elders in the Church of God are equal; but ministers are forbidden to be lords over God's heritage, or to have dominion over the faith of the saints.

¶ 37. The Church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations only as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary or have a tendency to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

¶ 38. Whatever power may be necessary to the formation of rules and regulations is inherent in the ministers and members of the Church; but so much of that power may be delegated from time to time, upon a plan of representation, as they may judge necessary and proper.

¶ 39. It is the duty of all ministers and members of the Church to maintain godliness and to oppose all moral evil.

¶ 40. It is obligatory upon ministers of the Gospel to be faithful in the discharge of their pastoral and ministerial duties; and it is also obligatory upon the members to esteem ministers highly for their work's sake, and to render them a righteous compensation for their labors.

SECTION III

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW

I. Constitutional

¶ 41. We define constitutional law to be that part of the polity of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as can only be changed by a vote of the General and Annual Conferences and membership vote of the churches, as provided for in Section IX, Paragraph 219, of the Discipline.

1. All that is mentioned in said paragraph, that can only be changed as prescribed, is constitutional law.

2. We believe that the supervision of the Annual Conferences over the ministry and churches within their bounds, is a constitutional right, but is limited by Paragraphs 128, 129, 130 and 131, and that the rights of the churches and ministry, as is set forth under said paragraphs, are constitutional.

3. (a) The right of the churches to receive and expel or discontinue members of the same, is constitutional. That is to say, no pastor or any officer of the church has a right to receive or discontinue a member of the church. It must be done by the action of the church, except where members join another church, or other religious body exercising the functions of a Church, or a secret society. In all such cases their own act separates them from the church, provided that they have been labored with as required by the Discipline, Paragraph 402; in that

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW ¶ 41

case no vote is necessary, and the chairman of the church simply states the facts, and the secretary or leader will write opposite the name of said member the words, "Withdrawn by having joined another religious body."

(b) The right of the church to elect all its officers, and remove the same, is a constitutional right. No pastor or other official has any right to appoint an officer or declare an office vacant. This right belongs to the church alone.

4. The conditions of membership is a constitutional right. No Annual Conference or church, or the General Conference, can change said conditions, either by repeal of present conditions or adding new conditions, but said changes must be made by the concurrent action of all three—the General Conference, Annual Conference and membership of the churches.

5. The Articles of Religion being constitutional as to change, it will follow that it is unconstitutional to place any book in the course of study that teaches anything that contravenes our Articles of faith. The Board of Review shall be the authority to decide on any book called in question.

6. Any law that destroys the principle of equal representation of the ministry and laity, in any of the representative bodies of the Church, would be unconstitutional.

II. Statutory

¶ 42. 1. The General Conference has the right to say who shall constitute its membership, provided there is maintained equal representation as it pertains to the ministry and laity, and provided further that no Annual Conference shall be deprived of representation.

2. The General Conference has the right to say who shall compose the membership of an Annual Conference, provided it maintains the equality of representation as to the ministry and laity, and further provided that no church or charge shall be deprived of representation.

3. The General Conference has the right to legislate as to the best methods of conducting the business of the entire Church, beginning with the churches, and including the Quarterly and Annual Conferences, and also the business of the General Conference itself. It also has the right to legislate as to the best methods of carrying on the work of the Publishing Association, Missionary Society, Educational Society, and all corporate societies, and all the judiciary departments, whether of churches, Quarterly or Annual Conferences.

4. All statutory laws take effect when the Discipline is published following the adjournment of the General Conference, unless otherwise specified.

SECTION IV

THE NATURE, DESIGN AND GENERAL RULES OF OUR UNITED CHURCHES

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

¶ 44. This was the rise of the Wesleyan Societies in Europe, then of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. Such churches are no other than companies of persons having the form and seeking the power of godliness,—united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.

¶ 45. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each church is divided into smaller companies called classes, according to their respective places of abode. In ordinary cases there should be about twelve or fifteen members in a class, one of whom is styled the leader, whose duty it is to hold with them a weekly meeting to inquire how their souls prosper, and to advise, reprove and exhort, as occasion may require.

¶ 46. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission, as probationers, with these churches—"a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But, wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits. It is furthermore expected of those who are admitted to our churches that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation:

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

The taking of the name of God in vain.

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

Drunkenness, or the manufacture, buying or selling or using intoxicating liquors, unless for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes, or in any way intentionally and knowingly aiding others so to do.

The buying or selling of men, women, or children, with an intention to enslave them, or holding them as slaves, or claiming that it is right so to do.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother, returning evil for evil, or railing for railing.

The using many words in buying or selling.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation.

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

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

The putting on of gold and costly apparel.

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

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

Softness or needless self-indulgence.

Laying up treasures upon earth.

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

¶ 47. It is expected of all who continue in these churches that they should continue to evidence their desire for salvation:

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

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

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

By doing good, especially to those who are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing

them preferably to others, buying of one another, helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own, and them only.

By all possible diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed. By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscourings of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.

¶ 48. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these churches that they should continue to evidence their desire for salvation:

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

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures, and fasting or abstinence.

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

SECTION V

SPECIAL RULES

I. Dress and Furniture

¶ 50. The General Conference recommends that this section remain as it now stands in our Discipline, and requests all our pastors and people to carry out and enforce these rules.

¶ 51. Question 1. Should we insist on the rules concerning dress?

Answer. By all means. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity or immodesty in apparel. Therefore, let none be received into the church until they have left off the wearing of gold and superfluous ornaments and have adopted modest attire. In order to this:

(1) In visiting the classes be very mild, but very strict.

(2) Allow of no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

¶ 52. Question 2. Should we insist on plain and modest dress?

Answer. Certainly. We should not on any account spend what the Lord has put into our hands, as stewards, to be used for His glory, in expensive wearing apparel, when thousands are suffering for food and raiment, and millions perishing for the Word of life. Let the dress of every member of the **Wesleyan Methodist Church be plain and modest.**

Let the strictest carefulness and economy be used in these respects.

¶ 53. And we do not only enjoin on all who fear God plain and modest dress, but we would recommend to our preachers and people, according to Mr. Wesley's views, expressed in his sermons on the "Inefficacy of Christianity," and "Dress," published but a few years before his death, and containing his matured judgment, distinguished plainness and modesty; plainness and modesty which will publicly commit them to the maintenance of their Christian profession wherever they may be. Let economy govern our lives in all purchases that we might have to give to all those who have a material or spiritual need.

¶ 54. The garb of a Rescue Home Matron and other city mission and slum workers shall be a dark blue dress and bonnet of same color with white ties. This garb, however, shall not be worn until she has been duly appointed to her work by an Annual Conference. Matrons of Rescue Homes, persons in charge of Orphanages, and Mission workers, shall, when they have been appointed by an Annual Conference, and while they continue in active service, be licensed by the Annual Conference for the work in which they are engaged.

¶ 55. We disapprove of Christians changing their apparel in mourning for the dead; and enter our protest against the extravagant waste of money, and needless expense, merely for display, on funeral occasions.

¶ 56. Our rules concerning dress are enforced by such Scriptures as: "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" (1 Tim. 2: 8, 9); "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" (1 Pet. 3: 3); "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2: 15-17.) See also Deut. 22: 5; Isa. 3: 16-24; Ezek. 13: 18; 1 Cor. 10: 31.

Refraining from the wearing of jewelry sets a better example for single men and women, and children. If the mature Christian men and women of the Church do not have a conscience on this matter it will be impossible for the Church to maintain its testimony against worldliness in the younger years.

II. Secret Societies

¶ 57. Question. Have we any directions to give concerning Secret Societies?

Answer. We will on no account tolerate our ministers and members in joining or holding fellowship with Secret Societies, as, in the judgment of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, it is inconsistent with our duties to God to hold such relations.

"Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing." John 18: 20.

"Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matt. 24: 26.

"But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." James 5: 12.

Also see: Lev. 5: 4, 5; Isa. 29: 15; Matt. 5: 34-36; 15: 13; John 3: 19, 20; 2 Cor. 4: 1, 2, and 6: 14-18; Eph. 5: 11, 12; 1 John 4: 2, 3.

[Note: This rule on secret societies does not prevent our members from affiliating with unions organized for the purpose of protecting their industrial interests where Christian principles are not violated, and where such principles are violated members shall be dealt with because of such violation, and not because of membership in the union.]

III. Temperance and Prohibition

¶ 58. We believe total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage to be the duty of all Christians. We heartily favor moral suasion and the gospel remedy to save men from the drink habit.

We believe that law must be an adjunct of moral means in order to suppress the traffic side of this evil. We believe that the State and the citizen each have solemn responsibilities and duties to perform in regard to this evil. We believe that for the State to enact any law to license or tax the traffic, or derive revenue therefrom, is contrary to the policy of good government, and brings the State into guilty complicity with the traffic and all the evils growing

out of it, and is also unscriptural and sinful in principle, and ought to be opposed by every Christian and patriot. We therefore believe that the only true and proper remedy for the gigantic evil of the liquor traffic is its entire suppression; and that all our people and true Christians everywhere should pray and vote against this evil, and not suffer themselves to be controlled by or support political parties which are managed in the interest of the drink traffic.

Prov. 4: 14-17; Isa. 5: 11-23; 28: 7, 8; Matt. 21: 12, 13; 1 Cor. 5: 11-13; Eph. 4: 27, 28; James 4.

IV. Tobacco

¶ 59. Question. Have we any direction to give concerning the use of tobacco?

Answer. In the judgment of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the use of tobacco is a great evil, and unbecoming a Christian, and a waste of the Lord's money, and a defilement of the body, which should be the temple of the Holy Ghost. We do, therefore, most earnestly require our members to refrain from its cultivation, manufacture, and sale, and to abstain from its use in all forms, for Jesus' sake.

¶ 60. We will not receive as members into our churches nor will we ordain or license to preach, or exhort, persons who use, cultivate, manufacture, or sell tobacco. Using tobacco by a member of a church or of an Annual Conference after being received from this date (June 28, 1927) is a violation of the law of the Church, and the offending party should be dealt with according to the Judiciary Rules.

SECTION VI

THE CONSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, RECEPTION AND POWERS OF CHURCHES

¶ 61. Any number of believers in Jesus Christ, united as a religious society on gospel principles, for the maintenance of Christian fellowship and worship, constitute a Christian Church.

¶ 62. Any such society conforming to our Book of Discipline and means of grace, on application to the President of the Annual Conference within the bounds of which said organization is located, shall be recognized as a Wesleyan Methodist church, when received by the President and his Advisory Board.

¶ 63. Where a number of persons of particular nationality desire to be organized into separate churches, such organizations shall be permitted, and they shall be members of the Church with all rights and privileges.

¶ 64. When any minister desires to organize a Wesleyan Methodist church or when any number of persons desire to be organized into a Wesleyan Methodist church, said minister or number of persons shall state in writing to the President of the Annual Conference within whose territory said church will be situated, the desire to be so organized, giving the number who so desire, and the probability of the church being self-supporting. If the Presi-

dent and his Advisory Board think the prospects are such as to warrant an organization he shall authorize the minister so reporting, or select some minister or competent person, to proceed to organize a church as is herein afterwards provided for, and present said church to the President or Annual Conference, within whose bounds said church is situated, to be received and declared a Wesleyan Methodist church. If in the judgment of the President and his Advisory Board, it is not practicable to organize a church as requested, he shall state that fact to the parties, giving the reasons therefor. No President or Annual Conference shall receive a body of believers, and declare them a Wesleyan Methodist church when there is no prospect of their being able to maintain an organization. When the President of an Annual Conference authorizes the organization of a church, then the elder in charge, or some other competent person or persons, shall personally examine the several individuals who are candidates for membership in the new organization, upon the doctrines and rules of the Wesleyan Methodist Book of Discipline.

Some time and place shall be designated for a public meeting, the purpose of which shall be stated as the organization of a church. The minister in charge shall preside at such meeting. He shall read a list of names of the persons who have been examined, and shall invite them to come forward and stand in the presence of the company; and the elder shall propound to them the following questions:

Question 1. Do you cordially accept our articles

of faith and our Church polity as the exponent of your faith and rule of conduct?

Question 2. Are you in Christian fellowship and sympathy with all these who present themselves for membership in this contemplated church organization?

To all those who answer these questions affirmatively, the elder shall say:

Will you receive each other as brethren and sisters beloved, and enter into mutual communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with each other in Christian sympathy, to tenderly instruct, counsel, admonish and cherish each other with all longsuffering, gentleness and love?

Answer. I will.

The elder will say:

By these mutual pledges in the presence of God and angels, I proceed to give you each the right hand of fellowship, and declare by this act that you are a Christian church organized on the basis of the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

After giving them the right hand of fellowship, the minister will engage in an appropriate prayer.

¶ 65. The person organizing the same shall report that fact to the President of the Conference within whose bounds said church is organized. If the President of the Conference, his Advisory Board concurring, receives the same he shall declare it a Wesleyan Methodist church and report that reception to the person organizing the same, and said

report shall be made a part of the records of said church. The President shall also report his act of reception to the next session of the Annual Conference, the same to be made a part of the records of said Annual Conference.

¶ 66. We recommend that churches when their number and circumstances require it, be divided into classes.

¶ 67. It is recommended that churches hold monthly meetings for the transaction of business; but meetings may be called for that purpose at any time, by the pastor or any three members, due notice being given thereof. The pastor shall be chairman of all church meetings, provided the church shall have power to elect some other member to serve in that capacity.

¶ 68. It shall be the duty of all our churches to hear and try complaints and to expel unworthy members according to our Judiciary Rules. A majority vote shall be sufficient to expel.

¶ 69. Each church shall at the time of election of church officers (¶ 165, sub-paragraph 4) elect a Church Advisory Committee of not less than three persons, of which the pastor shall be chairman ex-officio, the duties of which shall be:

(1) To examine all candidates and consider each application for church membership, and report its recommendation in each case to the church within thirty days. No church shall by vote receive a person into membership until that person has been examined by this committee and a report has been made to the church.

(2) The pastor and class leaders, or the church by vote, shall refer all cases of violation of the Discipline to this committee for amicable adjustment. Any cases which cannot be thus adjusted shall be dealt with according to the judiciary rules.

(3) This committee shall be a committee for consultation with the pastor regarding the work of the church and may be called upon by the pastor for counsel as he may desire, or may call upon the pastor for a conference over church work as may be necessary for the best interests of the church, and the pastor shall especially consult with this committee in regard to the employment of evangelistic help. All regular official action of this committee shall be reported either to regular or special meetings of the church for approval or disapproval.

¶ 70. When objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a vote of three-fourths of those present to receive.

¶ 71. The churches shall have power to receive members on confession of faith who have been baptized, or on certificate or other satisfactory evidence that they have been baptized members in good standing in any other Christian Church; provided, that they are satisfied with the Christian experience of the candidate; but no church shall be compelled to receive members on certificate from any source.

¶ 72. We recommend to the churches the following form of receiving persons into full connection:

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

Question 2. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you have been made perfect in love? If not, will you diligently seek this grace?

Question 3. Is it your purpose that your life shall be governed by perfect love in all its relations to God and your fellow men?

Question 4: Do you cordially accept our Articles of faith and our Church polity as the exponent of your faith and rule of conduct?

Question 5. Do you recognize your obligation to God and the Church to contribute as the Lord hath prospered you of your means for the support of the gospel in its general and local interests?

Any member of the church may ask questions touching the Christian experience of the candidates when the vote of their reception shall be taken.

Being received they shall be addressed as follows:

Covenant

You solemnly, severally avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to be your God, the object of your supreme affections and your portion forever. You cordially accept the Lord Jesus to be your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit your Sanctifier, Comforter and Guide.

You cheerfully devote yourselves to God in the everlasting covenant of His grace, consecrating all your powers and faculties to His service and glory. And you promise that you will cleave to Him as your chief good: that you will give diligent attention to His Word and ordinances; that you will seek

the honor and advancement of His kingdom, and that henceforth, denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, you will live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

You do also cordially join yourselves to this church, and engage to submit to all its rules of government; to seek earnestly its peace, purity and edification, and to walk with all its members in charity and faithfulness and sobriety. Do you thus freely and solemnly devote yourself to be the Lord's?

[Those uniting on certificate from other churches, if any, will here arise, and the church will vote on the reception of candidates.]

Covenant for Those Uniting on Certificate

Beloved Friends: In transferring your covenant relation to this branch of the Church of Christ, you again renew your vows of church fellowship. Relying upon the grace of God, you promise to walk in all His commandments and ordinances, and to seek His service as your highest joy. You promise to submit to the rules and Discipline of the Church; to strive earnestly for its peace, purity and prosperity, and to walk with all its members in love and Christian fidelity. Do you thus renewedly, freely and solemnly devote yourselves to be the Lord's?

[Members of the church here arise.]

Response of the Church

We, the members of this church, do cordially receive you as brethren and sisters beloved to our communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with you in love, and watch over you, to instruct, counsel,

admonish and cherish you, with all long-suffering, gentleness and love.

[Here the pastor, in the name of the church, will give the right hand of fellowship. In the absence of the pastor, an officer of the church should be designated to officiate, and give the right hand of fellowship.]

¶ 73. (1) The churches may admit to associate relationship persons who give affirmative answers to the following questions:

Question 1. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Question 2. Will you acquaint yourself with the Discipline of our Church and earnestly endeavor to govern your life by its rules as God shall give you light?

Associate members shall be received by vote of the church, and by "Response of the Church," and be given the right hand of fellowship. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of members in full connection excepting to vote and hold office in the church. Associate membership shall not be less than three months, but may be continued as long as the members and church mutually agree to have it so.

(2) The church may receive as Junior Members, children and young people between seven and sixteen years of age who give affirmative answers to the following questions: (1) Does the Lord now forgive your sins? (2) Will you endeavor to govern your life by the Word of God and the teaching of the Church?

¶ 74. Each church shall have a book of records kept by a clerk appointed by the church, in which

all the names of the members shall be recorded, the time when received, and whether by letter or on profession of faith; also all withdrawals, dismissals, expulsions, and deaths occurring during each conference year; also a record of all baptisms.

¶ 75. At a meeting of the membership of the church as provided for in Paragraph 165, sub-Paragraph (4), each church shall appoint a committee of three persons of undoubted piety and judgment, who shall examine the roll of members and shall visit and labor with all who may be delinquent and seek to restore them by counsel, reproof, exhortation, or the use of any other reasonable helps necessary to restore them to harmony with the Word of God and the Discipline. Said Committee shall report its work at a meeting appointed for that purpose. Should it be necessary to recommend the dropping of any names from the roll, the reasons for so doing must be given, but no person's name shall be dropped from the roll except for cause, and the reason for so doing must be entered upon the Church Record as provided in Paragraph 74 of this Section.

¶ 76. When any member shall request a letter of standing it shall be the duty of the church through its committee on Church Membership to ascertain the reasons for his request and if no reasonable impediment is found the letter shall be granted. But no certificate of membership, as provided for in the Discipline, Paragraph 433, shall be granted if said member shall be living in acknowledged open violation of the requirements of the Discipline as agreed to in Questions 1 to 5 of Paragraph 72 and the covenant taken when received.

¶ 77. Members living in acknowledged violation of the Discipline as described above, are not entitled to vote in any business connected with the church, Quarterly Conference or pastoral supply.

¶ 78. When a letter of dismissal is requested in writing it must be granted if charges have not already been brought against the member. But a church may grant a letter of dismissal to a member against whom charges have been presented if it so desires.

¶ 79. When any member without a reason deemed justifiable by his local church shall absent himself from all the religious services of his church for three successive months he shall have no voice in the transaction of the business of the church; and at the end of six successive months of like absence his name may be dropped from the church roll by vote of the church without his consent.

¶ 80. No person ever becomes a member of a Wesleyan Methodist church except by a vote of the church where he seeks admission and by taking the Church covenant. No church shall remove a member without his consent except by due process of Disciplinary law, unless a person has removed from the community and cannot be communicated with, and in such a case he may by vote of the church be declared withdrawn by removal.

[For authority of the pastor or clerk to issue letters under certain circumstances see paragraph 165 (14).]

¶ 81. When any member joins another church, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a secret society, no trial or vote is neces-

sary to remove them as members, for the act of joining said religious body or secret society severs their membership. The chairman of the church meeting, after stating the facts, simply authorizes the name to be marked, "Withdrawn by reason of having joined another body." In all cases of discontinuance the reason for the same must be recorded opposite his or her name.

[Note.—For correct forms of church letters see blank forms in end of this book.]

¶ 82. A List of Local Church Officers and Committees

Clerk—165 sub-paragraph 4; 74; 99.

Trustees—100-101; 110.

Class Leaders—45; 66; 107-108.

Roll Examining Committee—165 sub-paragraph 4; 75.

Advisory Committee—69; 89.

Stewards—102-106.

Auditing Committee—103, sub-paragraph 3.

Treasurer (or Treasurers)—97; 103, sub-paragraph 2.

Pulpit Supply Committee—86.

Building Committee—110 sub-paragraph 3.

Judiciary Committee—399-404.

Sunday School Board—333-334.

Missionary Board—280.

Tithing Secretary—376 sub-paragraph 5.

Educational Secretary—254 sub-paragraphs 3, 4.

Membership Committee—75-76.

PART II
OFFICIAL BODIES

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| SECTION VII. | THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE |
| SECTION VIII. | THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE |
| SECTION IX. | THE GENERAL CONFERENCE |
| SECTION X. | THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION |
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SECTION VII

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

¶ 83. When a pastoral charge consists of two or more churches, the business of the charge shall be transacted in a Quarterly Conference. The Quarterly Conference shall be composed of all elders and lay members in full and regular standing on the charge. When a charge consists of a single church, all of the business of the charge may be transacted in a monthly meeting. The Quarterly Conference shall elect a Secretary who shall keep a faithful record of its proceedings.

¶ 84. Except in those instances wherein the business of the church is transacted in a monthly meeting, there shall be four regular sessions of the Quarterly Conference held each Annual Conference year, at such time and place as the Quarterly Conference shall determine; provided, that special sessions may be called by the pastor, or by any three members, by giving due notice of the same.

¶ 85. The pastor shall be President of the Quarterly Conference; provided, that the Quarterly Conference shall have power by vote to elect some other member of the Quarterly Conference, President of the Annual Conference, or Annual Conference Evangelist, to preside, whenever it shall judge best. This rule shall also apply to churches doing business in monthly meetings. When an Annual Conference authorizes the President or Evangelist to hold and preside at quarterly meetings, that requirement is a waiver of the pastor's right to preside, and of the Quarterly Conference to elect a chairman, so that said President or

Evangelist can attend to his duties as defined by the Annual Conference.

¶ 86. (1) The Quarterly Conference at its first session of each Conference year shall elect a Committee on Pulpit Supply, each member of which shall continue in office until his successor is elected. If the charge consists of more than one church an equal number of the committee shall be elected from each church. In case of the resignation or death of the pastor this committee with the aid and consent of the President of the Conference and his Advisory Board shall secure a pastor for the remainder of the year. If the pastor does not desire to serve the church as pastor longer than the present year he shall communicate the same to the Committee on Pulpit Supply not less than sixty days before the next session of the Annual Conference. In case the pastor does not wish to serve the charge for another year, no vote shall be taken as to retaining said pastor.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee on Pulpit Supply, not less than forty-five days before the next session of the Annual Conference, to ascertain by ballot the desire of the charge of retaining the present pastor, provided said pastor has not given notice as above. Notice of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken shall be given at least two weeks before the vote is taken, a majority vote of those who are present and vote to constitute a call. If a pastoral charge consists of more than one church, a majority of the total votes of those present and voting in all the churches, shall constitute a call.

(3) The committee at its earliest opportunity shall communicate the result of the ballot to the pastor, who, if called, shall reply in writing within one week stating definitely whether the call is accepted or declined (unless the committee agrees to an extension which shall not exceed one extra week.) If the call is accepted the pastor shall notify the President of the Annual Conference in writing according to Paragraph 129, and the Pulpit Supply Committee shall so notify the members of the church. A failure to definitely accept the call, unless the conditions be acceptable to the charge, shall justify the Pulpit Supply Committee in considering another name.

(4) When a church or charge shall find it necessary to call a new pastor, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall confer with the President of the Annual Conference who shall furnish it with the names of all known available persons. But the Pulpit Supply Committee may present the name of any member of the Conference, whether it was on the list submitted by the President or not. However, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall not propose to the church or charge the name of any Elder or Annual Conference Preacher who is not a member of the Annual Conference in which the church is located, except by the consent of the President of the said Annual Conference and his advisory board. (See paragraphs 130 and 132, subparagraph 2.) The church shall select by ballot, at a meeting announced for said purpose, some one to whom the Pulpit Supply Committee shall extend a call on behalf of the church. When extending the call the Pulpit Supply Committee shall state the

amount of salary or plan of remuneration as set forth in paragraph 103.

(5) If, for any reason, it shall be necessary to call a new pastor, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall announce at a regular public gathering of the church society, giving the time, place, and purpose of this meeting, at which it shall ascertain, by ballot, the wishes of the charge concerning the name it presents. The vote may be taken in the next regular meeting of the church. The Pulpit Supply Committee shall present only one name for consideration on each ballot. But as many ballots may be taken in any one duly announced meeting as may be necessary to determine to whom the committee, in behalf of the charge, shall extend the call. The committee shall report whether the call is accepted or declined. If the call is accepted, the delegate to the next session of the Annual Conference shall convey this information to the Committee on Pastoral Relations.

(6) If the balloting fails to produce a call, or if the call is declined, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall proceed again as outlined above in sub-paragraph 4.

(7) The actions of this committee in all business transacted must be submitted to the church or Quarterly Conference for approval or disapproval before they become binding, unless authority to take final action in any specific matter is given to the committee by the church or Quarterly Conference.

¶ 87. Where a church or charge judges it best to waive their rights in selecting a pastor, in such cases it shall be left to the Annual Conference to ap-

point a pastor for said church or charge, and when so appointed said pastor shall be received by the church or charge the same as if they had voted for said pastor.

¶ 88. In case any church or charge leaves the selection of a pastor open by not entering into an engagement or taking any vote, the Annual Conference shall appoint a pastor for said church or charge as provided for in Paragraph 133; and when such an appointment is made the church or charge is under as much obligation to receive said pastor as if they had voted for said pastor.

¶ 89. The Quarterly Conference shall have power to grant licenses to preach and exhort; provided, that no person shall be licensed without first procuring a recommendation from the church of which he is a member, and passing the examination as provided in Paragraph 365.

A request for a license to preach or exhort shall be referred to the Church Advisory Committee and pastor for consideration in accordance with Paragraph 69, sub-Paragraph (3), of the Discipline before being granted by the Quarterly Conference or church.

Whenever candidates are presented for licenses to preach or exhort, let satisfactory answers be required to the following questions, viz.:

Do they know God as a pardoning God?

Have they the love of God abiding in them?

Do they desire nothing but God?

Are they holy in all manner of conversation?

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—a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them a good degree of utterance? Do they speak correctly, readily and clearly?

Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin and converted to God by their labors?

Have they an abiding sense of a divine call to the work?

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

¶ 90. An exhorter is a person licensed by the Quarterly Conference to hold prayer meetings, and to exhort the people wherever he can get hearers. He shall labor under the direction of the Quarterly Conference, and in harmony with the regular appointments of the pastor.

¶ 91. A local preacher is a person who is licensed to preach by his Quarterly Conference. It shall be his duty to preach under the direction of the church and in harmony with the regular work of the pastor. It shall be his duty to preach at least once every Sunday during the year if practicable, under the direction of the Quarterly Conference and in harmony with the regular work of the pastor. The license of a local preacher may be renewed from year to year, provided he has passed at least one book each year in the Course of Study for local preachers.

¶ 92. Any local preacher who has been recommended as a suitable person to study preparatory to traveling under the direction of an Annual Con-

ference, when employed by the Annual Conference, shall receive a license from said Annual Conference and shall be amenable to said Annual Conference the same as an elder for his official conduct. But no license shall be issued by the Annual Conference to any one who is not appointed to pastoral or definite evangelistic work. All licenses issued by the Annual Conference shall be good for one year only. This does not obviate the necessity of each preacher holding an Annual Conference license also holding an effective Quarterly Conference license. He may take a letter of transfer from one Annual Conference to another, when nothing appears against him.

¶ 93. Every local preacher shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference or church where he holds his church membership for his official character, unless he sustain a pastoral relation to another charge by Annual Conference appointment, or has been appointed to definite evangelistic work by the Annual Conference. In such case he shall be amenable to the Annual Conference that gives him employment.

¶ 94. The Quarterly Conference shall have power to recommend suitable local preachers to the Annual Conference to pursue the Course of Study, and to be employed under the direction of the Annual Conference, and the Annual Conference shall issue a license to all such persons whom it thus employs. Whenever a local preacher is not given pastoral work or definite evangelistic work by the Annual Conference, he shall be returned to his Quarterly Conference or church and shall be recommended again

to the Annual Conference when he purposes to take work at its hands.

¶ 95. Every local preacher must have his license renewed once each year, but a recommendation to the Annual Conference need not be renewed so long as the local preacher is not returned to his Quarterly Conference, as above mentioned.

¶ 96. (1) The Quarterly Conference or church shall inquire into the character and usefulness of local preachers and exhorters, and may admonish them, and take away their licenses; or it may renew them each year, when it shall judge their gifts and usefulness justify a renewal. The taking away of a license shall not forfeit their membership in the church, without a charge and conviction of crime, according to our Judiciary Rules.

(2) The Quarterly Conference or church shall also inquire into the character, ability, and usefulness of any person desiring appointment as an evangelistic singer, chalk artist, children's worker, or other special type of Christian work. Those approved for this work shall be given a recommendation to the Annual Conference. (See Paragraph 447.) All such persons shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference or church for their conduct. This recommendation must be renewed annually if the person is to continue to receive an appointment from the Annual Conference. In the interim of the Annual Conference sessions the President and his Advisory Board may make such an appointment upon the special request of the Quarterly Conference or church. Only those appointed by the

Conference, or its President and furnished certificates according to Paragraph 448, shall be listed in the Evangelists' Slate of The Wesleyan Methodist.

(3) When there are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church who feel called to the special ministry of song evangelism or chalk drawing, they shall be certified as such for one year by the Annual Conference provided: they have been recommended for such work by the local church of which they are members; have been questioned on the same basis and under the same procedure as the local preachers (Paragraph 89); give evidence of grace, gifts and usefulness; conform to the standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the matters of dress and deportment; have had some experience in song evangelism or chalk drawing; and have been carefully examined by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders of the Conference of which they are members, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work.

(4) The Certificates of evangelistic singers and chalk artists may be renewed each year by the Annual Conference of which they are members provided: they are regularly engaged in such work; have taken the evangelistic singer's course (two years) or its equivalent or comparable work in chalk drawing in one of our Colleges (two years) or an acceptable course from another school, or the Evangelistic Singer's or Chalk Artist's course or its equivalent under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders; and have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders.

Candidates taking the course under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders must pass at least one book per year and the entire course must be completed within five years from the time of the granting of the first certificates by the Annual Conference.

¶ 97. Treasurers of the various departments of church work on a circuit or station shall report in full concerning receipts and disbursements of funds connected with their respective departments at each Quarterly Conference of each Annual Conference year. Circuits or stations may direct that full reports be made at regular monthly meeting, when they deem it for the best interest of the church or circuit.

¶ 98. Reports of local preachers, exhorters, stewards and treasurers shall be in writing when made to the Quarterly Conference or church.

¶ 99. The pastor, or some one appointed for the purpose, shall, in the first Sunday service after the Annual Conference, read the Pastor's Statistical Report of the previous year, and it shall be made a part of the Quarterly Conference minutes, or church records. Provided, however, that when a regular monthly church meeting is held, as provided in Paragraph 83 of this section, then all the business provided to be done by the Quarterly Conference may be done in said church meeting.

¶ 100. Each church shall elect by ballot a board of trustees of not less than three in number, whose duty it shall be to secure and hold church property according to the provisions of the Discipline and laws of the respective states and territories. But the

use of the church for religious meetings shall not be withheld from the pastor in charge, or from members, or from class leaders of said church, by said trustees. Where the law of the state or territory permits, all trustees shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. They shall serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the term of all will not expire at the same time), or until their successors are elected; but when any trustee shall cease to be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church he shall cease to be a trustee, and another person shall be elected to fill the vacancy. (See Section XXII.)

¶ 101. In calling a meeting for the election of trustees of a church or parsonage, notice of the time and place of holding such meeting shall be publicly read at least twice, thus giving notice not less than eight days before the meeting is held, unless the charter of the church or the law of the state provide for a different notice. It shall be the duty of the trustees, within one week after their election, to meet and elect one of their number as Chairman, also a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall keep a record of their business in a book provided for that purpose. They shall meet at least once a year and make an entry in their book of records.

¶ 102. Stewards. Each pastoral charge shall elect a board of stewards who shall elect one of their number as chairman. Where a number of churches constitute a pastoral charge the Quarterly Conference shall determine the number of stewards each church shall have, but each church shall elect its own steward

or stewards. Each church on a charge shall be entitled to at least one steward. The stewards shall be a Standing Committee of Ways and Means, and shall agree with the pastor on the necessary amount for his support, at time of his engagement and annually thereafter, as set forth in the following paragraph (103). They shall not hold nor sanction the holding of church fairs, festivals, play-parties or other unscriptural methods to raise funds for the support of the gospel, or for the erection of church buildings. Any church, or member thereof, whether lay member, licentiate or elder, who shall attempt to, or succeed in raising means by the above or any other unscriptural methods, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor.

¶ 103. (1) The chairman of the board of stewards shall call a meeting of the stewards annually, within 30 days prior to the time of voting on a pastor, for the purpose of fixing the pastor's salary for the ensuing year, or arranging a plan of support when a salary is not paid. The chairman shall notify the pastor of said meeting and it shall be the duty of the pastor to be present thereat. When an amount is agreed upon the stewards shall at this meeting apportion to each appointment, according to their best judgment, the proportion of the salary it shall raise. This action shall be recorded by their secretary, whom they shall elect to keep a record of all their doings and reported by their chairman to the Pulpit Supply Committee, which in turn shall communicate same to a new pastor at the time he is notified of having been called. The secretary of the stewards shall read and submit a written report of the proceedings

of this meeting to the Quarterly Conference for its sanction, or if the charge consists of a single church, a report shall be made to the church. It shall also be the duty of the stewards at each appointment to labor diligently to secure the payment of the pastor's salary in full.

(2) The church shall elect a Treasurer to hold and pay out funds as authorized by the vote of the church. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Board of Stewards by virtue of his office.

(3) It is suggested that an Auditing Committee of one to three members be elected who shall audit the Treasurer's records of all Departments of the Church reporting to the Quarterly Conference, every quarter.

¶ 104. The stewards shall also have charge of all the money raised for the poor, and shall disburse the same under the direction of the churches.

¶ 105. The stewards shall report to the church or Quarterly Conference through their treasurer all funds received and paid out during the quarter.

¶ 106. A Communion Steward shall be elected by vote of the church to make all necessary provisions for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

¶ 107. The class leaders shall be elected by the church by a majority vote. (See Paragraph 165, sub-paragraph 4.)

¶ 108. It shall be the duty of each class leader to meet his class periodically in order to instruct the members in the principles and duties of Christianity; to comfort them in affliction; to advise them in cases

of difficulty, and to exhort them to diligence, and perseverance in doing and suffering the whole will of God.

It shall be the duty of each leader to attend the meetings of the leaders and stewards, and to represent the state of his class; and to inform the preacher of any that are sick or need a pastoral visit.

It shall be the duty of each leader to visit the sick, and those members who frequently absent themselves from this means of grace, and to promote the spiritual, temporal and eternal interests of those committed to his care.

Class leaders should occasionally meet each other's classes, and also vary the exercises in those meetings, for the purpose of making them interesting, lively and spiritual.

It is recommended, whenever practicable, that no class exceed thirty in number, and that no class meeting continue longer than one hour.

It is expected that each member of the church will be punctual in attending the weekly class meeting.

Order of Quarterly Conference Business

¶ 109. (1) Open with prayer.

(2) Reading of minutes of last session.

(3) Hear and act upon reports of committees.

(4) Hear the reports and examine the character of preachers and exhorters, and renew or take away licenses. Quarterly Conference preachers and exhorters shall be examined and required to report their work at each Quarterly Conference during the year.

- (5) Grant licenses to preach and exhort.
- (6) Recommend suitable licentiates to the Annual Conference, to study or to be employed under its direction.
- (7) Hear the reports of the leaders.
- (8) Hear the report of the stewards and adjust the finances.
- (9) Miscellaneous business.
- (10) Determine the time and place of the next session, except when the Annual Conference authorizes the president or evangelist to arrange the time for holding the quarterly meeting.

Building Churches

¶ 110. In order to prevent trouble and provide against debt, it shall be the duty of each church or Quarterly Conference, when it is contemplated to build a house of worship or parsonage:

(1) To elect not less than three nor more than seven trustees.

(2) To secure a lot settled according to provision set forth in our Discipline. See section 22, paragraph 384.

(3) Appoint a judicious building committee, or authorize the trustees to secure plans for said building and an estimate of its cost.

(4) To build no house of worship or parsonage on any leased ground, except by special permission of the Conference Board of Trustees.

(5) To submit all plans for building of churches and parsonages, including location and cost, to the Conference Board on Church and Parsonage Building and Location.

(6) No construction shall be started until plans and methods of financing have been approved by said Board.

In all cases where debts are incurred in building houses of worship or parsonages contrary to or in disregard of these requirements, we will, as a Church, discountenance any appeal made for funds to aid in the liquidation of said debt, except such appeals come by the sanction of the Annual Conference.

SECTION VIII

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Membership—Organization—Duties

¶ 111. Annual Conferences shall be composed of all elders on the stationed, reserve and superannuated lists, and of all preachers elected to elder's orders; also all conference preachers as provided for in Paragraph 170; and of lay delegates to be elected as hereinafter provided for.

¶ 112. When an elder holds his Annual Conference membership in one Conference and resides in another conference the Annual Conference where he holds his conference membership may designate where a delegate shall be elected on his account, but any delegate elected on his account shall be chosen by some church within the conference where he holds his conference membership, to be sent to said conference.

¶ 113. Every charge or circuit shall be entitled to a lay delegate to the Annual Conference. If the charge or circuit has for its pastor either an elder or conference preacher of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and one or more elders not on the unstationed list reside on the charge or circuit, not sustaining pastoral relations to any other charge or circuit, the charge or circuit shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each elder thus described. In every case lay delegates to the Annual Conferences must be elected to an Annual Conference of which the church forms a part; and where delegates are

elected to an Annual Conference on account of elders who are not pastors, said delegates must be chosen in the Annual Conference of which the elder on whose account they are chosen is a member. In case said elder resides without the bounds of any circuit in the Conference, his delegate shall be elected from the church of which he is a member.

¶ 114. The stationed list shall be composed of all elders and conference preachers who have a work assigned to them by the Annual Conference or its President, and teachers and missionaries who may be employed by the Conference or Church.

¶ 115. The reserve list shall be composed of elders who are ready to take work at the hands of the Conference.

¶ 116. The superannuated list shall be composed of all elders who by reason of age or infirmities are incapacitated to take work.

¶ 117. The unstationed list shall be composed of all elders who have no pastoral or official work assigned them for two consecutive years, and their names shall be passed to the unstationed list by the Secretary by virtue of that fact, unless the Annual Conference by vote extends the time. They shall be honorary members of the Conference, with the right to speak but not to vote.

¶ 118. (1) All lay delegates to the Annual Conference shall be elected by ballot, by a majority of all the members of the church or the churches who shall attend and vote. No elder or annual conference

preacher shall be eligible to be elected as a lay delegate.

(2) Each church or charge shall elect by ballot sufficient alternate lay delegates to insure proper representation to the Annual Conference. The alternate lay delegates shall fill the vacancies in the order of their election.

¶ 119. The election shall be held within three months of the next session of the Annual Conference, and when the charge consists of more than one church it shall be held at the time and place of the fourth Quarterly Conference.

Election of delegates to General Conference. See Section IX.

¶ 120. The Conference shall elect by ballot from among the Elders a President who shall perform the duties outlined in the Book of Discipline and such other duties as the Conference may assign. The Conference shall also elect by ballot one of the Elders Vice-President, and in event the office of President becomes vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President as set forth above. The Conference shall also elect by ballot a secretary, who shall record the proceedings and the statistics in a book to be kept for such purpose, and shall forward the same to the General Conference. The Conference shall elect by ballot a treasurer, which election shall not be held until after his annual report to the Conference has been approved. (See Paragraph 277.) The Conference shall also elect by ballot a board of trustees of not less than five, two of whom shall be laymen, whose duty it shall be

to receive, and hold, and dispose of all property within the bounds of the conference, according to the provisions of the Discipline and the directions of the conference unless otherwise provided for by State law. They shall serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the term of all shall not expire at the same time), or until their successors are elected; but when any trustee shall cease to be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, or in case of an Elder when he ceases to be a member of the Annual Conference electing him, he shall cease to be a trustee, and the vacancy shall be filled according to provisions in Paragraph 121. (See Section XXII.)

¶ 121. The Annual Conference shall also appoint a committee of five persons, three ministers and two lay members, whose duty it shall be to appoint a President in case the office becomes vacant, by death, resignation, or otherwise, of the President and the Vice-President; also fill vacancies in any Annual Conference office or standing committee, except as may be provided otherwise in the Discipline, and trustees where the state laws permit. Any vacancy filled by this committee shall be for the unexpired term of the committee or office vacated. This committee shall report all its appointments to the Conference.

¶ 122. Where a number of Wesleyan Methodist churches of any particular nationality desire to be organized into separate Annual Conferences such organizations shall be permitted; and when so organized such Annual Conferences shall be members of the denomination with all rights and privileges belonging to Annual Conferences.

Mission Annual Conference

¶ 123. (1) A Mission Annual Conference is a conference that is under the direction of the Parent Missionary Society through the supervision of one of the Missionary Secretaries. A Mission Annual Conference placed under the supervision of the Secretary of Home Missions shall be known as a Home Mission Annual Conference. A Mission Annual Conference placed under the supervision of the Secretary of Foreign Missions shall be known as a Foreign Mission Annual Conference, and shall consist of such national workers as are eligible according to our Discipline. All Foreign missionaries appointed by the Board shall also be members ex-officio of the Foreign Mission Conference to which they are sent. This ex-officio relationship shall not sever their fundamental relation to their home conference. Delegates-at-large shall be elected for these missionaries in order to maintain in the conference the ratio of laymen to ministers. These delegates-at-large shall be elected by the churches at which said missionaries are stationed.

(2) As soon as a new conference organization has been officially approved by the Board of Administration, it automatically becomes a Mission Annual Conference, and shall be under the supervision of either the Home or Foreign Missionary Secretary until the next session of the General Conference.

(3) The president of any conference organized during the interim of General Conference shall make official application for admission of said conference member-body of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. He shall present such application to the General Conference session next following the date of

organization. In any case where the President is not a delegate to said General Conference session, application shall be presented by the regularly elected ministerial delegate, provided however, that the General Conference may take original jurisdiction in all such matters, if it sees fit.

(4) Any conference may be designated a Home Mission Conference for the duration of one quadrennial period by action of the General Conference. This relationship shall be established through the recommendation of the Committee on Home Missions of the General Conference who shall review each case. Any conference may instruct its President to request that it be designated a Home Mission Conference for the quadrennium. This relationship shall be established through the recommendation of the Committee on Home Missions of the General Conference who shall review each case. Any conference may instruct its President to request that it be designated a Home Mission Annual Conference for the quadrennium following the rise of the General Conference, provided that the Committee on Home Missions shall have the privilege of original jurisdiction in these matters, and may take such action without the request of the Conference affected. In making its report to the General Conference, the Committee shall present a list naming the conferences which it recommends to be Home Mission Annual Conferences during the next quadrennium. Upon adoption of this report by the General Conference, such conferences shall become Home Mission Annual Conferences, for the ensuing quadrennium. All conferences not thus listed shall be considered as established Annual Conferences.

Organizing A New Conference

¶ 123A. (1) When a number of persons desire to be organized into a conference they shall all sign a petition for such an organization which shall be submitted to one of the respective Missionary Secretaries. This petition shall designate who of the signers are ministers and who are lay-members, and shall also state the number and names of churches which would be included in said organization, and the respective membership of each. Said petition shall also indicate the name desired by the new organization.

(2) The above petition shall be presented to the Board of Administration by the Missionary Secretary to whom it was submitted. If the Board of Administration consider the prospects such as to justify the action, it shall instruct the proper Missionary Secretary to visit said petitioners and examine the said applicants in a meeting he shall call for that purpose. If the Missionary Secretary see fit, he may appoint some other person to carry out the instructions of the Board of Administration.

(3) If the Missionary Secretary (or his appointed substitute) consider the prospects favorable, he shall proceed with the organization of a conference by conducting an official election of officers, and taking care of any other business necessary; said organization, however, shall not become effective in any way until a final approval is given by the Board of Administration.

(4) The respective Missionary Secretaries may be made the President of any Mission Annual Conference if such is the desire of said conference.

(5) The Secretary of Home Missions in his super-

vision of Home Mission Annual Conferences shall assist in developing the work within each conference financially and otherwise, provided plans have been submitted to him for his approval. An appeal from his decisions may be made at any time to the Board of Administration, whose decision shall be final.

(6) It is recommended that the Home Mission Annual Conferences confer with the Secretary of Home Missions regarding their plans for the employment of evangelists to conduct extension efforts, concerning the location and erection of churches and parsonages; and the launching of other projects with the conferences. Where such is not done, the Board of Administration shall take this fact into account in considering appeals for financial aid for such items from those conferences.

¶ 124. The Annual Conference shall have power to elect to the office and work of an elder suitable persons from among those who have been traveling under its direction, provided they have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, after it shall have by examination been satisfied that the candidates possess such literary attainments, Christian experience and ministerial gifts, as qualify them for the office and work of an elder; provided that the candidates shall have been traveling as pastor, assistant pastor, or conference evangelist under the direction of the Annual Conference for two years, [See provision, ¶ 367 (1)] or shall have been engaged in religious service which entirely satisfies the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, and shall have passed a satisfactory examination upon the four years' Course of Study adopted by the General Conference.

And it shall inquire into the ministerial character and usefulness of each member. Each Annual Conference shall certify in particular in the case of the transfer of a conference preacher as to his standing in the Course of Study, and as to the time he has served as a pastor, if at all; and it shall be unlawful for an Annual Conference to ignore such a certificate in determining the eligibility of a conference preacher to election to Elders' Orders.

¶ 125. (1) The Annual Conference shall have power to employ local preachers in the regular work; and when they are so employed their names shall be entered upon the stationed list; provided that no local preacher shall be so employed without being first recommended by the Quarterly Conference, or church, of which he is a member, when such church constitutes the charge.

(2) The Annual Conference may assign certified singers and chalk artists to travel; provided they have completed one of the courses recommended; are properly qualified for general work; and are properly endorsed by the said conference for such work.

(3) The certified singers and chalk artists shall be amenable to the annual conference from which their certificates are received, shall report to their conferences annually, but shall have no vote in the annual conference, and for conduct out of harmony with the Bible and Church Discipline shall be dealt with by the same disciplinary methods that govern Conference Preachers and Elders in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

¶ 126. The Annual Conference shall keep a list of all persons who have been recommended to study,

whether they are or are not given work, and they may continue to take examinations without further recommendation from the Quarterly Conference. No local preacher who is delinquent in his efforts to prepare himself to pass the Course of Study, of which fact the Committee on Itineracy and Orders shall be the judge, shall be considered worthy of employment at the hands of an Annual Conference. All persons so recommended must pass an examination satisfactory to the Committee on Itineracy and Orders on the preliminary Course of Study as found in Paragraph 365.

¶ 127. The Annual Conference shall elect a committee on Itineracy and Orders, the chairman of which at the first election shall be chosen for one year; the second member for two years, and the third member for three years, and the fourth member for four years, and thereafter their successors to be elected yearly for the full term of four years. The President of the Annual Conference may also appoint three lay members each year as members of said committee. This committee shall examine the candidates, who may appear before it from year to year, upon the studies prescribed in Section XIX of the Discipline and report such examinations to the Conference, recommending suitable candidates to be received to study or to travel; and it shall also recommend for ordination such persons as have satisfactorily completed the Course of Study required by the Discipline, subject to the conditions named in Paragraphs 124 and 369. (Paragraphs 126, 166A.) No candidate shall be recommended for Elders' Orders until he has first been carefully and specifically questioned by the

Committee on Itineracy and Orders and shall have fully satisfied the Committee as to his Christian testimony and as to his full personal commitment, without reservations, to the Articles of Religion of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

¶ 128. The Annual Conference shall take charge of all the ministers and churches within their bounds, except the President of the General Conference, the Editor of the Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions and the Editor of the Sunday School Literature; shall return to the unstationed list all unemployed elders who shall have remained such for two years; may fix the boundaries of the circuits and stations, and exercise a general supervision over the pastoral relation existing between ministers and churches, in the following manner and to the following extent:

¶ 129. All ministers and churches shall be at liberty to contract the pastoral relation at any time during the interval of the sessions of the Annual Conference; provided, that no arrangement which received the sanction of an Annual Conference at its previous session shall be interrupted without the consent of the President. When a minister shall have made an engagement with any church during the interval of the sessions of an Annual Conference he shall immediately report such engagement to the President in writing.

¶ 130. (1) All ministers and conference preachers who are laboring under the direction of an Annual Conference shall be at liberty to enter into engage-

ments to serve any church or churches for one year, from the next session of the Annual Conference; and it shall be the duty of all ministers, conference preachers and churches, having entered into such engagements, to report the same to the Annual Conference at its next annual session.

(2) Any minister who desires to change his pastoral relations at the next session of his Annual Conference shall notify the President in writing, in order that his name may be placed on the list of known available men which shall be furnished to Pulpit Supply Committees by the President. (See Paragraph 86, sub-paragraph 3.)

¶ 131. The Annual Conference may alter the agreement entered into by any pastor and charge when it deems it would be for the best interest of the charge or pastor involved or when the general interest of the conference work would be better served by such a change.

¶ 132. (1) No Wesleyan Methodist church shall be permitted to employ, as a pastor or stated supply, any elder who is not a member of some Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference, or any Quarterly Conference local preacher, or Annual Conference preacher unless said local preacher or Annual Conference preacher has been properly recommended as a suitable person to travel under the direction of an Annual Conference, and has been so received, and has, at the time of such appointment, proper credentials. Provided, however, that the President of an Annual Conference may in cases of emergency consent to service by waiving the above restriction.

(2) No Wesleyan Methodist church shall be per-

mitted to call or employ, as pastor or stated supply, any elder, Annual Conference preacher, or Quarterly Conference preacher who is not a member of the conference in whose bounds said church is located, except by the consent of the President and his Advisory Board.

¶ 133. When ministers and churches enter no such pastoral engagements it shall be the duty of the Annual Conference to appoint the ministers and conference preachers not engaged, to the unoccupied churches, for the ensuing year, so far as in its judgment such appointments can be judiciously made.

¶ 134. All elders serving as pastors other than Wesleyan Methodist churches or congregations, unless by the consent of the Annual Conference, shall be considered as having withdrawn, and shall be so reported.

(1) All elders who are pastoring or serving, by the consent of the Conference, in a denomination or organization other than The Wesleyan Methodist Church but with which The Wesleyan Methodist Church is not actively affiliated and which does not accept nominal supervision of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list, provided that the Conference may by vote continue them on the stationed List.

¶ 135. Any minister or conference preacher whose name is on the Annual Conference roll, and shall neglect to report to the Annual Conference for two successive years, shall be notified by the Secretary, and he shall be requested to report at the next session of the Annual Conference; and on the neglect of such

minister or conference preacher notified to report at the next session of the Annual Conference he shall be declared withdrawn from the Annual Conference, and his name shall be so entered on the minutes of the same.

¶ 136. (1) Each Annual Conference shall at an early stage of its session appoint a committee of three ministers and three lay members, to be called a committee on Pastoral Relations, of which the President of the conference shall also be a member and its chairman. To this committee shall be referred all of the engagements entered into between ministers and churches, and the appointments to be made; and it shall examine into the engagements made and appoint the unemployed ministers to the vacant charges, and report the entire list, according to its best judgment, to the Annual Conference; and the Annual Conference shall have power to adopt it as reported, or to amend it; provided, the engagements previously entered into shall not be disturbed, except for justifiable cause as provided for above. (Paragraph 131.)

(2) In taking care of the work committed to it the committee on Pastoral Relations shall proceed in the following manner: It shall give the name of each charge and specify the churches which constitute said charge by giving the name of each church, and this must be done each year. If any church ceases to exist during the year this committee shall report that fact in order to preserve the record of the disbanding of the church. The committee on Pastoral Relations may have its report read three times during the session of the conference and upon the last reading only shall the report be voted upon,

¶ 137. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Board on Church and Parsonage Building and Location to serve for one year. Their duties shall be to advise with the trustees or building committees of local churches on all important investments in the location of lots and erection of church property. This Board may, by action of the Annual Conference, be any of the following: The President and his Advisory Board, the Conference Trustees, the Conference Missionary Board, or a special Committee elected for this purpose. All building plans, as outlined above, it is advised, should be approved by this Board.

¶ 138. The Annual Conference shall have power to adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote its own interests and prosperity; provided, it shall not contravene any Disciplinary regulation established by the General Conference; and all rules and resolutions adopted by an Annual Conference shall continue in force until the Annual Conference shall amend or rescind such rules or resolutions. If three members of an Annual Conference shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates this restriction, they may appeal to the President of the General Conference for a decision. (See Paragraph 214, subparagraph 3.)

¶ 139. The Annual Conference shall obtain answers in writing to the questions given below, blanks for that purpose being furnished by the Publishing House and kept in hand by the Conference Secretaries. In the case of pastors these blanks shall be signed by both the pastor and the circuit delegate. In other cases the blanks shall be signed by the minister

alone. These filled blanks duly signed shall be passed to a committee which shall be appointed by the conference early in its session, of which committee the President of the Conference shall be ex-officio the chairman, with whom there shall be associated one elder and one lay member. This committee shall examine all of these reports; and all of them which are found regularly filled out and properly signed and show that the work reported has been done according to the Discipline shall be marked passed and returned to the person having signed it. When the name of the member is called he shall read his statistical report or any portion thereof as the conference may direct, and in connection with it shall state that he has passed in the examination of his character and at the same time make a brief statement of his religious experience. Any of the reports which show that the answers are irregular or the work assigned has not been performed according to the Discipline, shall be marked accordingly and when the name is called and the statistical report is read the member shall report wherein he has failed and it shall require a vote of the conference to pass his character.

¶ 140. All complaints against ministerial members of the Annual Conferences shall be made in writing and shall be placed in the hands of the Conference President not later than the first day of the conference session and shall be referred to this committee on examination of character, and when the differences cannot be adjusted between the accuser and the accused by this committee, the case shall be reported by the committee to the conference to be taken care of in the regular way. The President shall state when a

name is called whether there is or is not anything against the character of the Brother, according to the facts in the case.

¶ 141. Questions to be answered by a pastor

Written Report of a Pastor to the Annual Conference.

To the Annual Conference,
meeting 19..

I. Credentials

(In the case of Conference Preachers)

Did your last Quarterly Conference pass your character and renew your license?

II. Employment

1. Did you have work assigned to you at the last session of this Annual Conference?

2. How soon after the last session of this Annual Conference did you enter upon the work assigned you?

3. Have you continued upon that work during the Annual Conference year?

III. Labors

1. Have you faithfully sought by example and word of mouth to lead the people into the experience of Regeneration, and the experience of Perfect Love, or Entire Sanctification, as a second definite work of grace subsequent to Regeneration, according to articles 13 and 14 in our Articles of Religion?

2. Have you, in your relation to the charge, carried out all that the Discipline requires of a pastor, and have you used all proper influence to secure obedience to the Discipline on the part of your churches and members?

3. Have you sought to promote the interest of the Sunday Schools, and to urge upon them the use of our Sunday school literature?

4. Have you labored to circulate the publications of The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

5. Have you faithfully presented the needs of the General and Conference Budgets?

IV. Outlook

1. What is the present condition of the work?

2. Is there any territory within the bounds of your work that you consider a good field for missionary work?

3. Of how much of this work can you take charge?

4. Are you ready to take work at the hands of this Annual Conference?

5. If not, why not? What listing do you desire?

V. Personal Responsibilities

1. Have you faithfully tithed your income during the Annual Conference year, and have you presented that subject to your congregations?

2. Are you ready to hand over to your successor the names and addresses of the members and friends of the church, and a list of the subscribers to the Church publications?

3. Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN METHODIST? Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY? Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN YOUTH?

4. Have you a copy of the Standing Rules of the Conference, and have you complied with the requirements of each of them, as they apply to you? (The Conference through its Secretary shall supply each

stationed minister with a copy of its Standing Rules.)

VI. Statistics

1. Are you prepared to report full statistics according to the requirements of the Discipline?
2. Did your charge meet its financial obligations to the General and Conference Budgets as defined in Paragraph 378?

Signed, Delegate

VII. Questions to Be Answered by the Delegate

1. Did your church or charge through its stewards make proper provisions for the support of the pastor as directed by the Discipline?
2. Has your church or charge fulfilled its financial obligations to him?
3. Did your church or charge through its stewards agree with the pastor for the financial support for the coming Conference year according to Paragraph 103 of the Discipline?

Signed, Delegate

¶ 142. Questions to be answered by others than pastors.

Written Report of a minister not sustaining pastoral relations.

To theAnnual Conference,
meeting 19..

I. Credentials

(In case of the Conference Preachers)

Did your last Quarterly Conference pass your character and renew your local preacher's license?

II. Employment

1. What appointment or listing were you given at

the last session of this Annual Conference?

2. If on the Stationed List, state the nature of your appointment, or work, and give a brief account of your activities. (Not statistics)

III. Labors

1. Have you faithfully sought by example and word of mouth to lead the people into the experience of Regeneration, and the experience of Perfect Love, or Entire Sanctification, as a second definite work of grace subsequent to Regeneration, according to the articles 13 and 14 in our Articles of Religion.

2. Have you conducted your life according to the standards of our Church, being an example to others, of loyal obedience to our rules.

3. Have you sought to promote the interest of our Sunday schools as you were given opportunity?

IV. Outlook

1. Are you ready to take appointment at the hands of this Annual Conference?

2. If not, why not? If no work assigned, what listing do you desire?

V. Personal Responsibilities

1. Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN METHODIST? Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY? Do you subscribe to THE WESLEYAN YOUTH?

2. Do you have a copy of the Standing Rules of this Conference, and have you complied with the requirements of each of them, as they apply to you?

3. Are you ready to report full statistics of your work according to the requirements of the Discipline?

(Note Par. 166-2b)

4. Have you faithfully tithed your income?

Signed, Minister

¶ 143. Any pastor who cannot give a satisfactory report of the discharge of his pastoral duties shall be publicly reprovved for his neglect.

¶ 144. In transacting the business of the Annual Conference the ministers and lay members shall deliberate as one body; but on the final passage of any bill, rule or regulation, at the call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide, and the ministers and lay members shall vote separately; and it shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

¶ 145. There may be in each Annual Conference a fund to be known as The Annual Conference Fund, which shall be for the use of the Annual Conference in carrying on its work, and the conferences shall have the right to adopt such methods for securing this fund as may be best adapted to each conference, provided neither the Word of God nor the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church be contravened. There shall also be an annual offering, or it may be made oftener if desired, in each church and all other scriptural means employed for securing missionary funds in accordance with the section of the Discipline on missions. There shall also be a separate offering taken for educational purposes; and whenever the Publishing Association through the Board of Administration shall deem it to be for the good of the cause a special offering shall be asked for that work. In all of the foregoing the pastors of the churches shall be

the responsible agents of the various corporations to preach upon and disseminate information and receive offerings as above indicated, except in such conferences as may appoint some special person to do such work.

¶ 146. An Annual Conference may maintain a fund for the support or relief of superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans, to be distributed equally or according to necessity by the Annual Conference at its annual session.

Each Annual Conference shall elect a Board of Superannuate Ministers' Aid who shall have charge of the care and administration of any such fund of the Conference, subject to the direction of the Annual Conference.

In case of all Conferences which are members of the Pension Plan of the Denomination, this Board of Superannuate Ministers' Aid shall gather and report to the Board of Administration, as it may request from time to time, such data on each member of the Pension Plan as may be necessary to the proper operation of the Plan.

The President

¶ 147. (1) The President of an Annual Conference is elected from among the elders, by ballot, by a majority of votes, and holds his office one year. It is his duty to preside in the sessions of the Annual Conference as moderator, unless the General Representative has been invited by the Conference to perform these duties; to decide questions arising in the administration of the law of the Church as it relates to the work of the Annual Conference, subject to an

appeal to the Annual Conference; to preside in the meetings of the Committee on Pastoral Relations; to employ and change preachers with the consent of the churches and preachers; and also receive ministers from other denominations during the interval of the sessions of the Annual Conference, subject to the action of the ensuing session of the Annual Conference, at which he shall refer the names of all such ministers to the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders for examination and recommendation as per paragraphs 127 and 171.

(2) A Home Mission Annual Conference may elect the Secretary of Home Missions as its President, and when such is done he shall perform the duties of President as outlined in the Book of Discipline. If he so desires and the Conference Missionary Board approves, the Secretary of Home Missions may designate one of the Ministers of the Conference to supervise the work of the Conference under his direction.

¶ 148. It is also his duty to grant letters of standing after sufficient time and diligence shall have been used to ascertain the worthiness of those asking them.

¶ 149. The President shall be amenable to the Annual Conference for his official conduct. His decisions on questions arising in the administration of the law of the Church as it relates to the work of the Annual Conference made between the sessions of the Annual Conference shall be final, until the next session of the Annual Conference, unless a previous appeal is made to the President of the General Conference. (See Paragraph 214, subparagraph 3.)

¶ 150. The Annual Conference when it judges best

may require him to travel within its bounds, and when an Annual Conference so directs it shall define his duties.

¶ 151. The Annual Conference shall at the time of the election of its officers elect an Advisory Board, nominated by the President, consisting of one minister and one lay member, provided that in larger Conferences the Conference may elect three elders and three lay members, with whom the President shall confer between the sessions of the Annual Conference, and secure their concurrence in the removal of a pastor and the appointment of his successor; the reception of a church; relieving any person from appointment sanctioned by the previous session of the Annual Conference; and also as provided for in Paragraph 168 of this section. In all other respects the President may act independently of the Advisory Board.

Elders

¶ 152. An elder is a preacher of the Gospel, fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

¶ 153A. An elder is constituted such by election of an Annual Conference, and by the laying on of the hands of some of the elders, and prayer; the President of the Annual Conference shall lead the service unless the Annual Conference orders otherwise and appoints some other person in his stead.

¶ 153B. In case of an emergency, a candidate who may be recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders may be ordained by the President and his Advisory Board and the Committee on Itin-

eracy and Elders Orders in the interim of the sessions of the Annual Conference.

¶ 154. It is the duty of an elder to preach the gospel, to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony.

¶ 155. When an elder takes work in another Annual Conference than the one of which he is a member his Conference membership shall be transferred to the Conference where he has taken work, except in an emergency an elder may supply a Wesleyan charge outside the bounds of his own conference; provided such action has the approval of the President of each Conference concerned, and does not extend beyond the next session of the Annual Conference in which he holds his membership.

¶ 156. An elder may remove his ministerial membership from one Annual Conference to another, by a letter of standing or transfer from the President of his Conference, certifying to his good standing at the time; but he must present it to the President of the Conference to which he is transferred as soon as he takes work within the bounds of said Conference, to which he removes at its first session after his removal to within its bounds. This shall apply to all letters of standing when the holder takes work within another Annual Conference. A letter of transfer thus given shall not be valid for more than one year, but may be renewed. When an elder takes a letter of transfer his membership shall continue with the Annual Conference granting said letter until said elder joins another Annual Conference, or some other ecclesiastical body.

¶ 157. No letter of standing shall be granted to any elder, or Conference preacher, by an Annual Conference, or the President thereof, except the applicant shall present a written statement from the Agent that no unpaid obligations are owing the Publishing Association or which are unprovided for.

¶ 158. No letters of transfer or standing shall be granted until satisfactory evidence is given by the minister making the request that no outstanding debts are unprovided for, and that he has honorably withdrawn from his contract for service with the charge or Conference.

¶ 159. Members of one Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference who desire to join some other Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference shall not be received without proper credentials.

¶ 160. Every Wesleyan Methodist elder must be a member of some Wesleyan Methodist church and Annual Conference. If said elder takes a letter of dismissal from the church, or declares that he has withdrawn from the Church, or leaves for parts unknown, without letting the Church know where he is, then the Annual Conference at its next session, when said facts are known, shall declare said elder withdrawn from the Conference, and may publish that fact in the Church paper. When an elder surrenders his parchments, it will be lawful to publish the fact in the papers that he or she is not an elder in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. An elder receiving a letter of dismissal with recommendations as is provided for in Paragraph 433 of the present Discipline does not affect his standing in an Annual

Conference, unless he fails to use it in joining some other Wesleyan Methodist church. If he joins some other denomination he should at the same time take a letter of standing from the Conference of which he is a member, and failing to do so, shall be marked withdrawn, as is provided for in Paragraph 134.

¶ 161. An elder holding a letter of standing must be able to show by the written statement of the President of his Annual Conference that his character was passed by the Annual Conference at its last annual session in order to make his letter of standing valid to date. When a member of an Annual Conference asks for a letter of standing and declares in writing that he intends to withdraw from the Annual Conference, it shall require a vote of the Annual Conference from which he withdrew to reinstate him.

Pastors

¶ 162. A pastor is an elder, or a conference preacher, who has charge of a particular church, or a number of churches connected as one pastoral charge.

¶ 163. Ministers are forbidden to go on the charge of another preacher to preach, except on funeral occasions, without the consent of the pastor and church. This shall not apply to or interfere with the authorized work of the Conference and its evangelists and officers. This in no sense makes it a misdemeanor for one of our preachers to accept invitations to preach in churches of other denominations.

¶ 164. Pastors should be elders; but local preachers may, in case of necessity, sustain the relation and perform the work of a pastor. When they do sustain said relation by an Annual Conference appointment,

the conference shall issue them a license showing their appointment to said work, and their authority to preach. It is desired that local preachers shall be employed as assistants under the charge of an elder.

¶ 165. When two or more elders sustain the pastoral relation to the same charge, as co-laborers, one shall be designated as the principal, who shall be responsible for the performance of the following duties, which are made the special duties of all pastors:

(1) To meet the stewards and leaders as often as necessary.

(2) To hold love-feasts.

(3) To hold quarterly meetings.

(4) To call a meeting of each church on his pastoral charge at a time established by the Annual Conference, for the purpose of revising the roll of membership of the church, and the election of church officers, standing committees (except Pulpit Supply as provided for in paragraph 86), Treasurer, Stewards, Class Leaders, Church Clerk, Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The term of office of these church officers shall begin and expire at dates corresponding to the dates of the Annual Conference's fiscal year, or at dates otherwise determined by the Annual Conference.

(5) To take an exact account of the members of the church and the number of local preachers of his station or circuit; and to report the same to the Annual Conference that their number may be printed in the minutes of the same.

(6) To see that public offerings are made quarterly, if need be.

(7) To encourage the support of missions by forming societies and taking offerings for the same, in the manner indicated in the Discipline, and as the Annual Conference shall direct.

(8) To encourage Sunday schools by addresses and other ways, as the cause may demand.

(9) To report to the Annual Conference the amount raised on his charge for the support of the gospel, for missions, and for other benevolent purposes.

(10) To make a regular catalogue of the members in towns and cities, and of the street on which they live.

(11) To leave his successor a particular account of the station, including a list of the subscribers for our periodicals.

(12) To communicate to the Secretary of Home Missions the names and addresses of any of his members who may have moved out of contact with a Wesleyan Methodist church.

(13) To enforce vigorously but calmly all the rules of the Church.

(14) To inform all members from time to time, that none are to remove from one church to another without a letter of standing granted by the church, and signed by the pastor or clerk; and to inform them that without such certificate they will not be received into the church in other places; provided that where it is impracticable to convene the church a letter from the pastor or clerk will be considered valid.

(15) To recommend that a fast be held in every church on his station or circuit on the Friday preceding Quarterly Meeting.

Evangelists

¶ 166. (1) An evangelist is an elder, or conference preacher, devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel, without any specific pastoral charge.

(2) (a) Conference Missionary Boards and Committee on Elders Orders should use great care in the selection of evangelists: As to their soundness in doctrine; Their record in this field of activity; Their moral character.

(b) Persons who are appointed to the work of Conference Evangelist must hold ten full weeks of meetings during the conference year in order to be continued in this appointment. In the case of elders who fail to meet the above requirement, their names shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list unless another appointment is given.

(c) Each evangelist and all others on the Stationed List of the Conference, except as provided for in paragraph 128, not appointed to pastoral work shall be required to give a complete statistical report of his or her work to the Annual Conference to which he or she belongs according to the following plan:

Item I. Labors—1. Time employed; 2. Revivals held; (1) In local conference; (2) In other conferences; (3) In other denominations; 3. Quarterly meetings held; 4. Other services held.

Item II. Receipts—1. Offerings or salary; 2. Marriage and funeral fees; 3. Gifts; 4. Total receipts; 5. Traveling expenses; 6. Net receipts.

(3) The Annual Conference may appoint evangelists to travel within its bounds, or such portions thereof as it shall designate. Any annual conference

so desiring may require the Conference President or evangelists engaged in quarterly meeting work to preside at Quarterly Conferences.

Evangelistic Singers and Chalk Artists

¶ 166A. (1) When there are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church who feel called to the special ministry of song evangelism or chalk drawing, they shall be certified as such for one year by the Annual Conference provided: they have been recommended for such work by the local church of which they are members; have been questioned on the same basis and under the same procedure as the local preachers (Paragraph 89), give evidence of grace, gifts and usefulness; conform to the standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the matters of dress and deportment; have had some experience in song evangelism or chalk drawing; and have been carefully examined by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders of the Conference of which they are members, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work.

(2) The Certificates of evangelistic singers and chalk artists may be renewed each year by the Annual Conference of which they are members provided: they are regularly engaged in such work; have taken the evangelistic singers' course (two years) or its equivalent or comparable work in chalk drawing in one of our Colleges (two years) or an acceptable course from another school, or the Evangelistic Singers' or Chalk Artists' course or its equivalent under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and El-

ders Orders; and have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders.

Candidates taking the course under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders must pass at least one book per year and the entire course must be completed within five years from the time of the granting of the first certificates by the Annual Conference.

(3) The Annual Conference may assign certified singers and chalk artists to travel provided: they have completed one of the courses recommended, are properly qualified for general work, and are properly endorsed by the said Conference for such work.

(4) The certified singer and chalk artist shall be amenable to the annual conference from which their certificates are received, shall report to their conferences annually, but shall have no vote in the annual conference, and for conduct out of harmony with the Bible and Church Discipline shall be dealt with by the same disciplinary methods that govern Conference preachers and Elders in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

General Evangelists

¶ 167. The Annual Conferences shall assign to general evangelistic work only such elders as in their judgment are properly qualified for general evangelistic work, and behind whom the Annual Conference places its endorsement for such work. Each one appointed to general evangelistic work shall be furnished a certificate by the Conference making the appointment, showing his authority to do such work. (See Paragraph 449.) General evangelists are required to

hold at least six evangelistic meetings during the year, if they are continued to be listed as general evangelists. General evangelists should not organize churches or missions outside the bounds of the conference in which they hold their membership, without the consent and approval of the Secretary of Home Missions or the General Missionary Society. And further, general evangelists shall be required to report their work done during the year to their respective Annual Conferences.

¶ 168. (a) When a member of an Annual Conference wishes to do evangelistic work outside of his Annual Conference, he must first obtain the appointment to such work by his Annual Conference, and when an Annual Conference appoints one of its number to evangelistic work, which is understood to be outside of the bounds of the Annual Conference making such an appointment, the President of said conference shall give the evangelist a certificate to that effect.

(b) All pastors and churches wishing to employ evangelists who are not members of any Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference shall consult the President of the Annual Conference, who shall have the authority, if his Advisory Board shall agree thereto, to refuse to permit such employment. If the President of an Annual Conference and his Advisory Board shall deem it harmful to the work of the conference that any evangelist shall labor in connection with any of our pastors or churches he may serve notice of his judgment of the case upon all the pastors of his conference, and the action of said confer-

ence officers shall be the law until the next annual session of the conference.

Denominational Evangelists

¶ 169. The Board of Administration as the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society may grant certificates of appointment to evangelists who receive the endorsement of the Annual Conference to which said evangelists belong, if in the judgment of said Committee the work will be served thereby. (See also Paragraphs 266 and 267.)

Annual Conference Preachers

¶ 170. (1) An Annual Conference preacher is a local preacher who has been accepted by the Annual Conference as a suitable person to travel under its direction and who has been appointed to definite, pastoral or evangelistic work. No person shall be so appointed until he has held a Quarterly Conference license at least one year, and shall have successfully passed examinations in the Discipline and Binney's Compend as given in the first year's Course of Study.

(2) When a Conference preacher is employed as a pastor of an organized Wesleyan Methodist Church, he shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference in the election of all Annual Conference officers and delegates to the General Conference, and other business, excepting in the election to Elders Orders, and the passing of the character of Elders where a vote is required, and in the election of committees affected by the same. Upon the appointment by the Annual Conference the President shall authorize him to administer the sacraments, and if, at the end of one year he is continued in said employment and has

passed two books on the Course of Study, the authorization shall be renewed. Where the law of the State permits, any person employed and authorized as above described shall be permitted to solemnize matrimony while so employed and authorized.

(3) When a Conference preacher is appointed by an Annual Conference as a pastor of a pioneer work or mission not yet organized as a Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Conference at its discretion may grant him full authorization to administer the sacraments and solemnize matrimony where the laws of the state permit, but he is not entitled to a vote in the Annual Conference.

(4) The above described authorization shall cease at any time the holders thereof shall fail to pass two books of the Course of Study each year. Such authority shall be continued to each individual for seven years only, except where in the judgment of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders the authorization should be continued.

(5) When an Annual Conference Preacher is employed as a co-pastor or an assistant pastor, he shall not have the right to vote, neither shall he be authorized to administer the sacraments nor solemnize matrimony while so employed.

(6) The committee on Itineracy and Orders of each Conference shall report to the Conference and its president each year giving the names of those of the Annual Conference preachers who have met the prescribed conditions, and are eligible to receive the authorization described above.

The Reception of Ministers From Other Denominations

¶ 171. Ordained ministers of other evangelical churches who may desire to unite with us may be received according to our usages, by giving satisfaction to an Annual Conference of their agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government and usages, provided, that the conference is also satisfied with their gifts, grace and usefulness. Provided, that none be received until they have given satisfactory proof of having passed a course of study equivalent to our disciplinary course in a satisfactory manner, and shall have joined some Wesleyan Methodist church, but for the first year said ministers when appointed to work shall be known only as supplies, and shall labor under the direction of the President of an Annual Conference and his Advisory Board; and the President and his Advisory Board shall have the power to terminate any and all such relations to which said ministers may have been appointed as supplies, when in the judgment of the President and his Advisory Board said ministers are not suitable persons to be continued in such relationship, and this dismissal shall terminate all ministerial relations to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In case said ministers shall prove themselves worthy in the judgment of the President and his Advisory Board to be received into the Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall have passed an examination on the Wesleyan Methodist Discipline, the President shall recommend them to the Annual Conference.

¶ 172. Whenever any elder is received he shall be furnished with a certificate, signed by the President, in the following words, namely:

"This is to certify that _____ has been admitted by _____ Conference as a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, he having been ordained according to the usages of the Church of which he has been a member and a minister.

"Given under my hand and seal at _____, this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____."

¶ 173. Preachers coming from other denominations, in deacon's orders, shall have the right to exercise the functions of that office as understood by the Church from which they are received, until a convenient opportunity shall occur to be elected and ordained elders, provided it shall not extend beyond the third Annual Conference.

¶ 174. Preachers of other denominations who are not in orders may be received as local or conference preachers, provided that they give satisfaction to a Quarterly or Annual Conference that they are suitable persons to exercise the office, and of their agreement with the doctrines, discipline, government and usages of our Church.

Special Session

¶ 175. The president of an Annual Conference shall call a special session when a petition to call the same is presented to him signed by two-thirds of all the pastors of said Annual Conference. It shall meet at the place selected for the next annual meeting, or at any place selected by the president and his advisory board, if it is better to do so. Said call must define

the business to be transacted, and no business not stated in the call shall be transacted at the special session. When a special session is called the churches or charges must elect delegates in the same manner as is provided for regular sessions.

Statistics

¶ 176. It is also required that each Annual Conference shall require the pastors in charge to report complete and accurate statistics according to the blank form provided in the Discipline, and no Annual Conference shall have authority to pass the character of any pastor who neglects to perform this service, except by a two-thirds vote, and said vote shall be made a part of the permanent records of the conference.

(1) In order to have the statistics of the conference as accurate and as free from mistakes as possible, the conference Statistical Committee Report shall be reviewed and audited by an Auditing Committee before it is presented to the Conference for adoption.

¶ 177. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference, through its Secretary, to answer the following questions, and forward the same immediately upon adjournment to the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist for publication in the Wesleyan Methodist:

1. How many elders are on the conference roll?
2. Who of the elders are on the stationed list? (Give names and postoffice addresses.)
3. Who of the Annual Conference preachers are on the stationed list? (Give names and postoffice addresses.)
4. Who of the elders are on the supernumerary list? (Give names and postoffice addresses.)

5. Who of the elders are on the unstationed list?
6. Who of the elders are on the superannuated list? (Give names and postoffice addresses.)
7. Who of the elders have been deposed this year?
8. Who of the elders have withdrawn this year:
(1) By transfer? (2) By letter of standing?
9. Who have joined the conference this year: (1) By ordination? (2) By transfer? (3) By letter of standing or credentials from some other religious body?
10. Who of the elders have died this year?
11. Who of the Annual Conference preachers have died this year?
12. What is the summary of the statistics reported from the churches?

Pastor's Labors. Item I

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Time employed (months) ..... | ..... |
| Appointments ..... | ..... |
| Organized Church Societies ..... | ..... |

Periodicals. Item II

| | |
|--|-------|
| Wesleyan Methodists taken ..... | ..... |
| Wesleyan Missionaries taken ..... | ..... |
| Wesleyan Youths taken ..... | ..... |
| Wesleyan Lesson Helps taken: | |
| Sunday School Banner ..... | ..... |
| Junior Class Paper ..... | ..... |
| Children's Friend ..... | ..... |
| Adult Teacher's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Intermediate Teacher's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Junior-Primary Teacher's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Senior Scholar's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Intermediate Scholar's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Junior Scholar's Quarterly ..... | ..... |
| Primary Scholar's Quarterly | |
| Home Department Quarterly | |
| Lesson Leaflet | |

Other Helps taken:

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Membership. Item III

1. Full Membership Reported Last Year
2. Full Members Received This Year
3. Add Lines 1 and 2
- (Lines 4, 5, 6, 7 concern Full Members only)
4. Expelled
5. Discontinued
6. Died
7. Granted Letters
8. Members Lost (Add lines 4, 5, 6, 7)....
9. Present Full Membership (Subtract line 8 from line 3)
10. Associate Members
11. Junior Members (7 to 16 years of age)
12. Total Present Membership (Add lines 9, 10, 11)
13. Total Membership Reported Last Year
- (Enter on one of the next two lines the difference between lines 12 and 13)
14. Gain in Members for the Year (or)
15. Loss in Members for the Year
- A. Baptized
- B. Infants Dedicated
- C. Local Preachers
- D. Unstationed Elders
- E. Number of Family Altars
- F. Membership Tithing
- G. Card Call Subscribers

Sunday Schools. Item IV

| | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 1. | Number of Sunday Schools ..... | ..... |
| 2. | Whole Number of Officers and Teachers.. | ..... |
| 3. | Whole Number of Schol. in Main School.. | ..... |
| 4. | Total Number in Main School ..... | ..... |
| 5. | Number in Home Department ..... | ..... |
| 6. | Number on Cradle Roll ..... | ..... |
| 7. | Total Number in Sunday School ..... | ..... |
| 8. | Average Attendance ..... | ..... |
| 9. | Number of Scholars Converted ..... | ..... |
| 10. | Number of Scholars Joining Church ..... | ..... |
| 11. | Number of Departmental Superintendents. | ..... |
| 12. | Number in Teacher Training Course ..... | ..... |
| 13. | Number of Organized Classes ..... | ..... |
| 14. | Number of Books in Library ..... | ..... |
| 15. | Enrollment Vacation Bible School ..... | ..... |
| 16. | Average Attendance Vacation Bible School | ..... |

Wesleyan Youth

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Number of Societies ..... | ..... |
| 2. | Total Membership of Societies ..... | ..... |

Church Property. Item V

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of Church Buildings ..... | ..... |
| Value of Buildings | \$\$\$ |
| Amount of Indebtedness ..... | ..... |
| Amount of Insurance | \$\$\$ |
| Number of Parsonages ..... | ..... |
| Value of Parsonages | \$\$\$ |
| Amount of Indebtedness | \$\$\$ |
| Amount of Insurance | \$\$\$ |
| Cash or Other Values on Hand | \$\$\$ |

Disbursed for Pastor. Item VI

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Salary | \$\$\$ |
| Parsonage Rent ..... | ..... |
| Marriage and Funeral Fees ..... | ..... |
| Gifts ..... | ..... |
| Total Pastor's Receipts ..... | ..... |

Disbursed for Church. Item VII

| | |
|--|---------|
| Other Evangelistic Help | \$..... |
| Sunday School Expense | \$..... |
| Building | \$..... |
| Repairs | \$..... |
| Amount Paid on Indebtedness | \$..... |
| Amount Paid on Expense of Indebtedness | \$..... |
| Church Incidental Expense | \$..... |
| Total for Church | \$..... |

Disbursed for Budget. Item VIII

| General Budget: | Assigned | Raised |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Undivided Budget | \$..... | \$..... |
| Foreign Missions | \$..... | \$..... |
| Home Missions | \$..... | \$..... |
| Education | \$..... | \$..... |
| Pension Plan | \$..... | \$..... |
| Orphanage | \$..... | \$..... |
| Administrative Budget | \$..... | \$..... |
| Gen. Conf. Travel and Enter. ... | \$..... | \$..... |
| General Sunday School Work ... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Total General Budget | \$..... | \$..... |

| Conference Budget: | Assigned | Raised |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| President's Salary | \$..... | \$..... |
| Conference Evangelist's Salary .. | \$..... | \$..... |
| Conference Work | \$..... | \$..... |
| Conference Missions | \$..... | \$..... |
| Total Conference Budget | \$..... | \$..... |
| Total Budget | \$..... | \$..... |

This Budget Item agrees with my books.

.....
Conference Treasurer.

Disbursed for Benevolences. Item IX

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Foreign Missions | \$.... |
| Home Missions | \$.... |
| Education | \$.... |
| Orphanage | \$.... |
| Conference Work | \$.... |
| W. Y. | \$.... |
| Other Objects | \$.... |
| Total for Benevolences | \$.... |

Disbursed Totals. Item X

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Total for Pastor | \$.... |
| Total for Church | \$.... |
| Total for Budget | \$.... |
| Total for Benevolences | \$.... |
| Total for All Purposes | \$.... |

Table of Information, Showing Sources and Distribution of Budgets and Benevolences. Item XI.

| | School Sunday | W. B. Y. M. | W. M. S. | W. Y. | Sources Other | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Undivided Budget | | | | | | |
| Missions Undivided | | | | | | |
| Foreign Missions | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Africa | | | | | | |
| Specifically for India | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Japan | | | | | | |
| Specifically for South America | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Haiti | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Puerto Rico | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Formosa | | | | | | |
| Specifically for Mexico | | | | | | |
| Home Missions | | | | | | |
| Pension Plan | | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | |
| General Sunday School Work | | | | | | |
| Orphanage | | | | | | |
| Conference Work | | | | | | |
| Conference Missions | | | | | | |
| Conference President's Salary | | | | | | |
| Conference Evangelist's Salary | | | | | | |
| Church Extension | | | | | | |
| Wesleyan Youth | | | | | | |
| Administrative Budget | | | | | | |
| General Conf. Travel and Ent. | | | | | | |
| Other Benevolent Objects | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | | | |

[See the following "Notes" for explanation of the foregoing Items.]

NOTES

Each pastor shall fill out neatly and accurately two copies of this report before coming to Conference. One he shall keep for his own use. The other he shall present to the Committee without fail before the close of the second day of the Conference. It is advisable that a temporary copy be made out first in lead pencil, so that erasures may easily be made. When the work is correct, make the two permanent copies in ink.

Item I. "Appointments" means the number of regular preaching places on the circuit, while "Number of Church Societies" means the number of distinctly organized Wesleyan Methodist churches on the circuit.

Item II. Be sure to ascertain accurately the number of Wesleyan Methodists, Wesleyan Missionaries, and Youths taken on the circuit, as well as the number of Wesleyan Lesson Helps used. Report number of Lesson Helps ordered quarterly, not a total of four quarterly orders. If quarterly order varies greatly an average of the four quarterly orders would be more nearly correct.

Item III. This item distinguishes between Full, Associate and Junior membership. The directions are given to avoid confusion in these classifications. Lines 1 through 9 relate only to Full Members. Associate membership does not necessarily exclude those between the ages of 7 and 16. Since Junior membership automatically terminates when one reaches the 17th birthday, the church, in the disciplinary manner, should transfer a Junior Member either to Associate or Full relationship before that time if he is to be retained and reported. The transfer of any name to a different classification of membership can be made only by vote of the church. A comparison of lines 12 and 13 will show whether there has been a gain or a loss in the total membership. Lines A through G give desired additional data. Since some infants are baptized and others are dedicated, care should be used to include baptized infants on line A. Unstationed elders are only those listed as such by the Conference. Information for lines E, F, and G may be secured from the pastor and the church treasurer.

Item IV. Line 5 is the Whole Number of persons in the Main School which is the total of lines 3 and 4 and such officers as are not teachers or scholars. Add lines 5, 7 and 8 for total in 9. Scholars Converted and Scholars Joining Church means only

those converted or joining the church during the past year. Departmental Superintendents means all special department Superintendents, as Home, Cradle Roll, Missionary, etc., but excludes the main Superintendent. These officers are included in line 2; but line 12 is for special information.

Item V. In giving the value of buildings and parsonages, would it not be wise to have the trustees appraise the property at its present value and not repeat the old figure year after year? Under the head of "Cash or Other Values on Hand" may be recorded the total value of money on hand for improvement or enlargement of church or parsonage, and money invested in church or parsonage lot or building material.

Item VI. "Salary" does not include anything for Parsonage Rent. If a Circuit furnishes a Parsonage, the rent should be estimated according to local conditions.

Item VII. "Other Evangelistic Help" should include all that the circuit pays for Evangelistic Help, or outside Pulpit Supply of any kind except any part that has been paid regular Pastor's, Conference President's or Conference Evangelist's salary. "Sunday School Expense" includes all the Sunday School pays for its own expenses, but does not include anything the school pays for outside objects, such as Missions, Education, Sabbath School Extension, etc. Any such items should be reported under "Benevolences." "Building" should include funds invested in property, other than borrowed monies and items reported as "Repairs." "Amount paid on indebtedness" includes only the amount paid on the principal of the debt. "Amount paid on expense of indebtedness" includes all interest, other carrying charges, cost of mortgage papers and all other such expense.

Item VIII. The Budget Item must not be filled out until the pastor consults the Conference Treasurer, as this Item must agree with his books. It will include all that has been contributed to these various objects by the Sunday school; by the Y. M. W. B.; by the W. M. S.; and all other sources, which can be counted toward the budget, and which the pastor has paid to the Conference Treasurer in cash or for which he can show or has sent the Conference Treasurer a receipt. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either Home or Foreign, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes may be counted

toward the budget. Under "Undivided Budget" include all cash that is contributed from any source and sent to the Conference Treasurer as Undivided Budget. "Home" and "Foreign" Missions include all that is contributed from any source for Home or Foreign Missions. This of course includes all that is given for Missions in general, and all that is given specially for India, Africa, or South America. It does not include anything included under "Undivided Budget," or "Conference Work." "Education" includes all that is contributed from any source for Education. Under "Conference Budget" include all that is contributed from any source for any branch of Conference work. "Conference Missions" should be included in "Conference Budget" and not under "Home Missions." List other Annual Conference Budget items under proper heads. Where necessary write in special items of your individual Conference Budget on blank lines. Add General and Conference Budget Totals and carry this total to Item X. Before the report is finally handed in, it must receive the signature of the Conference Treasurer indicating that the Budget Item is correct according to his books.

Item IX. "Benevolence" includes any funds contributed from any source for any charitable purpose that have not been counted in General or Conference Budget, or other item. Gifts of produce, clothing, books, or anything else that is given as a benevolence, with any cash for which a Budget receipt or credit was not given may be included here under its proper head.

Item X. Bring together the totals of Items VI, VII, VIII and IX.

Item XI. This table of information includes exactly the amounts listed in Items VIII and IX, properly distributed, with the sources indicated. Dotted lines indicate the distribution and the columns indicate the sources. "Other Sources" include everything not contributed by the Sunday school, the Y. M. W. B., or the W. M. S. "Undivided Budget" and "Education" are explained in Item VIII. "Missions Undivided" includes all that is contributed for General Missions, without specifying whether it is for Home or Foreign Missions. Under "Home Missions" include all that is given specially for that object. Under "Foreign Missions" include all that is contributed for Foreign Missions, without specifying whether it is for Africa, India, Japan, South America, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Formosa or Mexico. Funds given

expressly for Africa, India, Japan, South America, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Formosa or Mexico, should be entered in these columns and not under "Foreign Missions." Under "Conference Work" include all that is contributed for Conference work, without specifying to what branch of Conference work it is given. Under "Conference Missions," "Church Extension" and "Pension Plan" include all that is contributed expressly for these objects. Under "Other Benevolent Objects" include all benevolences that are contributed for any other purpose than those mentioned. Write in your individual Conference items on blank lines.

To test the correctness of the report, find the sum of the horizontal totals in Item XI and also the sum of the vertical totals. These sums should be equal, and each should be equal to the total of Items VIII and IX.

13. How is the work supplied?

14. When and where shall the next Conference be held?

15. Who are the Conference Officers?

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Sunday School Secretary

Treasurer

Signed

Secretary.

Boundaries of the Annual Conferences

¶ 178. Alabama Conference shall include the State of Alabama.

¶ 179. Allegheny Conference shall comprise all of the State of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running due south from the western border of Tloga County,

to the northwest border of the Middle Atlantic States Conference, except the counties of Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean; and that portion of Eastern Ohio included within the following boundary: Beginning at the east corner of Columbiana County and extending west along the south boundary of Columbiana and Stark Counties, then north along the west line of Stark and Summit Counties to south line of Cuyahoga County, thence east with said south line to Cuyahoga River, thence north with said river to Lake Erie; and that part of West Virginia east of a line running from the southwest corner of the state of Pennsylvania to the easternmost point in the state of Kentucky.

¶ 179A. The Australia Home Mission Conference shall include the continent of Australia, and all adjacent islands under its mandate and government.

¶ 180. The California Conference shall comprise the State of California and the State of Arizona.

¶ 181. The Canada Conference shall comprise the Dominion of Canada.

¶ 182. Champlain Conference shall comprise all of the States of New England, and all the State of New York north and east of the Rochester Conference; except those parts of New York and Connecticut embodied in the Middle Atlantic States Conference.

¶ 183. Dakota Conference shall include North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

¶ 183A. The Florida Conference shall include the territory lying within the State of Florida.

¶ 183B. The Illinois Conference shall comprise that

part of the State of Illinois north of the Wabash Railway running from the Indiana state line east of Danville, Illinois to Hannibal, Missouri.

¶ 184. India Mission Conference shall include all of our work in India.

¶ 185. The Indiana Conference shall comprise the state of Indiana, except that part of Indiana which belongs to the Kentucky Conference.

¶ 186. The Iowa Conference shall comprise the State of Iowa and the State of Minnesota.

¶ 187. The Kansas Conference shall include the States of Kansas, Missouri and Colorado.

¶ 188. The Kentucky Conference shall comprise the State of Kentucky, and that part of the State of Indiana south of the northern boundary line of the following counties: Dearborn, Ripley, Jennings, Jackson, Brown, Monroe, Owen, Clay, and Vigo; and that part of the State of Illinois south of the Wabash Railroad running from Danville, Illinois, to Hannibal, Missouri.

¶ 189. Lockport Conference shall be bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning on Lake Ontario at the northwest corner of Monroe County, New York; thence south and east along the west and south boundaries of Monroe County to the Genesee River; thence following said river in the direction to include Mount Morris; then southeast along the canal to the village of Dansville; thence along the dividing line between Steuben and Allegany Counties to the Pennsylvania line; thence west along said line to the southwest corner of Chautauqua County; thence north along

west line of said county to Lake Erie; thence along said lake, Niagara River and Lake Ontario to place of beginning. Said Conference shall include Potter, Cameron, Elk and McKean Counties of Pennsylvania.

¶ 190. Michigan Conference shall comprise all of that part of the State of Michigan not included in the North Michigan Conference, and Williams, Fulton and Lucas Counties in the State of Ohio.

¶ 191. The Middle Atlantic States Conference shall be composed of the States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, and that part of Pennsylvania lying east of a straight line drawn from the northwest corner of Maryland to the northeast corner of Pennsylvania; also all that part of New York and Connecticut lying south of a line drawn from the northwestern corner of New Jersey, east through the city of Newburg, New York, to New Haven, Connecticut.

¶ 191A. The Nebraska Conference shall consist of the State of Nebraska.

¶ 192. The North Carolina Conference shall comprise the State of North Carolina, except Macon and Jackson Counties; however, that portion of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Jackson County beginning at a point one quarter mile from Cherokee, North Carolina on the Jackson and Swain County line on the Soco Gap Road and running directly southeast to Sheep Rock Mountain, and then following the southern water shed of Soco Creek to Water Rock Knob in Haywood County shall be included in the North Carolina Conference; also include the State of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Counties of

York and Marlboro of the State of South Carolina.

¶ 193. North Georgia Conference shall comprise all that part of the State of Georgia north of a line beginning at West Point, Georgia, and running east to the state line.

¶ 194. North Michigan Conference shall comprise all that part of the State of Michigan included within the following boundary: Starting from the northwest corner of Ottawa county; thence running due east to the west line of Genesee County; thence due north to Saginaw City; thence along the Saginaw River to Saginaw Bay.

¶ 195. The Ohio Conference includes all the state of Ohio not included in the Allegheny and Michigan Conferences; and that part of the state of West Virginia west of a line running from the southwest corner of the state of Pennsylvania to the easternmost point in the state of Kentucky.

¶ 196. Oklahoma Conference shall include the State of Oklahoma and the State of Texas.

¶ 197. Oregon Conference shall include the States of Oregon and Washington.

¶ 198. The Rochester Conference shall be bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of Jefferson County, New York, following along the northern boundary of said county to the east line of Herkimer County, thence south along its eastern boundary to the southwest corner of Hamilton County, thence along a direct line to the eastern boundary of Madison County, thence following along the western boundary of Otsego and Delaware Counties to

Susquehanna County, Pa., including that part of said county not included in the Middle Atlantic States Conference; and that part of Pennsylvania not included in the Lockport Conference.

¶ 199. South Carolina Conference shall include the State of South Carolina except York and Marlboro Counties; it shall also include Jackson and Macon Counties of North Carolina, except that part of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Jackson County assigned to the North Carolina Conference.

¶ 200. The South Georgia Conference shall comprise the State of Georgia south of a line beginning at West Point, Georgia, and running east to the state line.

¶ 201. The South Ohio Conference (colored) shall include the State of Ohio, the State of Kentucky, and the State of West Virginia except that part occupied by the Allegheny Conference.

¶ 202. The Tennessee Conference shall comprise the States of Tennessee and Mississippi.

¶ 204. West Africa Mission Conference shall include all of our work in Africa.

¶ 205. Wisconsin Conference shall include the State of Wisconsin.

¶ 206. Stations and circuits located on Conference lines are authorized to elect to which conference they shall belong, consulting their convenience of travel and associations.

¶ 207. In the judgment of the General Conference a boundary line between conferences is all length and no breadth, such for instance as lines between counties and states.

SECTION IX

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

¶ 208. (1) (a) The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of elders and laymen, who shall be elected by the several Annual Conferences; the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday School Literature and the President of the General Conference, by virtue of their respective offices; and (b) a delegate-at-large for each of these officials to be elected as follows: Immediately after the election of General Officials a Committee of the General Conference shall recommend the Conferences from which these delegates-at-large shall be elected. The conferences shall be considered in alphabetical order, provided that none of them shall come from the Conference in which the General Officials and the President of the General Conference hold their membership, and provided that a parity between ministerial and lay representation is maintained. This Committee shall make its report before the adjournment of the General Conference. The Conferences thus designated shall elect by ballot the delegates-at-large at the same time at which the regular delegates to the General Conference are elected.

¶ 209. (1) Each Annual Conference shall be entitled to send one elder and one lay member for every five hundred church members, or major fraction thereof within its limits; the basis of computation for such

representation shall be the statistical reports from the various charges of the members in full connection on said charges at the last session of the Annual Conference preceding the sessions of the General Conference; provided, that no conference shall be deprived of one ministerial and one lay delegate, provided also that any Annual Conference holding its session within sixty days of the date of the opening of the coming General Conference may elect its delegates at the previous annual session.

(2) Each Annual Conference shall also elect by ballot sufficient alternate ministerial and lay delegates to the General Conference who shall fill any vacancies in the order of their election.

¶ 210. The delegates to the General Conference shall be elected by ballot during the session of each Annual Conference next preceding the sessions of the General Conference, by all who shall compose the Annual Conference. Each lay delegate to the General Conference shall be a member of the Church at the time of his election, and each delegate so elected shall receive a certificate of his election as found in blank form. All elders not on the unstationed list shall be eligible to election to the General Conference as ministerial delegates.

¶ 211. The General Conference shall meet quadrennially on the fourth Wednesday in June at such place as it shall from time to time select. The General Conference President may change this date when, in the judgment of 60 percent of the Annual Conference Presidents, an emergency has arisen which will warrant such a change of date.

¶ 212A. Any Annual Conference may propose a special session of the General Conference at any time, to be held at the place selected for the next quadrennial session of the General Conference; and as soon as the President of the General Conference shall be officially informed that it has been approved by two-thirds of the Annual Conferences, he shall issue a call for the same, and it shall be held accordingly.

¶ 212B. The Board of Administration shall have authorization to issue a call for a special conference at its discretion. Pursuant to such call each Annual Conference shall meet, elect delegates to the special session and provide for their expenses.

The Officers of the General Conference

¶ 213. The General Conference shall elect for the quadrennial term by ballot, from among the Elders of the Church, a President; and it shall also elect, by ballot, two Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be a lay member; and in event the office of President becomes vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the ministerial Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. It shall also elect a Secretary.

(1) The term of office of the General Conference officers shall begin the fifteenth day of August following the General Conference at which they are elected.

The President of the General Conference

¶ 214. The President of the General Conference shall devote his full time to supervising, coordinating and promoting the various branches of the Church's work, functioning as a General Superintendent, under

the direction of the Board of Administration, as follows:

(1) He shall preside over the regular, and any special session of the General Conference.

(2) He shall render decisions on points of law in the interim of the sessions of the General Conference.

(3) All decisions on points of law, made in the interim of the General Conference sessions, shall be the interpretation thereof until the next General Conference to which they must be submitted for approval or disapproval, provided that such interim decisions may be appealed to the Board of Review whose disapproval shall suspend the interim decisions until its report is acted upon by the General Conference. As a matter of information for the Board of Administration, the President of the General Conference shall report to it all decisions on points of law made in the interim of its annual meetings.

(4) He shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Administration and of its Executive Board.

(5) He shall meet with the Publishing Agent, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, and the Secretary of Home Missions, at least quarterly for the purpose of coordinating the various departmental activities, and more efficiently promoting the entire Church program.

(6) He shall counsel with the heads of all Departments, institutions, and organizations authorized by the Church; and receiving support from, or through, the Church, making such suggestions concerning their work as he feels will increase their efficiency and their contribution to the Church.

(7) He shall be chairman of the committee which arranges the schedule for the Denominational Representatives to the several Annual Conferences.

(8) He shall be designated the Denominational Representative to the Annual Conferences in such order as to insure one visit to each Annual Conference during the Quadrennium, unless there be justifiable ground for ordering his visits otherwise.

(9) He shall, upon request of any Conference he may visit, preside at its meetings and otherwise render such services as may be desired by the Conference.

(10) He shall devote as much time to both Area and Conference Ministerial, Missionary, or Youth Conventions as occasion may require and the duties of his office permit.

(11) If the Board of Administration shall not arrange otherwise, he shall represent the Church in the capacity of Fraternal, or Ecumenical Conference, delegate; or in such other capacities as opportunity may afford and necessity may require.

(12) He shall carry out such duties as the General Conference or the Board of Administration may direct from time to time, provided that nothing shall be designated which shall contravene or nullify any order of the General Conference.

¶ 215. The ministers and lay members shall deliberate in the sessions of the General Conference as one body, but upon the final vote on any question, on a call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide and the ministers and lay members shall vote separately; and it shall require a majority vote (See exceptions in Paragraph 219) of each branch

to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

¶ 216. The General Conference shall determine the number and boundaries of the Annual Conferences.

¶ 217. The General Conference shall elect by ballot the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, and the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

(1) The term of office of these General Officers shall begin the fifteenth day of August following the General Conference at which they are elected.

(2) It is recommended that the General Officers have their homes in the town where our general headquarters are located, or in some of the nearby suburban towns.

¶ 218. The General Conference shall have power to make rules for the whole Church, provided that it shall not contravene the maintenance of an Itinerant Ministry, Lay Delegation, any of the Elementary Principles, the Articles of Religion, or the General Rules; nor shall it make any distinction in the rights and privileges of our ministers and members on account of ancestry or color,* nor shall it constitute any courts for the trial of members or ministers; such trials are to be conducted by the particular churches or conferences to which the said members or ministers belong. But the General Conference shall have jurisdiction in dealing with Annual Conferences charged with violating or tolerating viola-

* This rule has never been and can never be lawfully interpreted as giving the remotest encouragement to such an intermingling of the races as will lead to or encourage inter-marriage.

tions of the Elementary Principles or General Rules, or any rule or section of our Discipline.

¶ 219. Nevertheless, upon the concurrent recommendation of two-thirds of the members of the several Annual Conferences who shall vote on a proposed change, and the concurrent vote of two-thirds of all the members of the local churches who shall vote on the same, then the next session of the General Conference may, by a concurrent vote of two-thirds, ratify the same, and it shall become law; and also when the General Conference shall originate and recommend any alterations or constitutional amendments, as soon as two-thirds of the members of the several Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, and also two-thirds of the laity shall have concurred as before provided, then the same shall become law. It is herein also provided, that all persons who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church who have not voted on the question in an Annual Conference shall be eligible to vote when the vote is taken in the churches.

¶ 220. The adoption of a constitutional amendment requires the approval of the three following bodies of the Church in the following sense:

(1) Approval of the General Conference by a two-thirds vote.

(2) Approval by two-thirds of the Annual Conference membership of the Church voting on the proposed amendment.

(3) Approval by two-thirds of the Church membership of the Church voting on the proposed amendment.

SECTION X

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

¶ 221. The General Conference at its quadrennial session shall create a Board of Administration consisting of twenty-five persons, namely: the President of the General Conference, the Editor of *The Wesleyan Methodist*, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature, the Lay Vice-President of the General Conference, the President of the General Woman's Missionary Society, and the General Secretary of Wesleyan Youth, who shall be members ex-officio; and sixteen other persons, eight of whom shall be elders and eight lay members. Four of these sixteen shall be nominated by ballot from each of the four school districts in which they reside. The term of office of the members of the Board of Administration shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which they are elected. If any member of the Board of Administration, except an ex-officio member, change his residence from one school area to another during the quadrennium, the Board may, at its discretion, declare the office vacant and fill the vacancy according to Paragraph 223.

¶ 222. This Board shall be the Board of Managers of all the Church Societies, now incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, with offices located at Syracuse, N. Y., said Societies now consisting of the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America, the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan

Methodist Church of America, the Wesleyan Educational Society, the Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, The Woman's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Youth. It shall also be the Board of Managers for Hephzibah Orphanage.

(1) The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America is managed by five trustees who must reside in the State of New York, and shall be subject to the supervision of the Board of Administration as is herein afterwards specified. The acts of the Trustees of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Incorporated, shall be submitted for approval to the Board of Administration which shall have advisory oversight of the same, and whose advice shall stand as the instruction of the General Conference.

The duties of the Board of Administration are hereby defined as follows:

¶ 223. At its first meeting after being elected, it shall elect, by ballot, a President and a Secretary. It shall also elect an Executive Board of six members, three of whom shall be from the Conference level; the President of the General Conference shall be a member *ex-officio*. It shall meet annually at Syracuse, N. Y., and as much oftener as the President or any five members of the Board of Administration shall deem necessary, provided that it shall be legal on the year of the General Conference for it to meet at the place of the General Conference. Notice of all meetings shall be published in The Wesleyan Methodist, and also be given in writing to the various mem-

bers of the Board where they cannot be notified in person by the President or members of the Board calling said meeting. It shall have power to fill all vacancies and shall, if reasonably practicable, elect someone to represent the district from which the vacancy comes.

¶ 224. The Board of Administration shall determine the salary of the President of the General Conference, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature, and the salaries of all other persons whom it may employ.

¶ 225. The Board of Administration shall have the power to remove the President of the General Conference, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature, and any person whom it may have employed, when it judges that the interests of the Church require such removal, and shall have power to fill all vacancies that occur among the officials and those employed by it, whether said vacancies occur by death or otherwise, and the persons so employed shall fill out the unexpired term of those whose places they are appointed to fill.

¶ 226. In the transaction of all business, eleven members shall constitute a quorum, except in the removal of the President of the General Conference, when it shall require a three-fourths vote of all the members of the Board in favor of his removal; and

in the removal of the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature, when it shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board in favor of removal.

¶ 227. The Board of Administration shall have supervision over all the Church Societies, and shall review all the business of said Societies, to see that each corporate society is transacting its business according to the laws of the State of New York and Book of Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. In order to do this, it shall have power to require each incorporated Society to both invoice its assets and liabilities, and also to have said business audited. This invoice and auditing must set out in itemization, the nature of the assets, and if in notes, the name of the giver, and also all liabilities, giving the name of the person to whom the money is owing, and shall also state by what authority said liability was incurred. When said business is reviewed by the Board it may require the Invoice Committee to read from its books such items, giving names and so forth and it shall require a statement from the Auditing Committee, that the money has not only been properly accounted for, but also that the items read by the Invoice Committee are correct, as to name and amount, and manner of incurring said liability.

¶ 228. If the Board of Administration shall judge that any expenditure of any of the corporate societies has not been judiciously made, or that the laws of the State of New York have been violated, or that the

wishes of the donor will be defeated by the acts of the corporate society having the funds in charge, it shall demand correction and on the failure of the person having such funds in charge to correct said violations, it shall be a sufficient cause for removal. If the General Conference does not elect an Invoice Committee and also an Auditing Committee, then the Board of Administration shall elect said Invoice and Auditing Committees, but nothing in this clause shall prevent the Board of Administration or its Executive Board from electing Special Invoice and Auditing and Investigating Committees, when in the judgment of either the Board of Administration, or its Executive Board, it is in the interests of the Church to do so. If the Presidents of any three conferences think that the Board of Administration is not properly supervising the business of the Church as carried on through the Incorporated Societies, they shall notify the President of the Board of Administration of their fears, and he shall at once inquire into the matter and report to said Presidents. If in his judgment the business is properly carried on, he shall say so and if after this the Presidents so requesting shall insist on an examination of the business management, the President of the Board of Administration shall order said Presidents to select a committee of not less than three persons, and shall at the same time call the Executive Board together, or obtain their consent in writing, and said Executive Board shall appoint a similar committee, and the two committees jointly shall examine the business thoroughly, and report to the Executive Board. If it shall appear that said

business has been conducted safely, and according to the laws of the State of New York and of the Book of Discipline, then the Presidents demanding said examination shall pay all the expenses connected therewith; but should it appear from the examination that said business has not been properly conducted, then all the expenses of conducting said investigation shall be borne by the various incorporated Societies, and the evils found corrected; and if the violations have been wilful, the violators shall be removed from office.

¶ 229. The Board of Administration shall have power to direct and review all the business transacted by the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Incorporate, and should it appear that said business is not being conducted properly, or that the laws of the State of New York are being violated or that the wishes of the donor are not being carried out, it shall have power to correct said mismanagement.

¶ 230. The Board of Administration shall make or cause to be made an annual exhibit of the state of all the incorporated Societies, including the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Incorporate, to all the Annual Conferences, but in this report it shall be required to give only the summaries of said business. It shall also cause said summary to be published in The Wesleyan Methodist. The Board of Administration shall make or cause to be made to each Annual Conference an annual report of the conditions of the state of the incorporated Societies. The Board shall also make a full report to the General Conference covering the four years' interim.

¶ 231. The Board of Administration shall see that the order of the General Conference requiring the publication of one religious periodical to be known as THE WESLEYAN METHODIST, and such Sunday school papers and lesson helps as the Board may direct, shall be carried out by the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association. It shall also see that THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY and THE WESLEYAN YOUTH shall be published by The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association. It shall also determine what books shall be printed for the Church, and fix the prices of the same, and shall also determine what books shall bear the imprint of the Publishing Association, when published for other parties. It shall also see that as much job work is done as is possible, when said job work does not interfere with the publications of the Church ordered by the General Conference or Board of Administration.

¶ 232. The Executive Board of the Board of Administration, consisting of seven persons, shall transact all the business referred to it by the full Board, during the interim of the meetings of the full Board, and shall transact any and all other business the full Board may transact which cannot be postponed until the full Board meets, except that of removing the President of the General Conference, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the Publishing Agent, the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

¶ 233. The Board of Administration shall see that

the pastors and evangelists and missionaries perform their duty in extending the circulation of our books and periodicals, in securing subscriptions for *The Wesleyan Methodist*, and seeing that the same are renewed when a subscription expires. The Board of Administration shall cause the Publishing Agent to furnish every pastor with a blank, which can be filled with the name of every post office where the members of the church or circuit over which he is pastor receive mail. The pastor shall fill this blank, and return it to the Publishing Agent, and upon the receipt of same he shall forward to said pastor the names of all the subscribers receiving *The Wesleyan Methodist* at the post offices. It shall then be the duty of each pastor to see said subscribers, and receive money for renewals, and forward the same to the Publishing Agent.

¶ 234. After ascertaining from the Conferences the dates desired for their annual sessions, the Board of Administration shall set the dates and appoint the Representative for these meetings. The list of the dates and Representatives shall be published in *The Wesleyan Methodist*. The person designated to represent the Church interests at the Conferences shall report on all the work of the various Corporations of the Church. He may also preside over the Conference if invited to do so by the Conference.

¶ 235. The Board of Administration shall determine for each Annual Conference what person shall represent the Church interests at that Conference and the person so agreed upon shall be the only representative at that Conference on general expense.

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Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prevent any Conference inviting other Representatives to be present at the expense of the Conference, or to prevent the Educational Society sending an Educational Representative, or to prevent the Missionary Society from sending a representative at the expense of that society.

¶ 236. The Board of Administration shall elect a Finance Committee of three business men for the Publishing Association whose term of office shall continue to the close of the quadrennium. The duties of the committee shall be to act in an advisory relation on questions involving the financial interests of the Publishing Association and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It shall also make nominations whenever the Board of Administration wishes to elect a Business Manager for the Publishing Association.

¶ 237. The Board of Administration may elect a Business Manager for the Publishing Association who shall be held amenable to the Board. The Board of Administration shall determine the salary of the Manager, define his duties, and differentiate if necessary his duties from those of the Publishing Agent.

¶ 238. All property held by all the corporate Societies of the Church, including the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Incorporate, shall be held in trust by said Societies, for the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

¶ 238A. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of Hephzibah Orphanage at Macon, Georgia, incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia. The general supervision of this

Orphanage shall be delegated to the Secretary of Home Missions under whose department it shall function. The Orphanage shall have a local Board of Managers composed of six persons, four of whom shall be nominated by the Secretary of Home Missions and elected by the Board of Administration. The Secretary of Home Missions shall be the fifth member of the Board of Managers and shall serve as Chairman of the same; the sixth member shall be the person who is serving as the duly elected Superintendent of said Hephzibah Home. The first five members of said Board of Managers shall elect the Superintendent of Hephzibah Home whenever a vacancy may occur, but this election must be ratified by the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, or its Executive Board. The actions of the Board of Managers shall be subject to review by the Board of Administration which shall have power to veto any decisions of said Board of Managers. The Board of Administration shall also have power to initiate any actions it may deem to be to the interest of the Orphanage. All members of the Board of Managers of the Hephzibah Home shall be members in good standing of some Wesleyan Methodist Church. Said Board of Managers shall formulate by-laws for the management of said Hephzibah Home, which by-laws shall be approved by the Board of Administration.

¶ 238B. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of Brainerd Indian Training School near Hot Springs, South Dakota. The gen-

eral supervision of this school shall be delegated to the Secretary of Home Missions under whose department it shall function. The School shall have a local Board of Managers composed of six persons, four of whom shall be nominated by the Secretary of Home Missions and elected by the Board of Administration. The Secretary of Home Missions shall be the fifth member of the Board of Managers and shall serve as chairman of the same; the sixth member shall be the person who is serving as the duly elected President of said Brainerd School. The first five members of said Board of Managers shall elect the President of Brainerd Indian Training School whenever a vacancy may occur, but this election must be ratified by the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, or its Executive Board. The actions of the Board of Managers shall be subject to review by the Board of Administration which shall have power to veto any decisions of said Board of Managers. The Board of Administration shall also have power to initiate any actions it may deem to be to the interest of the School. All members of the Board of Managers of the Brainerd School shall be members in good standing of some Wesleyan Methodist Church. A seventh member, not a Wesleyan Methodist, may be added at the discretion of the Secretary of Home Missions, subject to the approval of the Board of Administration. Said Board of Managers shall formulate by-laws for the management of said Brainerd Indian Training School, which by-laws shall be approved by the Board of Administration.

SECTION XI

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

¶ 239. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America.

¶ 240. At the first meeting of the Board of Managers of said Association after being elected by the General Conference, it shall elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Board, consisting of seven members.

¶ 241. It shall meet annually at Syracuse, N. Y., in the month of June and as much oftener as the President or any three members may decide to be necessary, provided that on General Conference year it shall be legal to call the meeting on a date before the meeting of the General Conference, and at the same place of meeting.

¶ 242. The Publishing Agent shall be considered the head of the business department of this Association, and shall conduct said business as directed by the Board of Managers.

¶ 243. The Publishing Association, through its Agent and Board of Managers, shall print all papers and books, authorized by the General Conference and Board of Administration, and should the facilities be inadequate to do so, the Agent shall report that fact to the Board of Managers, or their Executive Board,

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together with estimates of what it will cost to provide for carrying out the orders of the Board of Administration and General Conference and wait their instructions.

¶ 244. The Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall be the head of the Editorial Department. All improvements that may be needed in editing the paper and the other publications which come under his supervision shall be referred to him and he shall present the same to the Board of Managers or to the Executive Board. At the annual meeting of the Board of Administration in June of each year the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall present a summary of the reports of the Annual Conferences for the year.

¶ 245. The Board of Managers shall cause the business of the Association to be invoiced and audited said invoice shall set forth accurately all the assets and liabilities of the Association. If the assets consist in notes the notes, with the name of the giver, must be made a matter of record. If liabilities are reported the name of the parties shall be given and the authority given by the Agent for incurring said liability. No money shall be borrowed except upon the authority of the Board of Managers or its Executive Board, except in cases of emergency, when the Agent may borrow not more than \$1,000, but he must report the same within ten days, and no second loan shall be obtained, without authority, unless the first one is paid.

¶ 246. The Invoice Committee shall make an itemized statement of the business on the books, but the Agent, in preparing his report for publication may only give summaries of the business.

SECTION XII

THE WESLEYAN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

¶ 247. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Wesleyan Educational Society.

¶ 248. The Educational Society through its Board of Managers shall have charge of all the educational interests of the Church authorized by the General Conference or the Educational Society. None of the following provisions shall be understood to authorize the Wesleyan Educational Society or the Board of Managers to relinquish denominational oversight of the schools under the care of and supported by the Church.

¶ 249. At the first meeting of the Board of Managers after the General Conference, a President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected, and also an Executive Board to consist of seven persons, all for a term of four years.

¶ 250. The Board of Managers shall meet annually in the month of June in Syracuse, N. Y., and as much oftener as the President of the Board or any three members thereof may deem necessary, provided that on the year of the General Conference the meeting shall be called at the place of the General Conference.

¶ 251. The Treasurer shall pay out money as authorized by the Board of Managers or the Executive Board, and shall not contract debts or borrow money except as authorized by the Board of Managers or the Executive Board.

¶ 252. The Board of Managers may elect an Educational Secretary and define his duties. Until this is done the Educational Society shall provide for the field work of each school under its control separately. This field work shall include obtaining endowment notes, pledges and funds for school purposes under the Budget plan, securing students, and interesting our people in our schools.

¶ 253. The Treasurer of each school shall keep a careful account of all financial transactions and make a full report to the Denominational Board of Managers annually.

¶ 254. The General Conference recommends:

1. That each Conference elect a Conference Educational Secretary.

2. That each Conference have a Conference Educational Committee consisting of the Conference Educational Secretary as chairman, the Conference President, the Conference representatives on the Local Board, the Conference Superintendent of the Y. M. W. B., the Conference President of W. Y., and the Conference President of the W. M. S. If W. Y. is not organized, the Conference Educational Committee shall appoint some young person to fill this vacancy.

3. That each church elect a Church Educational Secretary.

4. That each church have a Church Educational Committee consisting of the Church Educational Secretary as chairman, the Pastor, the local Superintendent of the Y. M. W. B., the local President of W. Y., and the local President of the W. M. S. If

W. Y. is not organized, the Church Educational Committee shall appoint some young person to fill this vacancy.

5. That the duties of the Conference Educational Secretary be to act as chairman of the Conference Educational Committee, to hold at least one annual session of this committee, preferably at the time of the Annual Conference, to keep in touch with the school of his district, to try personally and with the aid of his committee to help the school of his district in every possible way, to solicit students for his school, and to try to have his Conference raise a full Educational Budget.

6. That the duties of the Conference Educational Committee be to hold at least one annual session to consider carefully all the educational problems of the Conference, to solicit students for its school, and to try to have its Conference raise a full Educational Budget.

7. That the duties of the Church Educational Secretary be to act as chairman of the Church Educational Committee, to hold sessions of this committee as often as may be necessary, to keep in touch with his Conference Educational Secretary and with the school of his district, to see that every possible prospective student in his church be informed about his school and urged to attend, and to have charge with the members of his committee of raising the Educational Budget of his church.

8. That the duties of the Church Educational Committee be to hold sessions as often as may be

necessary, to solicit students for its school, and to assist in carrying out the plans for raising the Educational Budget of the church.

9. That the charges endeavor to raise their Educational Budget quarterly.

10. That for this purpose the year shall be divided into quarters as follows: Spring Quarter—March, April and May; Summer Quarter—June, July and August; Fall Quarter—September, October and November; Winter Quarter—December, January, February.

11. That the third Sunday of the second month of each quarter be Educational Sunday, and each church shall be requested to take an Educational Offering on each of these Sundays.

12. That the Spring Quarter be called the Y. M. W. B. Quarter and shall be in charge of the Church Educational Secretary and the Superintendent of the Y. M. W. B. All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the Y. M. W. B. The third Sunday in April shall be the Y. M. W. B. Educational Sunday.

13. That the Summer Quarter be called W. Y. Quarter and shall be in charge of the Church Educational Secretary and the President of W. Y. (or substitute). All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through W. Y. The third Sunday in July shall be W. Y. Educational Sunday.

14. That the Fall Quarter be called the Harvest Day Quarter and shall be in charge of the Church

Educational Secretary and the President of the local W. M. S. All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the W. M. S. The third Sunday in October shall be the W. M. S. Educational Sunday.

15. That the Winter Quarter be called the Christmas Quarter and shall be in charge of the Church Educational Secretary and the Pastor. All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the Christmas Offering. The third Sunday in January shall be the Christmas Offering Educational Sunday.

16. That the President of each school shall be ex-officio member of all the committees in his district with the right to be present and speak but not to vote.

¶ 255. Any church having a successful financial plan and raising a full Educational Budget may continue that plan and not use this financial plan. However, in that case it is recommended that the Educational Secretary be elected and the Educational Committee be organized for the purpose of soliciting students and helping in the solution of other Educational problems.

¶ 256. (1) The Conferences of the Church shall be divided into school districts as follows: **Houghton District:** Allegheny, Canada, Rochester, Champlain, Lockport, Middle Atlantic States, Michigan. **Central District:** Alabama, South Georgia, North Carolina, North Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida. **Miltonvale District:** California, Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin. **Ma-**

tion District: North Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois. **Wesleyan Methodist Bible College of Melbourne, Australia:** Australia.

(2) We are aware that most great moves away from the simplicity of the gospel and away from the fundamentals of the faith in the various Churches have had their beginnings in the school systems, and we believe that it must be insisted upon that all our schools should function to produce trained Christian workers for her ranks. General education should be a secondary matter, not the primary object of the Church. No school under Church patronage and support shall be allowed to call in question, much less deny, the position of the Church on any point of doctrine or Church polity. The province of the Church is to declare doctrine and of the school to teach what the Church declares. We require therefore, that no person be employed to teach in our schools who does not thoroughly believe in and advocate the doctrine of Bible Holiness, as set forth in our Book of Discipline, Appendix A, Paragraph 30, Sub-Paragraphs 9, 10.

(3) To the accomplishment of this end the Board of Administration shall be in general control and supervision of all the educational institutions of the Church no matter what their organization, and be able thereby to formulate and effect a unified procedure in the teaching and promulgation of the ideals and doctrines of the Church.

(4) In the corporation of schools it appears that they must function in their business transactions as separate incorporations. This will in no way pre-

vent the carrying out of the foregoing proposals; but it will only necessitate the election of the members of the Board of Administration as the General Trustees of the college corporations and require that all their business transactions be reported to and approved by the Board of Administration.

(5) The General Board of Trustees of each school corporation shall be the Board of Administration.

(6) Each school shall have a treasurer elected for its own work who shall have the custody of and, together with the management, responsibility for the finances and assets of said school.

(7) Each school district shall have a Local Board of Trustees of not less than five and not more than fifteen members, who shall be elected by ballot by the annual conferences of the district at their annual sessions upon nomination by a committee designated for the purpose. Nominations to the Board may also be made from the floor. An effort shall be made by the electing conferences to maintain parity of lay and ministerial membership on the Board. The delegates from each district shall determine, at the time of each General Conference, the number of members of the Local Board of Trustees and the basis of distribution among the Conferences of the district; provided that each Conference shall have at least one member on the Local Board of Trustees who shall reside within the bounds of said conference. The term of office of this Local Board of Trustees shall be four years.

In order to insure a degree of continuity on the

Board approximately one-half of the members shall be elected by their annual conferences in the session next following the General Conference and approximately one-half of the third session of the annual conferences following the General Conference. Provided that at the General Conference of 1955 the delegates from each district shall designate approximately half of the members of the Board to be elected for terms of two years instead of four years, specifying these by conferences, the terms thereafter to be regularly for four years and this sentence to be removed from the following Discipline.

The President or Acting President of each of our schools shall be a member of the Local Board of Trustees by virtue of his office. No other member of the faculty of any of our schools shall be a member of the Local Board of Trustees.

(8) Each Annual Conference may also elect by ballot sufficient alternate members of the Local Board of Trustees for their respective school districts who shall serve on the Local Board of Trustees for our schools in the absence of anyone of the regular members of the board. They shall serve as alternates, in the order in which they were elected, at such meetings as the regular members cannot serve.

(9) As previously in the history of our educational institutions, the Board of Administration as General Board of Trustees of the Institutions is vested with the following:

Executive Board of not more than five nor less than three members whose duties shall be defined by the Local Board. The Local Board shall meet annually and as much oftener as it may vote, or as the president or any five members shall deem necessary.

(13) Since the spirit of arbitrary government is contrary to the ideals of our Church, therefore in the future all allotting of new territory should be by petition from the Annual Conference concerned, passed by a two-thirds vote of said conference and accepted by the Board of Administration.

(14) We recommend that all our schools shall as far as practical, secure speakers interchangeably between the schools for Commencement exercises and for other special meetings.

(15) Should it be thought necessary by the Board of Administration, in order to properly advance the interests of any school, to go beyond the ability of a district in which the school is located in the matter of expenditure, then the Board of Administration or General Conference shall have the right to make a general appeal covering the entire Church for the amount needed.

¶ 257. (1) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Houghton College.

(2) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Houghton Wesleyan Methodist Seminary.

(3) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Central College.

(4) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Miltonvale College.

(5) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Marion College.

(6) The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Bible College of Melbourne, Australia.

SECTION XIII

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

I. Parent Board

¶ 258. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and shall have its place of business in the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing House in Syracuse, N. Y. It shall hold an annual meeting each year, and special meetings may be called by the President, or by any three members of the Board of Managers.

¶ 259. At the first annual meeting of the Board of Managers following the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference a President, Secretary, and a Treasurer for the foreign missionary work and one for the home missionary work, shall be elected for a term of four years. The duties of these officers shall be such as usually belong to such officials; provided, however, that the Treasurers shall be the custodians of all the funds and property of the Society, and shall be held responsible for all moneys which shall come into their hands. They shall not cancel or surrender any note or obligation held against any one, except when paid, without the order of the Missionary Board or the Executive Board, nor shall they make any loans or borrow any money except as authorized by the Board of Managers or its Executive Board.

¶ 260. There shall be an Executive Board consisting of seven persons to be elected by the full Board at

its first regular meeting after the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, for a term of four years, and this Board shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the full Board.

¶ 261. The Missionary Society shall have general charge of all the general missionary work of the denomination, and may help such Annual Conferences as are not self-supporting. Written contracts shall be entered into with all missionaries in the employ of this Board.

¶ 262. Before new territory shall be entered upon and occupied by this Board a thorough investigation shall be made and estimates furnished and full reports given to the Board or the Executive Board and instructions shall be given regarding the work to be done.

¶ 263. All appropriations shall be classified and where a Conference is receiving help the appropriation shall be made to the Conference and not to individuals; provided, however, that the Board may direct how the appropriations shall be used. Annual Conferences receiving help from this Board shall pay at least one-half of the money raised within its territory for missions into the treasury of this Board, and where desired the conferences may pay all of their missionary money into the treasury to be disbursed under the regular rules.

¶ 264. The Secretary of Foreign Missions shall have the superintendency of the foreign missionary interests of our Church and be responsible for its financial management under the direction of the Missionary Board, and may be the treasurer of

the foreign missionary funds. It shall be his duty to solicit and secure funds from all available sources, and visit the churches and Conferences in the interest of the work as the need may require. He may also recommend the employment of returned missionaries to work in the churches and Conferences, and contracts with such workers shall be valid only when signed by three members of the Executive Board. When the Missionary Board of the General Conference shall so direct, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Foreign Missions to visit each of our missionary fields in foreign territory, and also the fields in which it is proposed to begin foreign missionary work, as often and for as great a length of time as the needs of the work may require, and report the same to the Missionary Board. He shall make a full report of his activities and the financial condition of the work to the Missionary Board.

¶ 265. The Secretary of Home Missions shall have the superintendency of the Home Missionary interests of our Church and be responsible for the financial management under the direction of the Missionary Board, and may be the treasurer of the Home Missionary funds. It shall be his duty to solicit and secure funds from all available sources, and visit the churches and Conferences in the interest of the work as the need may require. He shall employ as much of his time as possible in developing the Home Missionary work. He may employ such additional help in this work as may be required; the time of service, the remuneration, and the duties shall be determined by the Missionary Board upon the recommendation

of the Secretary of Home Missions. The Secretary of Home Missions shall make a full report of his activities and the financial condition of the work to the Missionary Board.

II. Denominational Evangelism

¶ 266. The Missionary Society shall have under its management and direction the general evangelistic work of the Church, and shall conduct these activities through the Secretary of Home Missions; provided that if it is deemed for the best interests of the work some other arrangement may be made for the care of the work. The Missionary Society shall recommend from time to time such books and reading matter as may promote a more general interest in evangelism, and in other ways as it may determine seek to extend evangelistic activities throughout the Church. The Missionary Society may recommend such persons as are endorsed for general evangelistic work by the conferences in which they hold their membership, and publish a list of such evangelists in *The Wesleyan Methodist*.

¶ 267. It shall examine into the fitness and availability of persons for general evangelistic work, engage such as may meet its approval and the needs of the work may require, designate the nature and field of their activities and direct the same, and require reports to be made. It shall enter into such agreement for the employment and remuneration of these persons as may meet the necessity of the case and the available resources for this purpose may warrant. When such persons shall have been engaged

they shall be designated as denominational evangelists.

III. Board of Church Extension

¶ 268. (1) There shall be a Board of Church Extension of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, under the direction and control of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Board of Church Extension to prepare for the use of our Annual Conferences and churches such church building plans and general data on construction as may be needed by our people for their information in erecting suitable buildings for the church and Sunday School.

¶ 269. The Missionary Society shall have authority to make by-laws for its government; to provide for and administer a Church Aid Fund; to hold in trust any real estate or personal property, and to dispose of the same for the use and benefit of the Church Extension Society.

¶ 270. All loans to churches shall be secured by real estate; and the aggregate amount of loans or aid to any conference in any year shall not exceed the amount accruing from funds raised within the bounds of said Conference during that year, unless by a special action of the Parent Board.

¶ 271. Each Annual Conference Missionary Society shall be constituted a Conference Board of Church Extension, and shall, under the direction of the Parent Board, have charge of all interests and work of Church Extension within its Conference bor-

ders; and shall make due effort to raise the amount assessed by the Parent Board, as well as secure bequests, donations and loans to the Aid Fund.

¶ 272. All applications for aid or loans to any church shall be made first to the Conference Board of Church Extension, and after due examination, all applications found to be worthy shall be recommended by the Conference Board to the Parent Board for their consideration and final action.

¶ 273. In order to create and maintain a Church Aid Fund, every preacher in charge of a work shall urge his people to pay, each year, a sum not less than fifteen cents per member to this fund, which shall by him be reported to Conference, and the money paid to Conference Treasurer at his earliest convenience.

¶ 274. All applications for aid shall be made on blanks furnished by the Parent Board to the Conference Board, and shall cover the following ground, to wit:

(1) Number of church members, Sunday-school children, and size of congregation to be accommodated.

(2) Legal incorporation of the Board of Trustees.

(3) Location of lot, size, value, and if it will be deeded according to blank furnished by Parent Board of Church Extension.

(4) Description of building: 1. Size; 2. Cost; 3. Available subscription; 4. Other resources to raise debt; 5. Prospect of the church being self-supporting; 6. Will the trustees bind themselves to keep the building insured?

¶ 275. In purely mission fields the Parent Board

may appropriate directly, upon compliance with the paragraph above concerning blanks, except applications shall be made direct to Parent Board, and by the same furnished with blanks. In some cases the title to such property shall rest in the Parent Board of Church Extension.

IV. Advisory Council for Missions

¶ 275A. There shall be a central Advisory Council for Missions which shall be composed of the Secretary of Foreign Missions, the Secretary of Home Missions, the President of the General Woman's Missionary Society, the Editor of the Wesleyan Missionary, the General Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, the General Secretary of Wesleyan Youth, and one other member elected by the Board of Administration from its own membership. This council shall elect annually its own chairman. It shall meet semi-annually, once at the time of the annual meeting of the Board of Administration and at the time of one of the meetings of the Executive Board, and at other times by the call of the chairman, to discuss the problems of the Home and Foreign Missionary work and projected plans and policies for this work in order that the members of the Council may share the prayer burden of these matters and that there may be a full sharing of information among the members of the Council. Each department shall bear the expense of its representation on this Council.

V. Annual Conference Missionary Societies

¶ 276. Each Annual Conference shall also be a Missionary Society, and shall devote not less than

one meeting of its session in considering the work of missions, within its own territory, and also Home and Foreign Missions. Let the Conference have a Missionary Secretary or some other person deliver an address on the subject of missions.

¶ 277. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Missionary Board of not less than three persons, of which the President of the Conference shall be one, and he shall also be President of the Missionary Board. The President of the Conference Woman's Missionary Society shall by virtue of her office be a member of the Missionary Board of the Annual Conference. They shall serve one year, unless a longer term of service has been provided for in articles of incorporation. If a vacancy shall occur during the year, then the remaining members of the Board shall fill the vacancy, provided, it does not occur in the Presidency, and provided further, that where Annual Conferences are incorporated, said vacancies shall be filled as provided for in the articles of incorporation. In case of a vacancy in the Presidency, then the committee appointed by the Annual Conference to fill vacancies shall appoint. If the Annual Conference does not elect a Treasurer, or one is not provided for where an Annual Conference is incorporated, then the Missionary Board shall elect a Treasurer, who shall receive all the funds paid in for the use of said Annual Conference, and shall make full report of the same to the Annual Conference. He shall keep the accounts in a substantial book, in proper form, indicating who paid the money and for what purpose it was paid, and shall turn over the books to his successor in office. This shall not prevent Annual Conferences

or Boards of Trustees or Mission Boards from electing sub-treasurers for special funds, but all moneys must first be paid to the Treasurer and by him paid to the sub-treasurers where there are such. All money received by the Treasurer, or sub-treasurer shall only be paid out as the Conference shall order it paid. The Annual Conference, however, may authorize the Board of Trustees or its Missionary Board or any other Board of Managers to pay out money between the sessions of the Annual Conference, by giving such authority as is necessary at the time of its annual session.

¶ 278. The Missionary Board of each Annual Conference shall be the Board of Managers for said Annual Conference, and shall carry on the work of missions between the sessions of the said Annual Conference, as said Annual Conference may instruct, or direct. It may employ missionary evangelists between the sessions of the Annual Conference and when so employed said missionary evangelist shall report to the Annual Conference the same as if they had been appointed thereto by the Annual Conference.

¶ 279. Each Annual Conference shall adopt such rules as it may judge necessary to carry on the work of missions, provided that no rule shall contravene any article or principle of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

¶ 280. Each pastor shall hold at least one general missionary service at each appointment during the year, and shall carry out such instructions as the Annual Conference may give. He shall make a thorough canvass for missionary funds. This shall

be done in person, or by some one appointed by the pastor, and he shall pay to the Annual Conference Treasurer in cash or by receipt, all money raised on the charge. It is recommended that all pastors hold missionary rallies on their works during the year, calling to their aid other pastors or other persons interested in missions. It is recommended that the circuits elect local boards for missionary purposes, whose duties shall be to canvass the work of missions within the immediate vicinity of their churches, and in connection with their pastor see that such territory is occupied, if not occupied by the conference missionary evangelist. The Annual Conference may divide all moneys not specifically directed as to use, in such a way as they judge will best carry on the work of missions. If the Annual Conference does not divide the money then the Parent Board may divide it as will best serve the needs of the general work. No Annual Conference should pass the character of a pastor who fails to do his duty as above specified.

VI. Constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America

¶ 281. Article 1. Name: This organization shall be known as the Woman's Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

¶ 282. Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this Society is to extend the kingdom of God in the home and foreign field, by increasing the knowledge of missions, stimulating interest therein, and encouraging a spirit of prayer and giving for the work.

¶ 282A. Article 3. Meetings. Quadrennial Ses-

sions: There shall be a quadrennial session of the Society, composed of the Executive Board, Area Chairmen, Conference Society Presidents, and duly elected delegates from the Conference societies, in order to promote the purpose of the Society as above stated, and for the election of officers and the transaction of business in harmony with this constitution.

¶ 283. Article 4. Relationship to the Church: The Woman's Missionary Society, although separately incorporated, shall work as an integral part of and in harmony with the Missionary Society of the Church, and shall make a full financial report annually and quadrennially.

¶ 284. Article 5. Officers:

(1) The officers of this Society shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Literature Secretary, Treasurer, the Editor of the Wesleyan Missionary, and the Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band.

(2) These officers shall be elected quadrennially by ballot.

(3) These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.

(4) These officers shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) The Area Chairmen shall be advisory members of the Executive Board.

(6) The term of office of these officials shall coincide with that of the officials of the General Conference as stated in Paragraph 217 (1).

¶ 285. Article 6. Duties of Officers:

(1) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board, and shall have general oversight of the work, and shall also be the General Organizer. The President shall be a member of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. The President shall present an annual general and financial report to said Board of Managers, and a quadrennial report to the General Conference. If possible she shall visit each Annual Conference once during the quadrennium.

(2) In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office. She shall also assist the President in the management and work of the Society.

(3) The Literature Secretary shall have charge of the Literature Department. She shall prepare for the Executive Board an annual financial report covering the work of her department, the same to become a part of the annual report of the Woman's Missionary Society to the Board of Administration. She shall also prepare a quadrennial report for the General Conference.

(4) The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the quadrennial session, and of the meetings of the Executive Board or any business transacted by them during the interim, and prepare a full report of the work of the Society quadrennially, which summary shall be spread upon the Society's records.

(5) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all moneys of the Society reported to her and shall hold in trust the funds of the Society, paying out the

same on order signed by the President and Secretary. She shall remit all Educational, Home and Foreign funds monthly to the Treasurers of the School, Home and Foreign Departments, respectively. She shall prepare annual and quadrennial financial reports and present these to the Board of Managers and to the General Conference.

(6) The Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society shall have power to administer the affairs of the Society during the interim between the quadrennial meetings. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

(7) Areas: There shall be five areas constituted as follows: (a) East, comprised of Champlain, Rochester, Lockport, Allegheny, Middle Atlantic States, Canada and Michigan. (b) East Central, comprised of Indiana, Kentucky, North Michigan, Ohio, South Ohio and Illinois. (c) West Central, comprised of Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. (d) West, comprised of California, Oregon, and other western States. (e) South, comprised of Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee and Florida.

(8) An Area Chairman shall be nominated by the delegates from each area and elected by the quadrennial session. It shall be the duty of the Area Chairman to arrange for an Area Convention during the quadrennium and to promote the work in general, reporting to and working with the General President (and Executive Board) of the Woman's Missionary Society.

(9) The General Superintendent shall preside at the quadrennial meeting of the conference Young Missionary Workers' Band superintendents and shall present the interests of the Young Missionary Workers' Band at the meeting of the Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society of which she is a member. She shall exercise general supervision of the work under the Woman's Missionary Society. She shall edit "The Young Missionary" and act as Treasurer of all funds received from conference superintendents and other sources. Said funds shall be sent in monthly as designated to the General Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society, ten per cent of undesignated Home and Foreign Funds to be retained in the General Treasury to become part of the General Fund.

(10) When an official fails to perform the duties devolving upon her, the Executive Board may declare the office vacant.

¶ 286. Article 7. By-laws: This society may have the power to enact by-laws which shall not be in conflict with the sense of this Constitution or the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

¶ 286A. Article 8. Memorials: All memorials relating to the revision of the Constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society must first be presented to the Executive Board of the same.

VII. Constitution of the Conference Society

¶ 287. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of _____ Conference.

¶ 288. Article 2. Purpose: It shall be the object of this Society to secure systematic coöperation throughout the Conference in the interest of Home and Foreign Missions.

¶ 289. Article 3. Membership: The Annual meeting shall be composed of the Conference Missionary Society officers, the presidents of the locals, and one delegate for each local society.

¶ 290. Article 4. Meetings: The meetings of this Society shall be held annually.

¶ 291. Article 5. Officers:

(1) The officers of this Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band who shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and who shall together constitute an Executive Committee to transact business in the interim of the annual sessions. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in the offices of this Society.

(2) These officers shall be elected annually by ballot.

¶ 292. Article 6. Duties of Officers:

(1) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings and supervise the interests and work of the Society. It shall also be her duty to organize societies. She shall bring to the Annual Conference each year a general and financial report and shall, by virtue of her office, be a member of the Missionary Board of the Annual Conference.

(2) In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office. She shall also assist the President in the management and work of the Society.

(3) The Secretary shall keep a full record of all proceedings of the annual and executive sessions. She shall prepare a statistical report for the quadrennial session of the Woman's Missionary Society.

(4) The Treasurer shall give receipts for all monies received and shall disburse funds quarterly oftener to the General Woman's Missionary Society Treasurer by vote of the Conference, or according to the desire of those contributing. She shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall render an annual statement of the same for the Conference Society.

(5) The Conference Superintendent shall preside at the annual meeting of the local Young Missionary Workers' Band superintendents. She shall have general supervision of the work of the local Bands, give instructions to the local superintendents, receive and record all money sent by them and forward the same to the General Superintendent. She shall bring to the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society a general and financial report of the year, and shall forward financial report to the General Superintendent on authorized forms.

She shall be a member of the Woman's Missionary Society Executive Board of the annual conference. It shall be her task to organize new bands wherever possible.

¶ 293. Article 7. Funds: It is required that twenty-five cents per member of the Local Society dues be forwarded through the Conference Society Treasurer to the Treasurer of the General Conference Society for the general fund. Also that twenty-five cents be retained in the Conference Society Treasury, and that the remaining fifty cents be used directly for missionary work and be applied on local church budget.

¶ 294. Article 8. Delegates: At the last annual session preceding the session of the General Conference Society, the Conference Society shall elect one delegate for each 300 active local members or major fraction thereof; who together with the President shall be delegates to the Quadrennial Session of the W. M. S. of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, providing that each Conference Society shall be entitled to not less than two voting members in the General Society.

¶ 295. Article 9. By-Laws: This Society shall have the right to enact by-laws not conflicting with this Constitution and the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

VIII. Constitution of Local Societies

¶ 296. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of _____.

¶ 297. Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this Society shall be to arouse and give direction to a missionary spirit among the people, to devise lawful means to interest them in missionary work, to put

forth systematic effort to raise money for the support of the gospel at home and in needy places and to do such other work as may be for the good of the souls and bodies of perishing humanity.

¶ 298. Article 3. Membership:

(1) Active membership in this Society is open to any woman paying into the treasury the sum of one dollar annually.

(2) Any man may become an honorary member by a payment of the same.

¶ 299. Article 4. Meetings:

(1) This Society shall, if possible, hold regular bi-monthly meetings, at one of which we urge mission study.

(2) The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held the month preceding the conference session; and the official year shall begin at the close of said session.

¶ 300. Article 5. Funds: This Society shall send to the Treasurer of the Conference Society the membership dues and such a portion of other funds raised as it shall deem proper, and shall have a right to specify as to the division of such funds between Home and Foreign Missions.

¶ 301. Article 6. Officers:

(1) The officers of this Society shall be members of the local society electing, and shall consist of a President and Vice-President who shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, except in the case of a pioneer work or mission not yet organized

as a Wesleyan Methodist Church; Secretary, Treasurer, Work Director, and Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band. The last named shall be a member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. Where this is not practicable, a non-member may be appointed by the Woman's Missionary Society President in consultation with the pastor.

(2) These officers shall be elected annually by ballot.

¶ 302. Article 7. Duties of Officers:

(1) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and shall have general oversight of the work.

(2) In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office.

(3) The Secretary shall keep a record of members, and keep the minutes of all meetings.

(4) The Treasurer shall receive all moneys raised by the Society and remit the same as directed by the Society and shall make an annual report according to printed report blank to the Conference Society.

(5) The Work Director shall have charge of the manual work performed by the Society.

Section 1. The supervising officer of the local organization shall be the superintendent. Her term of office shall be one year. She shall be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church when practicable. An assistant superintendent may be elected.

Section 2. Where no Woman's Missionary Society exists, the superintendent shall be elected by the church.

¶ 303. Article 8. Delegates: At the last regular meeting preceding the session of the Annual Conference Society, this Society shall elect one person who together with the President, shall be the delegates to the annual session of the Conference Woman's Missionary Society.

¶ 304. Article 9. Committees: There shall be a Program Committee, and such other committees as shall be deemed necessary.

The quadrennial reports of both Local and Annual Conference Societies shall be from the Annual Conference following the General Conference to the first one preceding the next General Conference.

IX. Constitution of the Young Missionary Workers' Band

Article I

¶ 305. The name of this organization shall be the Young Missionary Workers' Band, auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article II

¶ 306. The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to promote among the boys and girls of our congregations a true interest in Christian missions; (2) to train them for Christian service by the study of the Bible and missions, and (3) to raise funds for worldwide evangelism.

Article III

¶ 307: There shall be a quadrennial meeting of the conference Young Missionary Workers' Band superintendents at the time and place of the General

Conference of the Church for inspiration and the promotion of the general interest of the organization.

Article IV

¶ 308. The Young Missionary Workers' Band shall function under the general direction of the Woman's Missionary Society. The organization through its General Superintendent and Treasurer shall submit to the Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society monthly and annually a report of all offerings received and disbursements made to the General Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Note: For duties of the General and Conference Y.M.W.B. Superintendents see paragraph 285, Article 6, sub-paragraph (9), and Paragraph 292, Article 6, sub-paragraph (5).

Article V

¶ 309. There shall be a meeting of local superintendents at the time of the annual conference for the purpose of inspiration, fellowship and instruction. Workshops for the promotion of the Band may be held during the year.

IXA. The Local Y.M.W.B. Constitution

Article I

¶ 310. The Band shall be called The Young Missionary Workers' Band of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article II

Section 1. Active membership shall include all children of age thirteen or younger who pay the membership dues of not less than one cent per week.

Section 2. Honorary membership shall be open to all persons over age thirteen who pay the membership dues above specified.

Article III

Section 1. Twelve meetings a year shall be held for the active members of the Band, ten of which shall be held in the interests of Foreign Missions, one for Home Missions, and one for Education. Public services shall be planned quarterly, when advisable. At these meetings, offerings may be taken for special interests presented.

Section 2. Monthly meetings shall be held, at which time the programs outlined in "The Young Missionary" shall be employed.

Article IV

It shall be the duty of the local superintendent: to supervise the monthly meetings of the Band according to the general purposes of the organization; to keep a record of dues and offerings received; to forward the same quarterly to the conference superintendent. She shall make out an annual report of the Band on forms supplied. She shall present a written report of the spiritual and financial status of the Band at the time of the quarterly business meeting of the church.

This Constitution may be amended by the usual Disciplinary procedure.

¶ 312. Foot-note to the entire set of Constitutions:—Methods for raising funds in all these organizations, shall be in harmony with the principles of Wesleyan Methodism.

X. Constitution of The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America

¶ 312A. Article 1. Name: This organization shall be known as The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the spiritual welfare of each member, and to further the cause of the Kingdom of God among men at home and abroad, by promoting missionary enthusiasm, personal evangelism, and educational interests, and by definite financial assistance in each of these spheres.

Article 3. Relationship to the Church: This organization shall function as an auxiliary organization of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. It shall make full and complete financial reports annually and quadrennially to the Board of Administration, and at any other time requested by the Executive Board.

The Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America shall be the Board of Managers for this organization.

Article 4. Officers: The supervising officer of this organization shall be the General Secretary of The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. He shall be elected quadrennially by ballot by the Board of Administration at its first meeting after the rise of the General Conference. The General Secretary shall also serve as the General Treasurer of this organization, unless the Board of Administration sees fit to elect a special Treasurer.

Article 5. Duties of the General Secretary:

1. The General Secretary shall have the general supervision of The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship, subject to the oversight of the Board of Administration. He shall diligently promote the organization of local Men's Fellowships in the various churches of the Denomination, and shall endeavor to interest the men of the Denomination in this organization. He shall also have charge of arranging the programs for the general use of all the Fellowships, and it is requested that he shall have the privilege of publishing these in the Church periodicals; he shall be assigned sufficient space each month in The Wesleyan Methodist for publicizing and promoting the interests of this organization.

2. As treasurer, he shall receive and hold in custody all funds of this organization. He shall pay out the money only as instructed by the Board of Administration, and shall render annual and quadrennial reports as stated above.

Article 6. Amendments: This constitution may be amended by due disciplinary process, subject to the approval of the General Conference next in session.

Article 7. Conference Officers: Conference Promotional Secretary.

1. There shall be a Conference Promotional Secretary elected by each conference, who shall work in liaison with the General Denominational Secretary for promotion of The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship in each Annual Conference.

Conference Men's Fellowship Treasurer.

2. The Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall be the treasurer of this Fellowship for the Conference. He shall report to the General Secretary on such forms as may be furnished for that purpose.

XI. Constitution of The Local Wesleyan Men's Fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America

¶ 312B. Article 1. Name: The name of this organization shall be The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship of _____ Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the spiritual welfare of each member, and to further the cause of the Kingdom of God among men at home and abroad, by promoting missionary enthusiasm, personal evangelism, and educational interests, and by definite financial assistance in each of these spheres.

Article 3. Membership and Dues:

1. The membership of this organization shall be open to all men of good character regardless of denominational affiliation. Honorary membership may be accorded to such ladies as request this relationship:

Article 4. Local Officers: The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be members in good standing of the local Wesleyan Methodist church, and shall be elected annually by ballot at the

first meeting of the Fellowship in the new conference year.

Article 5. Duties of Local Officers:

1. It shall be the duty of the President of this organization to preside at the monthly business meeting, and to appoint the necessary committees. He shall also have the general supervision of The Wesleyan Men's Fellowship, under the general oversight of the pastor of the church. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the case of the death or resignation of the President.

3. The Secretary shall keep correct records of the activities of this organization.

4. The Treasurer shall receive and hold in custody all funds of this organization, and shall make a financial report to all regular meetings of the local Fellowship.

Article 6. Committees: Committees may be elected, as needs may require.

Article 7. Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by due disciplinary process, subject to final approval of the General Conference next in session.

SECTION XIII A

PENSION PLAN

There Shall Be A Pension Plan.

¶ 313. Item 1. It shall be established as follows:

(1) By gifts, bequests, annuities, and endowments.

(2) Each member of the Plan shall pay a membership fee of \$25.00.

(3) Not more than 50% of the total funds of this Plan shall be loaned and all loans shall be secured by a first mortgage on real estate; and in no case shall it exceed 50% of the appraised value of the real estate.

Further regulations governing loans from the Pension Plan Funds may be made by the Board of Administration and when so made may be published by its order.

(4) The percentage of the balance which may be invested in government bonds shall be determined by the Board of Administration.

(5) From these funds (establishing the Plan) the Board of Administration may direct the use of such sums as may be necessary to purchase essential equipment or meet emergencies which may arise.

¶ 314. Item 2. It shall be maintained as follows:

(1) By gifts, bequests, and endowments.

(2) A budget of \$1.50 per year per each church member should be paid by the Conference Treasurer to the Treasurer of the fund quarterly.

(3) There shall be paid into the treasury of the Pension Plan one per cent of the church budget received by the Foreign Missions and Home Missions

Department Treasuries, and one per cent of the pay roll of the staff members, who are members of the Plan, by the Treasuries of our several schools, provided that no school shall pay less than one hundred dollars.

(4) Each member of the Plan shall pay one per cent of his total receipts beginning at the rise of each annual conference after July 1, 1947, the same to be paid quarterly.

¶ 315. Item 3. It shall be administered by the following method:

(1) The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Plan. It shall be the duty of this Board of Managers, or its Executive Board, to receive, review and approve all applications for membership in the Plan; and approve the applications for benefits. The Board shall elect a Treasurer of the fund whose duty it shall be to receive, hold, invest and disburse the funds according to its orders. This Board shall set up the Plan for operation and is empowered to make adjustments of assessments and benefits from time to time as prevailing conditions may demand. The decisions of this Board on the points of appeal shall be final.

(2) The Board and the Treasurer shall be required to publish an annual and quadrennial financial report.

(3) The Treasurer shall be required to keep a complete record of the status of each member of the Plan and supply to the Board of Administration such information as they may require.

¶ 316. Item 4. Persons eligible for membership shall be:

(1) Elders and Conference Preachers who are giving full time to a conference appointment and his time of service shall begin with his first full-time conference appointment.

(2) Elders who are giving full time to a conference or denominational office and lay members who are giving full time to a denominational office or as staff members of our schools.

(3) Evangelists who are giving full time in the evangelistic field and missionaries.

(4) Persons eligible shall participate under this Plan one year after the Plan has been approved by their annual conferences and their membership applications have been approved.

(5) All persons eligible for membership in the Pension Plan on June 1, 1955, must become members of the Plan within two years, and all who subsequently become eligible for membership must join within a two-year period from the time of their eligibility or forfeit their right to become members; however, the above restriction may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Administration.

¶ 317. Item 5. Benefits shall be paid quarterly on the following scale:

(1) Married members may be paid an annual sum not to exceed \$20 per year of service rendered to The Wesleyan Methodist Church subject to certain limitations which provide that one may earn as much

as \$1,200 a year and continue to receive full benefit payments. For every \$50 (or fraction thereof) over the \$1,200 earned from any type of work, benefits based on one year's service credit will be deducted. His earnings in any amount after he reaches the age of 72 will in no way affect his benefit payments. The above shall not apply to those whose pension benefits do not exceed \$500 during the year.

(2) Single members and widows of members may be paid an annual sum not to exceed \$17 per each year of service rendered to The Wesleyan Methodist Church subject to certain limitations which provide that one may earn as much as \$1,200 a year and continue to receive full benefit payments. For every \$50 (or fraction thereof) over the \$1,200 earned from any type of work, benefits based on one year's service credit will be deducted. His earnings in any amount after he or she reaches the age of 72 will in no way affect benefit payments. The above shall not apply to those whose pension benefits do not exceed \$500 during the year. In the case where the widow has served as a pastor, member of the faculty of one of our schools, missionary, or any other work covered by the Pension Plan before marriage, she shall receive full benefits for all services rendered under Pension Plan coverage.

(3) Under no circumstances shall any one family receive more than one benefit.

(4) Any individual, eligible for membership and failing to join the Plan, may become a member by paying his enrollment fee provided that, if he shall

waive service credit for such years as he has not paid assessments, he may become a member by paying his membership fee.

(5) Claims paid any Conference during any Conference year shall be reduced by the percentage by which said Conference may have failed to pay its full pension budget assignment for the preceding Conference year.

(6) One who has been a member of the Plan for five years or more, when transferring to a Conference where the Plan is not in operation, may retain his membership by paying two percent of his assessments.

(7) Should an individual who is superannuated by one Annual Conference transfer his Conference membership to another Conference, the benefits paid to him shall be on the basis of payments due to the superannuates in the Annual Conference by which he was superannuated.

(8) The termination of membership in the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall terminate membership in the plan.

(9) If a member ceases to be engaged in work covered by the Pension Plan he may discontinue payment of his assessments and upon retirement be eligible to draw benefits on the years of service rendered under the Pension Plan.

¶ 318. Item 6. The minimum age of retirement shall be 65 years, but no benefits shall be paid before actual retirement. However, a member may become

eligible to receive benefits if he becomes incapacitated for service before his 65th birthday.

¶ 319. Item 7. Should a member fail to complete the payment of his quarterly assessments for the current year by the close of the conference fiscal year, he should be granted a grace period of six months before he forfeits his rights to benefits, but he may be reinstated by the approval of the Board and the payment or adjustment of all unpaid assessments with interest as determined by the Board of Managers. Should a member be compelled to withdraw temporarily from active duty because of ill health either of himself or of some member of his family he may retain his membership in the Plan by paying the average of his past annual assessments, unless he should choose to waive service credit for such a period of temporary retirement; in which case the above assessments would not be paid and he could be reinstated by complying with the requirements of the Board and paying a nominal fee of \$5.00.

¶ 320. Item 8. Should a member withdraw from the Plan he may draw out of the treasury, by giving the treasurer written notice sixty days in advance, not to exceed seventy-five per cent of all assessments he has paid in and all other funds paid into the Plan by said member shall be forfeited to the Plan.

(1) In the case of an elder or conference preacher who, by conference action, is required to surrender his credentials or surrenders his credentials rather

than accept trial, he shall forfeit all funds he has paid in as well as all claims to benefits.

¶ 321. Item 9. Should a widow re-marry her name is automatically dropped from the benefit roll. In the event of the death of any member of the Plan and also the death or re-marriage of his widow, his heirs, legatees, assigns, or estate shall have no right or claim to any interest in the Plan, except in the case of children under seventeen years of age, who shall in the event of the death of both parents receive benefits until they are seventeen years of age equivalent to that received by the last surviving parent.

¶ 322. Item 10. It is provided that all persons who are on the Superannuate list at the time of the adoption of this Plan shall become members of the Pension Plan without being required to pay the initial membership fee.

¶ 323. Item 11. It is also provided that the balance in the Denominational Superannuate Fund shall be transferred to the treasury of the Pension Plan at the discretion of the General Conference.

¶ 324. Item 12. The General Conference shall retain the right to revise and change the rules of this Plan at any of its quadrennial sessions by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION XIV

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

¶ 328. For the moral and religious instruction of our people, and for the promotion of Bible Holiness, and the propagation of other doctrines essential to the development of Christian character, we consider the Sunday school a necessary and indispensable institution of the Church.

¶ 329. The Board of Administration shall constitute the General Sunday School Board. The work of the Sunday School Board shall be to educate the Church in all phases of Sunday-school work, and to provide the means necessary in literature and otherwise, to elevate ideals and improve methods and direct in general the study of the Bible in the Church.

¶ 330. The Editor of Sunday-school Literature shall have general Superintendency of the Sunday schools of the Church, and shall edit the Sunday-school literature and supplies, and shall promote the general interests of the Sunday-school work under the direction of the General Sunday School Board, which shall have power to define his duties.

¶ 331. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Sunday School Board which shall be a continuing board; each member thereof shall be elected for a term of two years and in such manner as to provide that the term of the entire membership does not expire at the same time. The Board shall consist of three or five competent and interested in-

dividuals who shall have the direction of the Annual Conference Sunday school work, under the direction of the General Sunday School Board. The Conference Sunday School Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year and shall be chairman of the Sunday School Board. The Board shall nominate for election by the Annual Conference a person to serve as Director of Child Evangelism. This one may be, but need not be, a member of the Board.

¶ 332. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Sunday School Secretary, who shall be a member of the Annual Conference Sunday School Board, and whose duties are:

(1) To report to the Editor of Sunday-school Literature at once after his election, and cooperate with him in carrying out the plans of the General Sunday School Board.

(2) To cooperate with the pastors and local Sunday School Superintendents and assist them in carrying out the plans of the Conference and General Sunday School Boards, and to promote the interests of Sunday schools throughout the Conference.

(3) To arrange for Conference, district, and circuit Sunday-school conventions or institutes, and to assist in such meetings.

(4) To arrange for the holding of a service for the promotion of Sunday-school interests at general gatherings, such as camp meetings, conferences, etc

(5) To see that there is an active Sunday school on each charge in his Conference, and establish mission Sunday schools where possible and expedient.

(6) To encourage the organization of Christian Service Training Classes for the training of Sunday school teachers and workers, and to promote the interest of the same in the Conference.

(7) To pay special attention to reports, securing as far as possible correct statistics, these reports to be made on blanks furnished by the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

(8) To encourage the use of our own Sunday school literature, and provide leaflets for the organization of the various departments of the local Sunday schools, which may be secured from the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

(9) To place at the disposal of the Editor of Sunday-school Literature full information regarding the Sunday schools of his Conference at least once a year.

(10) To see that proper emphasis is given to evangelism in the various Sunday schools of the Conference, seeking for the conversion of every young person connected with the Sunday schools and their enrollment in church membership.

¶ 333. Every Sunday school of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be under the supervision of the Local Sunday School Board, which shall be auxiliary to the Annual Conference Sunday School Board. The Local Sunday School Board shall be constituted of the pastor and Sunday School Superintendent ex-officio, the pastor being Chairman, and at least three other members of the church, provided that where there is no pastor, the church shall elect an additional member who shall be chairman.

¶ 334. (1) The officers of the Sunday school shall be Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and others that may be necessary in the work of the school. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent shall be elected by ballot at the annual election of the church as provided in paragraph 165, subparagraph (4). The other officers and teachers shall be nominated by the Local Sunday School Board and shall be elected at a business meeting of the church, held for that purpose. The Local Sunday School Board shall have the power to declare any office in the school vacant on account of improper conduct or habitual negligence of duty, and to recommend suitable persons to fill the vacancy, said persons to be elected by the church. Such action shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board. Each Sunday school should hold a teachers' meeting each week in which perplexing questions of the school and work may be discussed, its methods considered and the lessons reviewed, thus giving the school uniformity of instruction and methods that are so necessary to its success.

(2) The Superintendent shall have general executive control of the Sunday school such as any presiding officer exercises. It shall be his duty to see that all classes are supplied with teachers as the session begins and to maintain reasonable order and supervision of the Sunday school session. He shall see that the literature is being properly used and use all proper influences to maintain the use of Wesleyan Methodist Literature in all Departments. He shall

discourage the use of any independent literature or supplies not recommended by the Publishing House or the Editor of Sunday-school Literature and shall seek to carry out all the Denominational recommendations. He shall seek at all times to promote the interest and attendance of the school and to maintain a high degree of spirituality in the program of the school. He should direct the exercises of the opening and closing of the school to maintain variety and interest in the worship and seek to carry out the work of the Church as directed by the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

¶ 335. The pastor shall have general supervision of the local Sunday school, and in this relation shall attend the services of the Sunday school as regularly as possible and assist in conducting the same in every way possible. It shall also be his duty with the cooperation of the Annual Conference Sunday School Board, to organize Sunday schools wherever, in his judgment, it will be for the good of the work, and to care for the needs of said organizations under the direction of the Annual Conference Sunday School Secretary, until other satisfactory arrangements can be made. He shall impress upon his members the necessity of coöperation in the Sunday-school work, and to urge upon them especially their duty of attending its services. He shall also preach upon the subject of Sunday schools and impress upon the parents and teachers of the children the need of instruction in the doctrines of the Church to promote the use of our Catechism in the home and in the school, and to see that every child and person, that it is possible to win, shall be won to Christ and to the Church. He

shall give his careful and prayerful attention to this department of the church work in a personal as well as a coöperative way.

¶ 336. Every Sunday school in the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be organized upon a graded basis, believing this to be in accord with the creation of our being, and the inherent demands of our nature. The classes should be arranged with reference to the demands of the school, and the scholars shall be graded according to their ages and qualifications. There should be an Adult Department in the school, a Senior Department, an Intermediate Department, a Junior Department, a Primary Department, and a Little Beginners Department, and in the organization of the school these departments should receive special attention.

¶ 337. There should be a Cradle Roll Department in the school which should be under the care of the Cradle Roll Superintendent. She shall be required to report the work quarterly to the Sunday school, which in turn may set apart special days during the year to be known as Cradle Roll Day, at which time the mothers shall be requested to bring the members of the Cradle Roll Department to the Sunday school, and receive instruction from the Cradle Roll Superintendent, pastor, or some other competent person, along lines that will be helpful in fashioning the course of the child.

¶ 338. There shall be a Home Department under the care of the superintendent who shall report quarterly to the Sunday school. At least one day each

year shall be set apart as Home Department day, which shall be under the care of the Home Department Superintendent and the pastor.

¶ 339. There shall be a Temperance Department in every Sunday school under the direction of a competent superintendent. The quarterly Sunday school temperance lessons, literature, programs, addresses and other proper means should be employed to educate the young concerning the direful results of the use of intoxicating beverages and tobacco, and encourage them to sign the pledge against their use.

¶ 340. We recommend a Missionary Department under the direction of a superintendent who is interested in missionary work. Special services may be held for the instruction of our scholars in missionary needs and provide support for the same.

¶ 341. We recommend that one Sunday each month be known as Home Missionary Sunday, and that the offering of that day be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer monthly.

¶ 342. The organization and development of organized classes in the secondary and adult divisions is permitted where the local Sunday School Board believes the interests of the school would be benefitted. The organized classes should be enrolled with our General Sunday School Department; and it is required that their organization and conduct be in harmony with the general policy of our Church.

¶ 343. We recommend and urge the organization of Teacher Training Classes in the schools for the instruction of teachers and others who desire to pursue such a course. It shall be the duty of the Annual

Conference Sunday School Secretary to organize such classes wherever the demand is made, and to promote the interests of the same in the conference. The texts used in this work shall be designated by the General Sunday School Board which shall also furnish examination questions upon the courses adopted and arrange for the issuing of certificates and diplomas to the graduates of these courses. We recommend that the General Sunday School Board shall select such text books for these courses as they may deem appropriate.

¶ 344. Every Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school shall use Wesleyan Methodist Literature.

¶ 345. The Secretary of each Local Sunday school shall report full statistics of the work, according to blanks arranged by the General Sunday School Board, to the Quarterly Conference. These reports shall be spread upon the minutes of the Quarterly Conference. They shall then be passed to the pastor of the charge who shall report full statistics of the Sunday school work of the charge to the Sunday School Secretary of the Annual Conference, who shall make out a statistical report of the Sunday-school work for the Annual Conference and for the Editor of Sunday-school Literature.

¶ 346. We urge upon our people the importance of adopting approved Sunday-school methods in harmony with deep spirituality and our doctrine as a Church. The Sunday school is the church organized for Bible study. The Bible is able to make all ages of human kind wise unto salvation, hence we should inject into

our Sunday-school work the spirit of evangelism and expect our scholars to be converted and wholly sanctified through the truth taught and practiced by Spirit-filled teachers. Our aim should be the salvation of the young as well as the old and to lead them into the deeper spiritual relationship with Christ and into useful Christian lives.

PART III
THE MINISTRY

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| SECTION XV. | MATTER AND MANNER OF PREACH- ING. |
| SECTION XVI. | DUTY OF PREACHERS. |
| SECTION XVII. | PASTORAL VISITING. |
| SECTION XVIII. | DEACONESS WORK. |
| SECTION XIX. | COURSE OF STUDY. |

SECTION XV

THE MATTER AND MANNER OF PREACHING AND OF OTHER PUBLIC EXERCISES

¶ 347. Question 1. What is the best general method of preaching?

Answer. 1st, to convince; 2nd, to offer Christ; 3rd, to invite; 4th, to build up; and to do this in some measure in every sermon.

Isaiah 1:18; Acts 4:12; 24:25; 1 Cor. 2:1, 2; 14:12; Rev. 22:17.

¶ 348. Question 2. What is the most effectual way of preaching Christ?

Answer. 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 outward and inward holiness in all its branches.

¶ 349. To this end:

(1) Let the ministers and lay members of the Annual Conferences meet at least quarterly in Holiness Conventions.

(2) Where it is necessary for the convenience of the churches let the territory be districted by the conference.

(3) Let each conference or district elect a chairman and make it his duty to arrange with the mem-

bers in his territory, for such conventions, and to have the oversight of them.

(4) The election of a chairman, secretary and a treasurer for the convention shall be held annually, or oftener as found necessary, and they shall constitute the Executive Board.

Matt. 5:8; Acts 20:27.

¶ 350. Question 3. Are there any other advices which might be of use to us?

Answer. Yes. 1st. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. 2nd. Begin at the time appointed. 3rd. Let your whole deportment be serious, weighty and solemn. 4th. Always suit your subject to your audience. 5th. Choose the plainest text you can. 6th. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. 7th. Avoid everything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase or pronunciation. 8th. Do not usually pray above five or six minutes without intermission. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture; and let young preachers often exhort without taking a text.

¶ 351. Church service. To establish uniformity among churches, in public worship on the Lord's Day, it is recommended that the following order be observed:

Let the morning, afternoon and evening services consist of: (1) Singing; (2) Prayer; (3) Reading the Scriptures; (4) Singing; (5) Preaching; (6) Singing; (7) Prayer; (8) Benediction.

If the church should be without preaching we recommend the holding of prayer meetings or class meetings. Parts of the order of service may be changed as particular times and circumstances may require.

Acts 2: 42; Heb. 10: 25.

SECTION XVI

THE DUTY OF PREACHERS TO GOD, THEMSELVES, AND ONE ANOTHER

¶ 352. The following are the directions given to all elders and preachers, who are engaged in the regular work, under the direction of the Annual Conferences:

(1) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time, neither spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

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

(3) 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.

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

(5) Tell every one under your care what you think wrong in his conduct and 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.

ing his work greatly at heart; and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.

¶ 355. Question 2. Do we sufficiently watch over each other?

Answer. We do not. Should we not frequently ask each other, Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? Do you punctually observe the morning and evening hours of retirement? Do you converse seriously, usefully and closely? To be more particular: Do you use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons? They are either instituted or prudential.

¶ 356. The instituted are:

(1) Prayer, private, family and public. Do you ask everywhere, Have you family prayer? Do you ask individuals, Do you use private prayer every morning and evening in particular?

(2) Search the Scriptures by:

(a) Reading: constantly, some part of every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully, with notes; seriously, with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practicing what you learn there.

(b) Meditating at set times, by rule.

(c) Hearing: every opportunity with prayer before, at, after. Have you a Bible always about you?

(d) The Lord's Supper: Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With earnest and deliberate self-devotion?

(e) Fasting: Do you use as much abstinence and

fasting as your health, strength and labor will permit?

(f) Christian conference: Are you convinced how important and how difficult it is to order conversation aright? Is it always in grace—seasoned with salt—meet to administer grace to the hearers? Do you not 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 to pray before and after it?

¶ 357. Prudential means:

(1) Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin?

(2) Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense? imagination? honor? Are you temperate in all things? Instance in food: (a) Do you use only that kind and that degree which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? (b) Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? (c) Do you use tobacco in any form? Do you discourage the use of it in others? (d) Do you use only that kind and that degree of drink which is the best both for your body and soul? Do you choose and use water for your common drink?

(3) Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous its nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby?

(4) Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see His eye constantly 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.

SECTION XVII

VISITING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, GUARDING AGAINST THOSE THINGS THAT ARE SO COMMON TO PROFESSORS, AND ENFORCING PRACTICAL RELIGION

¶ 358. Question 1. How can we further assist those under our care?

Answer (1) By instructing them at their own houses. What unspeakable need is there of this? Personal religion either toward God or man is too superficial among us. We can but just touch on a few particulars. How little faith there is among us! How little communion with God, how little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature! How much love of the world, desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money, how little brotherly love!

(2) Family religion is wanted in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels! We must, yea, every preacher must instruct the people from house to house.

¶ 359. Our religion is not sufficiently deep, universal, uniform; but superficial, partial, uneven. It will be so till 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. 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 there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work.

(2) We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so that we let them perish rather than lose their love; we let them go quietly to hell, lest we should offend them.

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

(4) But the greater hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak because the spring of it is weak.

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

But 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; Preach the Word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering."

Oh, brethren, if we could but see this work on foot in all our churches, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common lukewarmness were banished, and every shop and every house busied in speaking of the Word and works of

God, surely God would dwell in our habitation, and make us His delight.

And this is absolutely necessary to the welfare of souls. Look round and see how many of them are still in apparent danger of damnation. And how can you walk, talk and be merry, with such people, when you know their case? When you look them in the face, you should break forth in tears, as the prophet did when he looked upon Hazeael. Oh, for God's sake, and the sake of poor souls, bestir yourselves and spare no pains that may conduce to their salvation.

What cause have we to grieve before the Lord that we have so long neglected this good work! If we had but engaged in it sooner, how many more might have been brought to Christ; and how much holier and happier might they have been before now; and why might we not have done it sooner? There are many hindrances and so there always will be. But the greatest hindrance is in ourselves—in our littleness of faith and love.

¶ 360. But it is objected, I. "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. 2. By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge; that of God and eternity. 3. You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too. Only sleep no more than you need; "and never be idle or triflingly employed." 4. But if you can do but one, let your studies alone. We ought to throw by all the libraries in the world rather than be guilty of the loss of one sou!

¶ 361. It is objected, II. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will; and the success with them will repay all your labor. 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 toward 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 your eyes: (1) The Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood! (2) Grievous wolves shall enter in; yea of yourselves 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 would be mere drudgery. And in order to do it you will have need of all the knowledge you can procure, and grace you can retain. The sum is, go into every house in course, urging upon every impenitent sinner the duty of immediate repentance, and teaching every one therein, young and old, to be Christians inwardly and outwardly; make every particular plain to their understanding; 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 receive in justification.

SECTION XVIII

DEACONESS WORK

¶ 362. Believing the office and work of a Deaconess to be scriptural and also in very great demand in our Church, the office and work of a Deaconess is hereby authorized under the following general plan:

1. A Deaconess is a woman who has been led by the Spirit and the providence of God to forego all other pursuits in life that she may devote herself wholly to the Christlike service of doing good; and who, having received this divine call, has been trained and tested during a probation of at least two years; and after such probation has been approved by the Church and solemnly set apart to this vocation in the Church. No vow of perpetual service is required of a Deaconess and she is therefore set apart for this work by consecration rather than ordination. Her relation as Deaconess being voluntary, she may withdraw from it at any time, but she shall give reasonable notice of her intention.

2. The duties of a Deaconess are various—such as: ministering to the poor and needy; laboring with the sick and dying; comforting the bereaved and sorrowing; seeking the lost and wandering; endeavoring to lead the unsaved to repentance and to Christ; and to take up other Christlike service.

3. No one shall be considered a proper person to be licensed as a Deaconess who does not feel a divine call to special work in the vineyard of the Lord. It shall be required also that in her life the fruits of the

Spirit shall be in evidence. She shall be at least twenty-one years of age and shall not become a licensed Deaconess until she has passed a satisfactory examination in the doctrines of the Bible, the government of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, giving proof at the same time of a correct domestic life. She must declare her purpose also to pursue the Course of Study prescribed for Deaconess, with examinations before the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders of the conference of which she is a member, and shall not become a licensed Deaconess until she has served six months under an experienced Deaconess or Pastor.

4. In case the license of a Deaconess is not renewed, it expires by limitation, and she may no longer serve as Deaconess, or wear the garb.

5. When a probationary Deaconess shall have passed in the prescribed Course of Study, she may upon the recommendation of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders Orders of the Conference of which she is a member, be consecrated a Deaconess by said Conference.

6. The garb of a Deaconess shall be a dark blue dress and bonnet of same color, with white ties. This garb shall not be worn, however, until she has been appointed to her work by an Annual Conference.

7. A licensed or consecrated Deaconess shall be amenable to her Annual Conference from which her appointment is received, shall report to her Conference annually, but shall have no vote in the Annual Conference, and for conduct out of harmony with the

Bible and Church Discipline shall be dealt with by the same Disciplinary methods that govern local preachers and Elders in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

8. The Deaconess will receive a living remuneration for her services which must be provided by the church employing her.

¶ 363. Course of Study for Deaconesses

First Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, First Half)
2. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
3. Passion for Souls—Jowett
4. History of The Wesleyan Methodist Church—
McLeister and Nicholson

Reading Course

1. The Preacher and Prayer—Bounds
2. A Winning Witness—Dobbins
3. Helps to Holiness—Brengele
4. An approved text on Nursing

Second Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, Second Half)
2. A Catechism for the Wesleyan Methodist
Church
3. The Superlative Book—Elliott
4. Mission study book adopted by the W. M. So-
ciety

Reading Course

1. The Bible Basis of Missions—Glover
2. The Ministry of Prevailing Prayer—Jessop
3. How to do Personal Work—Torrey
4. Our Concern is Children—Caldwell

SECTION XIX

COURSE OF STUDY

¶ 364. We feel deeply the importance of a higher standard for our ministry than we have heretofore been able to maintain. In our denominational youth there have been difficulties in our way, which we trust are disappearing at our approach to a more mature age. At our organization in 1843 our ministry was composed principally of such as had received orders in other denominations, and for several years our largest accessions were from the same sources; and though among them were some very able ministers, others fell below the proper standard of qualification for the sacred office.

The great want of ministers to supply our needy yet spreading fields of labor, led to the reception of too large a portion of such as offered themselves, and also to the ordination of men among ourselves of like deficiencies, and there is now no doubt that our necessities, in some instances at least, betrayed us into an unwise course. But we are satisfied that the time has fully come when we must elevate our ministerial standard to a point which will better correspond to the wants of our denomination, and the demands of the age in which God in His Providence has called us into existence as a distinct religious power. As we all believe in an overruling and guiding Providence, we must suppose that God has an end to secure, by calling us into existence as a denomination, through such trials, conflicts and sacrifices as marked every

step in the process; and we shall act a wise part by preparing ourselves, in every available method, for the achievement of useful ends; and we are confident that no more measure will do more in this direction than to raise up a well-educated and efficient ministry.

¶ 365. We therefore require that no Annual Conference receive any local preacher to travel under its direction until he has passed the preliminary course of study before the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, except as proper full credits covering the course are presented to the Committee and approved by them. The preliminary course shall include English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography and English Composition. Any text book of the grammar school may be used.

¶ 366. We also require that the Annual Conference ordain no person to the office and work of an elder in the Church of God until they have passed examination by the Disciplinary Course of Study, and have completed the reading courses, under the following conditions:

¶ 367. The candidates must be given a written examination upon all the text books. Where candidates have completed the Advanced Theological Course in any of our denominational schools, their standing shall be accepted in lieu of the Conference Course, however none shall be ordained who have not passed an examination in Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

(1) Providing that in the case of students who have satisfactorily completed three years of Seminary

work in a reputable and recognized Seminary acceptable to the Conference in which they are working, an exception may be made for the two-year requirement (Paragraph 124) and they may be recommended for ordination upon satisfactory completion of one year's active service.

¶ 368. There must be an average standing of at least seventy-five per centum in the preliminary course and in each year of the regular course, and no paper shall be accepted which shows a standing less than sixty per centum.

¶ 369. Each candidate must also, prior to his recommendation for Elders' Orders, be examined orally by the Conference Committee on Itineracy and Orders regarding his personal adherence to each and every one of our Articles of Religion.

¶ 370. The Board of Administration shall have charge of the Course of Study during the interim of the General Conference. Its duties shall be:

(1) To prepare lists of questions on the Course of Study for candidates for the ministry (¶ 373), also to prepare the questions on the preliminary examinations to be given local preachers and deaconesses as required by paragraphs 89, 363, 365 and 374.

(2) They shall send copies of such lists to the secretaries of the several Annual Conferences, to be by them placed in the hands of the chairman of the Committee on Itineracy and Orders of their respective Conferences.

¶ 371. The Board of Administration shall formulate rules for the government of the Annual Confer-

ence Committee on Itineracy and Orders in the use of these questions.

¶ 372. The Board of Administration shall be required to report to the General Conference on the work done in the Course of Study, and to propose to that body such revisions as may be necessary. No book shall be given a place in the Course of Study that contradicts the Articles of Religion as set forth in our Book of Discipline. The Board of Administration shall have power to remove any book from the Course of Study against which valid objections have been raised by conference or individuals.

¶ 373. **Course of Study for Candidates
for Elders Orders**

I. First Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
2. Binney's Theological Compend—Binney and Steele
3. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
4. Robert's Rules of Order—Robert
5. English—Text to be chosen by Conference Committee
6. Perfect Love—Wood (Unabridged edition)

Reading Course

1. The Life of Jesus Christ—Stalker
2. 44 Sermons by John Wesley
3. Half Century of American Wesleyan Missions in West Africa—Carter

For other fields read THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY one year.

4. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—
Wesley
5. Scriptural Freedom From Sin—Brockett
6. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST

II. Second Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell—
Continued
2. Christian Theology, Vol. I—Wiley*
3. Foundations of Doctrine—Jessop
4. The Art of Effective Teaching—Eavey
5. Homiletics and Pastoral Theology—Hogue
6. Progress of World Wide Missions—Glover

Reading Course

1. Psychology for Pastor and People—Bonnell
2. Jesus Is Coming—Blackstone
3. Missionary Principles and Practice—Lindsell
4. False Doctrines and Fanaticism Exposed—
Shelhamer
5. Heresies Exposed—Irvine
6. The Home Beautiful—Miller
7. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST

III. Third Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell—
Continued
2. Christian Theology, Vol. II—Wiley*
3. History of the Christian Church—Fisher
(First Half)
4. A System of General Ethics—Keyser
5. History of The Wesleyan Methodist Church—
McLeister and Nicholson
6. The Superlative Book—Elliott

Reading Course

1. Revival Lectures—Finney
2. Our Concern Is Children—Caldwell
3. Helps to Holiness—Brengele
4. All About the Sunday School—Fant and French
5. Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette—Harmon
6. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST
7. THE WESLEYAN YOUTH

IV. Fourth Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Self—Continued
2. Christian Theology, Vol. III—Wiley*
3. History of the Christian Church—Fisher
(Second Half)
4. Psychology and Life—Ruch
5. The Business Administration of a Church—Cashman
6. A System of Christian Evidences—Keyser

Reading Course

1. Pastoral Work—Blackwood
2. Primer of Evangelism—Fairbairn
3. The Way to Pentecost—Chadwick
4. Lectures To My Students—Spurgeon
5. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST

*Questions for study-guidance should be secured from the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing House by the student for the study of Wiley's Theology.

(Note: The Annual Conference shall accept the standings of Houghton, Miltonvale, Central, Marion and Melbourne Colleges in all of the studies prescribed in the foregoing section, reserving the right to examine all such persons orally or in writing as to doctrinal beliefs and belief in the government of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.)

¶ 374. **A Course of Study for Christian Workers
and Local Preachers**

I. First Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, First Half)
2. History of The Wesleyan Methodist Church—
McLeister and Nicholson
3. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
4. The Art of Effective Teaching—Eavey

Reading Course

1. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—
Wesley
2. Perfect Love—Wood (Unabridged edition)
3. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST
4. THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY

II. Second Year

1. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, Second Half)
2. A Winning Witness—Dobbins
3. Binney's Theological Compend—Binney and
Steele

Reading Course

1. Jesus Is Coming—Blackstone
2. Helps to Holiness—Brengele
3. Missionary Principles and Practices—Lindsell
4. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST
5. THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY

¶ 374A. Evangelistic Singers' and Chalk Artists'
Course

I. First Year

1. Galilean Fisherman—Witmer
2. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
3. History of The Wesleyan Methodist Church—
McLeister and Nicholson
4. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, First Half)
5. Applied Song Directing*—Taney
6. Studies in Hymnology—Adams

*Required minimum practice is fifty hours.

Reading Course

1. Passion for Souls—Jowett
2. The Preacher and Prayer—Bounds
3. Know Your Hymns—Hall
4. Stories of Favorite Hymns—Blanchard
5. Stories of Beautiful Hymns—Blanchard
6. Stories of Wonderful Hymns—Blanchard
7. Stories of Popular Hymns—Blanchard

II. Second Year

1. Foundations of Doctrine—Jessop
2. The Gospel in Hymns—Bailey and Scribner
3. Bible—Textbook, Bible Study by Books—Sell
(New Testament, Second Half)
4. Essentials of Elementary Music Theory*—
Rubank

*Required minimum practice is thirty-five hours.

Reading Course

1. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—
Wesley
2. Revival Lectures—Finney
3. Introduction to Musical Knowledge—
Jones-Banard
4. An Exercise in Musical Theory—Carr
5. The Fine Art of Public Worship—Blackwood

(Due credit will be given for all work completed in this Course that is duplicated in the requirements of the Course for Elder's Orders when the candidates pursue such a course. Also, a certificate shall be given upon completion of this course.)

PART IV
SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| SECTION XX. | CHURCH FINANCE. |
| SECTION XXI. | PRACTICAL BENEVOLENCE. |
| SECTION XXII. | TITLES TO CHURCH PROPERTY |
| SECTION XXIII. | NATIONAL REFORM. |
| SECTION XXIV. | PROHIBITION AND PUBLIC MORALS. |
| SECTION XXV. | PEACE. |
| SECTION XXVI. | NECESSITY OF UNION. |
| SECTION XXVII. | WESLEYAN YOUTH. |

SECTION XX

CHURCH FINANCE

¶ 375. Since all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3: 16); and since holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1: 21); and thus there has been given to us the Divine statement of all that is vital to Christian experience and practice, and the promotion of the cause of Christ at home and abroad, and since God is a God of system and order in all of His doings, both in creation and in His plan of redemption, and the carrying forward of the work of the Church in the world, we believe it to be the mind of the Spirit as taught in the Word and therefore should be the practice of all Christians to faithfully observe the law of tithes and offerings for the support and furtherance of the gospel; and we recommend that such tithes and offerings be brought into the storehouse (the church) for their proper and systematic distribution. Gen. 14: 20; Heb. 7: 1, 6, 9; Gen. 28: 22; Lev. 27: 30-32; Deut. 14: 22; Acts 6: 1-3; 1 Cor. 16: 2; 2 Cor. 8: 13, 14; Prov. 3: 9, 10; 11: 24, 25; Mal. 3: 10, 11; Matt. 23: 23; John 8: 20; Acts 4: 34, 35.

We therefore recommend:

1. That all our people pay to God at least one tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation, and free will offerings in addition as God has prospered them.

2. That the Storehouse Plan be adopted as the general financial plan of the Church.

3. That the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall be General Tithing Secretary of the Church, whose duty shall be to cooperate with the Annual Conference Tithing Secretaries in obtaining suitable literature on tithing and the Storehouse Plan; to furnish the General Conference with statistical information on the number of churches practicing tithing and the Storehouse Plan and other items of interest pertaining to this work.

4. That each Annual Conference shall elect a Tithing Secretary whose duty shall be to furnish literature on Tithing and the Storehouse Plan to the pastors and Tithing Secretaries of the churches; to present the Storehouse Plan to each church of the Conference urging its adoption where not in operation; and to furnish the General Tithing Secretary with data concerning the number of churches operating the Storehouse Plan.

5. That each church elect a Tithing Secretary whose duty it shall be to keep a tithing roll of all members who tithe and who shall gather statistics and information and helpful literature for instruction on the subject of tithing and the Storehouse Plan, and also hold at least one public service each year for the presentation of this subject.

6. That at each General and Annual Conference, one service be devoted to the study and promotion of tithing and the Storehouse Plan, under the direction respectively of the General and Annual Conference Tithing Secretaries.

¶ 376. The Educational Society and the Missionary Society shall submit to the Board of Administration,

at its June meeting each year, a budget showing the amount needed in their respective departments for the ensuing year. It shall be the duty of the Board of Administration to aggregate the amounts needed in the various departments of Church work into one budget of expense, and apportion to the several conferences the amount of this budget. In making this apportionment the Board of Administration shall take into account the number of members in each conference and their ability to pay the share assigned to them. (See Paragraph 73.) As soon as possible after the Executive Board has made the assignments, the Editor shall publish in *The Wesleyan Methodist* a statement showing for each conference its membership according to the latest statistics, and the apportionment for each benevolence. Two weeks before the session of each Annual Conference the Publishing Agent shall send to each Conference President and to each Conference Secretary a statement of the apportionment for that conference. At the close of each series of conferences the Editor shall publish in *The Wesleyan Methodist* a statement showing for each conference its membership, its apportionment for each benevolence, and the amount raised on the budget for each benevolence. Every person authorized to receive General funds who receives money that can count on the budget and that has not passed through the hands of a Conference Treasurer, must give the person from whom he received it a duplicate receipt, or else send a duplicate receipt to the proper Conference Treasurer.

¶ 377. It shall be the duty of each conference at

its annual session to apportion the budget of General benevolences assigned to it to the various charges of the conference. In making the apportionment, the conference shall take into account the number of members of each charge and their ability to pay the share assigned to them. The conference shall state the exact amount assigned to each charge for each benevolence, and the Conference Secretary shall report the same to each pastor within two weeks after the close of the conference session. A conference has met its financial obligations to the Church when it pays its apportionment in full for each benevolence.

¶ 378. It shall be the duty of the pastor and stewards to see the faithful collection of the share assigned their charges. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work, or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either home or foreign, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes, and all money paid by the W. M. S., the Y. M. W. B., the W. Y., or the Sunday schools for these purposes may count toward the budget. If any person or society pays money to any person authorized to receive General funds for any of these purposes, a duplicate receipt shall be given, and the pastor and stewards shall accept these receipts as payments on the budget. All money and duplicate receipts collected by the pastor and stewards for the budget shall be sent to the Conference Treasurer, provided however that money collected definitely for education or definitely for missionary work, and not as undivided budget, may be sent to any person authorized to receive General funds. In this case

a duplicate receipt shall be given which shall be sent to the Conference Treasurer. A charge has met its obligations to the Denomination when it has paid the Conference Treasurer its apportionment in full for each benevolence, or when it pays an undivided amount sufficient to balance in full its apportionment for each benevolence. The pastor's statistical report to the conference shall contain a budget item showing the amount assigned to his charge for each benevolence, the amount raised definitely for education, the amount raised definitely for missions, and the amount raised as undivided budget. This item must be audited by the Conference Treasurer before it is accepted by the conference.

¶ 379. The General Conference recommends:

1. That the charges be urged to raise the budget, as far as possible, on the undivided plan.

2. That the Conference Treasurer be instructed to remit to the proper School and Missionary Treasurers at least quarterly all money received definitely for education, or definitely for missionary work, but that undivided budget may be retained until it is evident where it will be needed to maintain a balance between the benevolences, and should then be distributed so as to maintain this balance.

3. That the pastors be urged to investigate the Storehouse Plan, and to introduce the same wherever practicable.

[Note: Our Publishing House, through its Agent, will furnish full information and samples upon application.—Editors.]

¶ 379A. (1) The Card Call Plan shall operate un-

der the supervision of the Secretary of Home Missions, subject to the Executive Board.

(2) Membership in the Card Call Plan shall consist of those who have signed the Card Call Pledge (revised) which shall be as follows:

Until this Pledge is cancelled by me I shall endeavor to pay the sum of \$..... for each Card Call issued for the purpose of helping to build or buy church or parsonage property in needy fields. This pledge is further limited to calls annually.

This pledge is due and payable upon notice of the Secretary of Home Missions.

(3) The benefits of the Card Call Plan shall be extended to all Conferences of the Church, other than those under the Foreign Missionary Department. It shall be primarily for pioneer projects.

(4) The receipts of the Card Call Plan shall all go into the regular Card Call channel.

(5) Applications for aid from the Card Call Plan may be made by the local pastor but must have the approval of the Conference President; they shall be submitted to the Secretary of Home Missions who shall record them in the order received.

(6) Ordinarily, applications shall be processed in the order in which they are received, but the Executive Board may advance one application above another when it deems it best for the general and local interest of the Church to do so. Several applications may be grouped in one Call at the discretion of the Secretary of Home Missions, and he is permitted to

rearrange the order of applications in order to effect a proper grouping when, and as, he may see fit.

(7) The amount of aid granted for any project shall not exceed \$1000.00 at any one time and may be limited to \$250.00 at the discretion of the Secretary of Home Missions. Either of these limitations may be suspended in any instance by the Executive Board, who shall also have authority to change any decisions of the Secretary of Home Missions as it may see fit.

(8) Each Conference shall elect a Conference Card Call Secretary to promote the interest of the Card Call Plan and Home Missions.

(9) There shall be an additional blank on the Pastor's annual statistical report under "Number of Tithers" which shall be "Number of Card Call Subscribers."

SECTION XXI

PRACTICAL BENEVOLENCE

¶ 380. Question. Have we any directions to give concerning practical benevolence among us?

Since the gold and silver, as well as the cattle upon a thousand hills, belong to God; and since every good and perfect gift cometh down from the Father of lights, so that we may say, "It is the Lord that giveth my friends, my wealth, my ease"; and since we are commanded to "honor the Lord with our substance, and the first fruits of all our increase"; and since we have abundant Scripture examples in giving directions as to what shall be done after our "decease"; and since the law of the State frequently gives our life-earnings to "heirs we know not whom," and the fruit of all our toil is turned against the cause of God, and the distinctive reforms we so much love, therefore we earnestly recommend our people everywhere, in case the laws of the State will not dispose of their property to the highest glory of God, were they to die today, to immediately execute, in a careful and legal manner, their last will and testament.

¶ 381. Furthermore, it is recommended that so far as practicable, our people shall dispose of their property while still living, and we commend to their favorable consideration (and bequests) the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, incorporate; the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America; the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; the Superannuated Ministers'

Aid Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; and the Wesleyan Educational Society. Bequests intended for any of our educational institutions, may be made through the Wesleyan Educational Society.

¶ 382. Any person making a bequest should be careful to give the incorporate name of the society for which the gift is intended, as given above.

Luke 6: 38; 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6-8.

¶ 383. The Wesleyan Methodist Church, through its different corporate societies, as the donor may elect, will receive gifts on the following conditions as a basis:

Annuity Rates

| Age | Single Bond (One life) | Survivorship (Two lives) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Twenty to thirty | 2 % rate | 2 % rate |
| Thirty to forty | 3 % rate | 2½% rate |
| Forty to fifty | 4 % rate | 3½% rate |
| Fifty to sixty | 4½% rate | 4 % rate |
| Sixty to seventy | 5 % rate | 4½% rate |
| Over Seventy | 6 % rate | 5½% rate |

These rates of interest are based on cash gifts, and if real estate is offered it must be immediately converted into cash or else the donor accept the inventory that is made by the corporations benefiting by the gift.

Furthermore, all gifts must be kept intact so long as the donor lives, and a sinking fund must be provided whereby the interest on any donation may be

paid if the interest on its investment is not sufficient to meet the annuity due.

In cases of Survivorship Bonds, the rate is based on the age of the younger.

Payments on annuities may be made either annually or semi-annually as the donor and the corporate society benefiting may agree.

SECTION XXII

SECURING TITLES TO CHURCH PROPERTY

¶ 384. The laws of the several states are so various that no specific rule can be given which will meet the requirements of the diversified statutes under which churches have to organize. The following general rules, if attended to, will secure the end aimed at:

¶ 385. Before taking a deed, examine the laws of the state and see that the church or society is organized, and trustees appointed according to the requirements of the statute. Also, consult some competent attorney relative to the import of proposed restricting or reverting clauses in deeds.

¶ 386. Let the property be deeded to the Annual Conference (if incorporated). If it is not incorporated it should be deeded to the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, simply as a holding corporation, said property to be under the supervision and control and maintenance of the local church; provided if such church cease to exist, said holding corporation shall have power to order the sale of said property, and to appropriate the funds so received to the building of new houses of worship, or parsonages for the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, within the bounds of said conference. Said church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when said property is not used stately for one and one-half years for the benefit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

¶ 387. Whenever a local church shall deem it necessary or advisable to make sale of their church property that has been deeded to the trustees of said local church and their successors in office, said trustees or their successors in office shall have the right, under the direction of the local church and the Annual Conference to which they belong, to sell and convey by a good and sufficient deed to the purchaser the property of said church. Said trustees or their successors in office shall also have the right to pay all debts against said church property, under the direction of said local church, and to take title to the same. Provided, however, if the said local church does not care to re-invest the money received from such sale, then the trustees of said church or their successors in office shall pay the money over to the Annual Conference to which they belong.

¶ 388. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of houses of worship, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: "In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; subject to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed."

¶ 389. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of dwelling-houses for the use of the preachers, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: "In trust, that said premises shall be held, kept, and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the preachers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, who may from time to time be stationed in said place, subject to the usage and Discipline of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed."

SECTION XXIII

NATIONAL REFORM

¶ 390. It shall be the duty of the ministers and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church to use their influence in every feasible manner in favor of a more complete recognition of the authority of Almighty God, in the secular and civil relations, both of society and of government, and the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ as King of nations as well as King of saints. We therefore require:

¶ 391. That all our ministers and members shall favor the use of the Bible in our public schools.

Deut. 6: 7, 8; John 5: 39.

¶ 392. That chaplaincies in the army and navy, and in State and National Congress be not abolished.

1 Kings 8: 22-53; 1 Chron. 4: 10; 2 Chron. 14: 11, 12; 1 Tim. 2: 1, 2.

¶ 393. That Sunday be observed by cessation from all labor, and the permission of no excursions on the Lord's Day.

Ex. 20: 8; Isa. 56: 1-7; 58: 13, 14; Neh. 13: 15-18; Mark 1: 27, 28.

¶ 394. That the name of Almighty God, as the basis of authority in civil government, shall be considered as one of the fundamental principles of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and that it is the bounden duty of all our ministers and mem-

bers to use all feasible means to secure such amendments in National and State Constitutions, so that the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; shall be inserted in these instruments which lie at the foundation of civil government; as it is Christ by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Psalms 22:28; 33:6-12; Isa. 9:6; Dan. 7:13, 14; Rev. 17:14.

SECTION XXIV

COMMISSION ON PROHIBITION AND PUBLIC MORALS

¶ 395. A Commission on Prohibition and Public Morals is hereby constituted under the following suggested plan: One member to be designated by the Advisory Board of Faculty of each of our schools, who shall report the same to the next session of the Board of Administration following the quadrennial session of the General Conference, or to the Executive Board for election; and in addition the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist who shall be General Secretary of the Commission. The Wesleyan Methodist and our school papers are suggested as mediums of publicity for the reports of this Commission; and such pamphlets or tracts as it shall deem advisable to publish, subject to the approval of the Board of Administration. It shall be the duty of this commission to make a study of Prohibition and Moral Reforms and to keep the Church informed of the progress being made along these lines; also it may receive instructions from the Board of Administration or the General Conference.

SECTION XXV

PEACE

¶ 396. Since war results in so much suffering in the bodies, minds and souls of men, is costly in the destruction of property, leaving heavy burdens upon succeeding generations, producing much of the baser passions of life, we urge that men and nations seek by every legitimate means to avoid armed conflict among the peoples and nations of the world.

We urge that holy men everywhere make earnest prayer to God that the time be hastened when swords shall be turned into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks; when men shall learn war no more; that we may obey the Scriptural injunction "love your enemies." Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27, 28; that righteousness under the banner of the Prince of Peace shall prevail.

We are committed to the continuance of constitutional, religious liberty, recognizing the citizen's first duty to God. Micah 4:1; Isa. 2:2-4; Zech. 9:10.

SECTION XXVI

NECESSITY OF UNION AMONG OURSELVES

¶ 397. Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of division, in principle, spirit or practice, and the dreadful consequence 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, let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

Pray earnestly for, and speak freely to each other.

When we meet, let us never part without prayer.

Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

Never speak lightly of each other.

Let us defend each other's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth.

Labor in honor, each to prefer the other before himself.

Rom. 12: 9, 10; 15: 5-7; Phil. 2: 1, 2; 1 Peter 1: 22; 3: 8; 4: 8.

SECTION XXVII

WESLEYAN YOUTH

¶ 398. For the purpose of promoting Christian experience and holy character among the young people of our churches and congregations, and of training them for Christian service through the systematic study of the Word of God and properly directed activities, there shall be an organization under the authority of the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as governed by the following Constitutions:

¶ 398. (1) The Local Wesleyan Youth Constitution.

Article I. Name

The organization shall be called Wesleyan Youth of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article II. Object

The object of the organization shall be to build up its members in Christian experience and in holy character, to instruct them in the doctrines of the Bible and of the Church, to train them for Christian service through properly directed activities. The organization shall ever maintain a missionary emphasis, and at least one meeting each month or twenty-five per cent of the total yearly services shall be in the interest of missions with an offering.

Article III. Membership

(1) Active Members. All Christian young people who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church,

or Christian young people who are in harmony with the doctrines and standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church may become active members.

(2) Associate Members. Young people of good character who accept the moral standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as their rule of conduct may become associate members.

(3) Campus Members. When young people absent from the home society attending one of our Wesleyan Colleges desire to continue their membership in the home society they shall be enrolled and counted in the college W. Y. as "Campus Members" with all privileges which obtain in the home organization.

(4) Honorary Members. Older members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church who desire to be affiliated with W. Y. may be elected by the local or by one of its departments as honorary members thereof.

(5) Membership age. The age for active and associate membership shall be from 13 years to 40 years.

(6) Membership pledge cards. All active and associate members shall be received upon the signing of the membership pledge.

(7) The membership roll shall be revised by the Executive Council at the close of each conference year.

Pledge of Active Membership

Because of my devotion to Christ and His Church, I promise by His grace to seek the New Testament standard of heart purity; to strive always to live consistently for my Master; to read my Bible and pray daily, to attend faithfully the services of Wesleyan

Youth and to take part in all its activities as opportunity is afforded me.

Pledge of Associate Membership

Desiring to become affiliated with Wesleyan Youth as an associate member, I accept the moral standard of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as the rule of my conduct, and, I promise to attend faithfully the services of Wesleyan Youth, to do my best to advance its interests and to take part in its activities as opportunity is afforded me.

(8) **Membership privileges.** Membership shall carry full privileges except that only active members shall be eligible to hold office, serve as chairmen of standing committees, or delegates to the Annual Conference Convention.

Article IV. Officers

(1) The officers of the local shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, a Wesleyan Youth solicitor, and an adult counselor. Their term of office shall be for one year or until their successors shall be elected. The president, the chairman of the devotional and program committee and the adult counselor shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, providing that an organization on a pioneer work or mission not yet organized as a Wesleyan Methodist church may waive these requirements except for adult counselor. In case of college church organizations, this provision on church membership may be waived, except for Adult Counselor, and two of the other officers, when agreeable to the president of the college and the pastor of the college church.

(2) Local officers shall be elected within thirty days of the next session of the Annual Conference and shall take office at the beginning of the new Annual Conference year.

(3) The election of officers shall be as follows: A committee on nominations of not less than five active members of W. Y., and including the pastor as Chairman, shall be elected by the local. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate the officers of the local and the chairmen of the standing committees and to report the same to a meeting called for the election of officers. More than one name may be submitted for the office of president. Members of standing committees may be elected in such a manner as the organization may designate. The adoption of the report of the nominating committee by a majority vote and the confirmation of the entire organization by a business meeting of the church shall constitute the election.

(4) Any vacancies that may occur during the year shall be filled in the same manner as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

(5) The president shall submit a written report of the spiritual and financial status of the local to each regular quarterly business meeting of the church.

Article V. Departments

(1) When the best interests of the local youth program can be more efficiently served, W. Y. may organize into the following groups or any combinations of these groups:

Young Adult (ages 25-40).

Young People (ages 18-24).

Senior (ages 15, 16, 17).

Intermediate (ages 13, 14).

(2) The officers of each department, or combination of departments, shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and a Wesleyan Youth solicitor. There shall be an adult counselor for the intermediate department and for the senior department.

(3) The officers of each department so organized shall be elected in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as prescribed for the election of officers for a local in **Article IV** above.

(4) The officers and committees for any department shall be within the age range of that department.

(5) The executive committee of each department shall consist of the officers of the department, and the chairmen of the standing committees. The adult counselor shall be a member of the executive committee in the intermediate and senior departments. The chairman of the department shall be chairman of the executive committee ex-officio.

(6) Any vacancy that may occur during the year shall be filled in the same manner as outlined in **Article IV, Section 3**.

Article VI. Executive Council

(1) The executive council for the local shall consist of the pastor, the officers of the local and the chairman of the standing committees. The president shall be chairman ex-officio.

(2) In locals of two or more departments, the executive council shall also include the chairman of each department and the adult counselor in the case of the intermediate and senior departments.

Article VII. Organizing New Locals

In organizing a new local the interested group shall be called together. The pastor or some other person designated as temporary chairman shall outline the aims and purposes of W. Y. and shall acquaint the group with the Constitution, after which opportunity shall be given for the group to sign the membership pledge either as active or associate members. As soon as the roll of charter members is complete the group may proceed to organize in the same manner as outlined under **Article IV** of the Constitution.

Upon the completion of the organization, the secretary shall report to the president of the Conference W. Y. and the General Secretary of the General W. Y. giving the date and place of organization, the number of charter members and the names and addresses of the president, secretary, and treasurer, whereupon a Certificate of Organization will be issued from the General W. Y. office.

Article VIII. Relation to Conference and General Organizations

Each local shall keep full statistics and shall report the same annually on regular report forms to the Annual Conference Convention and to the General W. Y. Department and otherwise shall cooperate in every way with the Annual Conference organization and the General W. Y. Department in

the promotion of the work. All money raised by the local for denominational purposes shall be channeled through the Conference Treasurers and the General Treasurer of W. Y.

Article IX. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure.

Article X. By-Laws

The local shall have the right to enact by-laws not conflicting with this constitution and the discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

¶ 398. (2) The Local Wesleyan Youth By-Laws.

Article I. Meetings

(1) The devotional meetings of the local W. Y. shall be held Sunday evening preceding the regular evening church service, or at such other time as may have been approved by the Executive Council and voted by the group. One Sunday evening each month shall be devoted to Foreign Missions.

(2) Regular business meetings of the local shall be held (State whether to be held monthly or quarterly and on what day of the week or month.)

(3) Regular business meetings of the departments shall be held (State whether to be held monthly or quarterly and on what day of the week or month.)

(4) The local or department shall decide at its first business meeting of the year how many shall constitute a quorum.

(5) Special meetings of the local may be called by the president or pastor at such times as may be necessary.

(6) Special meetings of any department may be called by the chairman or the pastor at such times as may be necessary.

(7) Recommended order of business:

- a. Devotional exercises.
- b. Roll call.
- c. Reading of minutes.
- d. Reports of committees.
- e. Appointment of committees.
- f. Report of the Treasurer.
- g. Reception of new members.
- h. New business and special exercises such as the reading of papers and hearing of addresses.
- i. Adjournment.

(8) The Executive Council of the local shall meet at least once each quarter to plan the total program and to receive reports of the various departments. The Council shall have charge of all cooperative undertakings of the departments, such as, young people's revivals, Christian Service Training classes, projects, social meetings, etc.

(9) The Planning Conference shall consist of the Executive Council and the Executive Committee of each department. This conference shall meet at least semi-annually (preferably spring and fall) to correlate the work of all departments of the local and to promote the young people's work of the church.

Article II. Duties of Officers

(1) The president shall preside over meetings of the local, of the executive council, and of the planning conference. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He shall see that all officers, standing committees, and chairmen of departments (if organized) know their duties and shall help to advance the work of W. Y. in every way possible. He shall cooperate with adult counsellors in the intermediate and senior departments. He shall promote the General goals. He shall see that the treasurer's books are properly audited. Where two or more departments are organized he may serve as chairman of one of the departments.

(2) The vice-president shall cooperate with the president in every way to carry on the work, and in the absence of the president shall perform his duties in office. Where two or more departments are organized it is suggested that the vice-president give special attention to the promotion of one of these departments.

(3) The duties of the secretary shall be to keep a register of the membership roll, to keep a record of all proceedings in the business meetings of the local, of the executive council, and of the planning conference. The secretary shall prepare report forms and furnish complete statistics to the Annual Conference organization at its annual business meetings and to the General organization.

(4) The treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate record of all monies paid into the local and its

departments. He shall stimulate and direct the finances. He shall disburse money only as voted by the group. He shall be prepared to make a financial report to the business meetings and to the meetings of the executive council and shall prepare a quarterly report which he may either present himself or give to the president to present at the regular business meeting of the church. All treasurers of departments shall receive and keep an accurate record of all money collected by the department and shall deposit it with the treasurer of the local. The treasurer shall pay out department funds as directed by the department.

(5) **THE WESLEYAN YOUTH** solicitor shall be responsible for new and renewal subscriptions to the periodical and shall promote the circulation of **THE WESLEYAN YOUTH** in the local, the church, and the community in every way possible.

(6) The adult counselor for the intermediate department and the adult counselor for the senior department shall attend all meetings of their respective departments including social activities and all meetings of the executive committee of the department; shall counsel with the department concerning all activities in keeping with the aims and purposes of Wesleyan Youth. The counselor shall encourage and guide all standing committees in their tasks as needed and shall advise with the devotional committee from time to time and approve any programs for use which do not appear in the regular published series. The adult counselor shall work at all times in harmony with the pastor of the church and shall seek the highest spiritual welfare of each member.

Article III. Committees

(1) Each local or department of a local may have a devotional and program committee, a missionary committee, an evangelistic committee, a visiting committee, a membership committee, an educational committee, a social life committee, and such other committees as may be necessary for properly conducting its work. It is recommended that particular attention be given to filling the social life committee with qualified Christian young people.

Article IV. Duties of Committees

(1) The devotional and program committee shall have full responsibility for planning and promoting the regular devotional meetings, assigning leaders, advertising and encouraging variety in the services; shall be responsible for the spiritual emphasis in the meetings from time to time and shall carry a concern for the highest Christian development of each member of the local (or department).

(2) The missionary committee shall be responsible for all home and foreign missionary services carried on within the local (or department); shall seek from time to time to impart missionary inspiration and challenge to the members of the local.

(3) The evangelistic committee shall sponsor gospel team activities, house to house visitation, jail services, street meetings, and other similar activities.

(4) The membership committee shall be on the alert to seek out and recommend to the local young people interested and qualified for membership.

(5) The visiting committee shall visit the sick and

absent members of the local and otherwise contact young people in the community concerning the interests of the local (or department).

(6) The educational committee shall have charge of the educational meetings of the local (or department) planning for and directing the same under the advice and supervision of the pastor.

(7) The social life committee shall be responsible for carefully and prayerfully planning all social occasions such as outdoor picnics, seasonal home gatherings, birthday celebrations, and similar activities as are approved by the adult counselor and/or the pastor of the church.

Article V. Delegates

When the local is organized into two or more departments, delegates to the Annual Conference Convention shall be chosen from the various departments as far as possible.

Article VI. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended or added to at any regular meeting of the local by a two-thirds vote of all members present provided that such amendments or additions have been announced at the previous meeting and are in accord with the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, do not conflict with the Constitution of Wesleyan Youth, and have been approved by the executive committee of the local.

¶ 398. (3) The Annual Conference Wesleyan Youth Constitution.

Article I

All local Wesleyan Youth organizations within the boundaries of each conference shall be known as "Wesleyan Youth of the Conference."

Article II

Section 1. There shall be an Annual Conference Convention of Wesleyan Youth in each conference which shall not only receive reports, make recommendations, conduct the election of officers, and carry on any other business pertaining to the Conference W. Y. but shall be planned as a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. Other conference conventions for the promotion of the aims and purposes of Wesleyan Youth may be held during the year.

Section 2. The annual Conference Convention shall be composed of the officers of the Conference W. Y., the District Chairmen, presidents of locals, the President of the Annual Conference, and two elected delegates from the active membership of each local in the conference. When the active membership in any local exceeds twenty-five there may be one additional delegate elected. Locals with two or more age departments, will, as far as possible, choose delegates from each department.

Section 3. One delegate within the active membership range of W. Y. may be appointed by the pastor of each church in the conference not having a fully organized local.

Section 4. Where an Annual Conference Convention deems advisable for the best interest of the Conference youth program, the Annual Conference Convention may seat pastors.

Article III. Officers

The annual Conference Convention shall elect by ballot, subject to the confirmation of the Annual Conference of the Church, or the Annual Conference President and his Advisory Board, the following officers for the period of one year or until their successors are duly elected: a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. All conference officers shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and active members of a local within the bounds of the conference at the time of their election.

Article IV. District Organization

Section 1. The annual Conference Convention may organize the conference into districts with preferably three to six locals located in proximity to each other in each district and shall fix the boundaries of the districts.

Section 2. The Chairman of each district shall be an active member of a local within the district, and shall be elected by the annual Conference Convention.

Section 3. There shall be two other members of the Executive Committee of the district who shall be elected at the first district convention following the annual conference convention and shall serve until the close of the following annual conference conven-

tion or until their successors are elected. The district chairmen may be members of the Conference W. Y. executive council.

Section 4. Voting in the district conventions shall be confined to active members from the local organizations of the district who are present.

Article V. Conference Executive Council

There shall be a Conference W. Y. Executive Council which shall be composed of the Conference W. Y. officers, and the President of the Annual Conference who is a member ex-officio. The council shall determine in advance the number who shall constitute a quorum for the carrying on of business at any called session. The undertaking by the council of projects not previously authorized shall have the confirmation of the Annual Conference or the President and his Advisory Board.

Article VI. Vacancies

The Conference Executive Council shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur within the council between annual conventions subject to the confirmation of the Annual Conference or the President and his Advisory Board.

Article VII. Relation to Annual Conference

The election of officers, plan of work, financial undertakings, and all other actions of the Conference W. Y. shall be concisely presented in written form to the Annual Conference in session or to the Conference President and his Advisory Board by the W. Y. President for the purpose of information, co-

ordination, and the confirmation of the decisions of the Annual Conference W. Y. Convention.

Article VIII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure.

¶ 398. (4) The Annual Conference Wesleyan Youth By-Laws.

Article I. The Annual Convention

The annual convention of the Conference Wesleyan Youth shall convene at a time and place designated by the previous convention or by the conference executive council upon the approval of the Annual Conference of the Church in session or the Conference President and his Advisory Board.

Article II. Duties of the Convention

Section 1. The Annual Conference W. Y. Convention shall elect all officers as designated in **Article III** of the Conference Wesleyan Youth Constitution. In the case of the President nominations shall be by a nominating ballot, and election by a majority vote by ballot of the members of the convention present and voting. Other officers may be nominated to the convention, by the method suggested by the convention, and shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting.

Section 2. At the Annual Conference Convention preceding the General Quadrennial Convention delegates shall be elected to the Quadrennial W. Y. Convention as specified in **Article II Section 3** of the General Society Constitution. All delegates elected

shall be active members of some local organization within the bounds of the conference and shall as far as possible represent all age departments of Wesleyan Youth.

Section 3. The convention shall receive reports from conference officers, chairmen of standing committees, district chairmen, and presidents of local organizations.

Section 4. Convention committees which may be named are listed as follows: Nominating, Finance, Missionary, Evangelistic, Stewardship, Literature, Goals and Methods, Junior Work, Senior Work, Young Adult Work, Resolutions; and others.

Section 5. Standing committees may be ordered to serve in the various fields mentioned above as may be required.

Article III. Duties of Officers

Section 1. President. (1) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Conference convention and at the business meetings of the Conference Executive Council. (2) He shall have general oversight of the Conference W. Y. work in cooperation with standing committees and district chairmen. (3) He shall actively promote the organization of a local in each church of his conference. (4) He shall give as much time as possible on the field and otherwise to the active promotion of the work of W. Y. within his conference.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall cooperate with the President in every way possible to carry on the work of the Conference W. Y. In case of absence,

resignation, or death of the president, he shall perform the duties of the president's office. It is recommended that the Vice-President be named Chairman of one of the Standing Committees.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the proceedings of the Annual Conventions and of the meetings of the Conference Executive Council; and shall attend to all matters of correspondence for the conference organization. The Secretary shall send to the Area President and General W. Y. office within thirty days after the annual business meeting a full directory of the names and addresses of the local presidents and secretaries together with the Annual Conference W. Y. statistics for the organization and the names and addresses of the newly elected conference W. Y. officers, and District Chairmen.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive and, upon the order of the council, shall disburse all monies of the conference organization, keeping a systematic record of the same, and rendering a full report to the annual conference convention of Wesleyan Youth and to the Annual Conference for audit and approval. The Treasurer is directed to remit all monies received for General Work to the General Office at least quarterly.

Article IV. Duties of the Conference Executive Council

Section 1. The Executive Council shall promote the work of the Conference W. Y. according to the policies outlined and the program adopted by the Conference W. Y. Convention and confirmed by the

Annual Conference of the Church or the Conference President and his advisory board.

Section 2. Business meetings of the Executive Council may be called by the W. Y. President or the Annual Conference President at such times as may be necessary.

Section 3. The Executive Council shall through its president and secretary keep in contact with the General W. Y. office and cooperate with the general program in every way possible.

Section 4. The Executive Council shall always give proper recognition to the Annual Conference President as head of all conference work and shall conduct its program in harmony with the other departments and with the principles and standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Section 5. The Executive Council shall serve as a program committee for the planning of all conference conventions including times of inspiration, fellowship, instruction, or evangelism.

Section 6. The Executive Council shall publish a directory of Conference W. Y. officers and all members of the Executive Council, a list of the names and addresses of all local presidents and secretaries, a table of Conference W. Y. statistics, and important official actions of the Conference W. Y. Convention which should be made a part of the published record. It is highly recommended that arrangements be made with the Annual Conference to have this record included in the published minutes of the Annual Conference.

Article V. Duties of the District Committee

Section 1. The District Committee shall serve as a program committee and the District Chairman shall preside at the rallies.

Section 2. The time and place for the district rallies shall be arranged by the District Committee unless planned for in a previous rally.

Section 3. One district rally is recommended every three months, unless geographical distances or other circumstances make this number prohibitive.

Article VI. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure. Further By-Laws which do not conflict with the Constitution and the discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church may be enacted by the Annual W. Y. Convention.

¶ 398. (5) The General Wesleyan Youth Constitution.

Article I

The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Youth. All Conference and Local Wesleyan Youth shall constitute the General Wesleyan Youth.

Article II

Section 1. There shall be a Quadrennial Convention of Wesleyan Youth which shall be held at the time and place of the General Conference of the Church, at which time officers shall be elected and services of evangelism, Christian nurture, missions, worship, and other great themes shall be emphasized.

Section 2. The length of this Convention, the exact time it shall convene, and the general planning for the program shall be arranged by the General W. Y. Council in consultation with the Board of Administration of the Church.

Section 3. The Quadrennial Convention shall be composed of members of the General Council and delegates as follows: Each Conference W. Y. President shall be a delegate ex-officio. Each Conference shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each three hundred active members, or major fraction thereof. These delegates, with adequate alternates, shall be elected by ballot at the last regular annual business meeting preceding General Conference, provided that any Annual Conference holding its session within sixty days of the date of the opening of the coming General Conference, shall elect its delegates at the previous annual session. Every Conference W. Y. shall be entitled to at least one delegate in addition to the President. In the case of inability of the President to serve as delegate, the Vice-President shall automatically become the ex-officio delegate.

Section 4. Delegates to the Quadrennial Convention shall be, at the time of serving, members of a local W. Y. organization in the conference from which they were elected and members of a Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article III

General W. Y. Organization

Section 1. The Board of Administration shall be

the Board of Trustees of the W. Y., which shall be financially amenable to the Board as specified in Paragraph 227 of the Book of Discipline. The General W. Y. shall submit to the Board annually a statement of estimated income and expense for the ensuing year. The recommendations of W. Y. as to projected plans and policies shall require the approval of the Board in order to be effective.

Section 2. The Quadrennial Convention shall elect by majority vote, by ballot, a General President, subject to confirmation of the General Conference. Each Area President shall call a caucus of the delegates of his Area during the Quadrennial Convention at which time the Area President from each of the four educational zones of the Church shall be nominated by a majority vote by ballot of the caucus for the next Quadrennium and confirmed by the Quadrennial Convention and General Conference. Each of the five above officers shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and active members of W. Y. and under forty years of age at the time of their election, and shall constitute a General W. Y. Council to serve until their successors are duly elected.

Section 3. One member of the Board of Administration of the Church shall be appointed by the Board of Administration as a member of the General W. Y. Council to serve for the Quadrennium.

Section 4. A General Secretary shall be elected for the period of the Quadrennium as follows: He shall be nominated by a majority vote by ballot of the Quadrennial Convention and shall be elected by a majority vote of the General Conference of the

Church. More than one nomination may be submitted. He shall be a member of the General W. Y. Council. He may be above forty years of age.

Section 5. The General W. Y. Council shall fill any vacancy that may occur on the Council during the quadrennium, subject to confirmation by the Board of Administration.

Section 6. The General W. Y. Council shall promote the work of Wesleyan Youth according to policies outlined by the Quadrennial Convention and in harmony with the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Section 7. There shall be an annual assessment of one dollar fifty cents (\$1.50) per active member. This money shall be forwarded through the Annual Conference W. Y. Treasurer to the General Secretary for the purpose of financing the General W. Y. Department.

Section 8. This constitution may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure.

¶ 398. (6) The General Wesleyan Youth By-Laws.

Article I

Section 1. All members of the General Council may serve as official representatives of Wesleyan Youth in rallies and conventions, or at other times as opportunity affords or when called upon to do so.

Section 2. The Area President and the Conference W. Y. Presidents of each educational district shall constitute an Executive Committee of that area and shall be presided over by the Area President. The

educational districts may further organize and elect officers as may be feasible and necessary for the best interests of the work in the area and the total program of Wesleyan Youth.

Article II. Duties of Council

Section 1. The General Council shall elect one of its members to serve as recording secretary. He shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Quadrennial Convention and of all business meetings of the General Council.

Section 2. The General Council shall elect, subject to approval of the Board of Administration, an Associate Editor for THE WESLEYAN YOUTH, who shall cooperate with the Church Editor in the publication of said periodical.

Section 3. The General W. Y. Council shall recommend the salary of the General Secretary including satisfactory arrangements for his necessary traveling expenses.

Section 4. The General W. Y. Council shall give general promotion to the work of Wesleyan Youth in harmony with the standards and principles of the Church. The General W. Y. Council shall at all times be amenable to the Board of Administration or to the General Conference of the Church.

Article III. Meetings of the Council

Section 1. The annual business meeting shall be held each year in the month of May or at such other time as the Council may previously designate. The place of the Council meetings may be determined by

the General President and General Secretary if not previously arranged by the Council.

Section 2. Special meetings for business may be called by the General President, or by the General Secretary, with consent of the representative of the Board of Administration who is a member of the Council.

Section 3. Four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. One of these four may be the representative from the Board of Administration of the Church, who is a member of the Council.

Article IV. Duties of Officers

Section 1. General President: (1) The General President shall preside at the meetings of the Quadrennial Convention and at the business meetings of the General W. Y. Council. (2) He shall take an active interest in the entire program of Wesleyan Youth and shall devote as much of his time to the promotion of the general work as his other duties may permit.

Section 2. General Secretary: (1) The term of office of the General Secretary shall begin the fifteenth day of August following the General Conference at which he is elected.

(2) He shall be the executive officer of the General W. Y. and as such shall have supervision of all departments of the General W. Y. work and shall execute the plans adopted from time to time by the General W. Y. Council and the Board of Administration of the Church.

(3) He shall, in conference with the General W. Y. Council, work out from time to time recommendations as to projected policies and procedures and shall present same for confirmation to the Board of Administration or its Executive Board.

(4) He shall be general treasurer of W. Y. and as such shall keep an accurate account of all monies of the organization reported to him and shall hold in trust the funds of the organization, paying out the same pursuant to vote of the General Council as limited in **Article III, Section 1**, of the Constitution. He shall not cancel or surrender any note or obligation held against anyone, except when paid, without the order of the Board of Administration or its Executive Board, nor shall he make any loans or borrow any money except as authorized by the Board of Administration or its Executive Board. He shall be responsible for preparing and submitting to the Board of Administration an annual financial report and such other reports as shall be required by said Board.

(5) He may officially represent the General W. Y. in Conventions, Rallies, Annual Conferences, or other assemblies of the Church.

(6) He shall maintain contact with other departments of the Church and work in harmony with them. When deemed advisable he may maintain contact with other denominational or interdenominational young people's organizations.

(7) It is expected that he maintain an office for the Department, and that he employ such help as may be needed and authorized by the Council to carry on properly the work of the General W. Y.

(8) He shall supervise the General W. Y. promotional material, the issuing of pamphlets and other necessary materials for the promotion of the work of W. Y. throughout the area, conference, and local organizations.

(9) He shall work cooperatively with the Editor of THE WESLEYAN METHODIST in supplying material for space therein as may be previously arranged in harmony with the general editorial policy.

(10) He shall judiciously and economically conduct the affairs of his office, keeping all expenditures within the limits set by the budget and always have the best interest of W. Y. in mind.

(11) He shall render a full report to the annual meeting of the General W. Y. Council and a quadrennial report to the Quadrennial Convention and General Conference of the Church.

(12) He shall perform all other duties in keeping with his office as ordered by the General W. Y. Council and the Board of Administration.

(13) Should the work of the General Secretary become unsatisfactory or his conduct unbecoming he may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote by ballot of the Council and Board of Administration in joint session provided that he shall be notified beforehand and given opportunity to defend his position or correct his error in conduct.

Section 3. Area President: (1) He shall organize and preside over all meetings of the Area Council.

(2) He shall preside over all area conventions and group meetings.

(3) He shall assist in conventions, rallies, and youth camps as far as time permits and his services are requested. He shall be remunerated for his services by the group requesting them.

(4) He shall take an active interest in the entire program of Wesleyan Youth and shall cooperate with the General President and the General Secretary in the promotion of the general organization.

(5) He shall represent the Area in all general group meetings and his expenses for these services shall be paid from the general treasury.

Article V. Committees

Section 1. The General W. Y. Council shall order the formation of an Executive Committee, A Topic and Lesson Committee, and such other committees as may be deemed necessary for advancing its work. The election of the Topic and Lesson Committee shall require confirmation of the Board of Administration to be final.

Section 2. (1) The Executive Committee of the Council shall be composed of the member of the Board of Administration of the Church, who is a member of the Council, the General President and the General Secretary and one member elected by the Council.

(2) The Executive Committee shall meet and conduct the business of the General Council between annual sessions when it is impractical or impossible to call the entire Council together. Carefully prepared minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the remaining members of the Council.

Section 3. The Topic And Lesson Committee may be appointed to serve for the quadrennium. It shall be composed of the General Secretary as Chairman and two other members of the Council. The duties of this committee shall be to arrange the topics and subjects for the devotional meetings of the W. Y. and supervise the selection of writers for these lessons.

Section 4. These by-laws may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure.

PART V.
JUDICIAL
ADMINISTRATION

SECTION XXVIII. JUDICIARY RULES.

JUDICIAL
ADMINISTRATION

SECTION XXVIII

JUDICIARY RULES

¶ 399. A Church, when it shall judge it expedient, may appoint a judicial committee of not less than six persons, who shall remain in office one year, unless displaced by the church. This committee shall be a standing court to hear all complaints, and to try all charges against any lay member of the church; provided that all cases shall be first stated to the church, and by it referred to the judicial committee; provided also that the church shall have power to refer any case to a special committee, of males or females, as it shall deem best to secure the ends of truth and justice; provided also that the fact of a church having a judicial or other committee shall not be construed into a necessity of the reference of a case to any committee, unless the church at any regular or called meeting shall vote to so refer.

¶ 400. The pastor shall be the chairman of the judicial committee; but when the pastor is the plaintiff, or when the church has no pastor, it may appoint some other person to preside; and in the case of its neglecting so to do the committee shall appoint its own chairman.

¶ 401. For personal offenses, sinful tempers or words, or neglect of duties, our Lord's directions in Matt. 18:15-17 shall be followed; and in case the person aggrieved shall report the alleged offense, before these previous steps shall have been taken, he

shall be deemed guilty of evil speaking, and without amendment he shall be brought to trial on charge for this offense. But for public offenses, such as holding and propagating heretical doctrines, flagrant disobedience to the order and Discipline of the Church and for open immoralities, the parties so offending may be proceeded against without previous labor, provided that the directions given in paragraph 71, sub-paragraph 2, have been complied with. If any member of the Church Advisory Committee should be connected with the case as to render them incapable of serving, the church, if it judges best, may elect a special committee in the case.

¶ 402. When any member of our Church shall join any secret society, and after being labored with refuses to withdraw from said secret society, the person so offending shall without trial be declared withdrawn from the Church.

¶ 403. In all cases of trial a bill shall be made out setting forth the charge or charges, with the specifications, in writing, and a copy of the same shall be served upon the accused by the chairman of the court, or the complainant, allowing the accused a reasonable time to prepare for trial, which shall not be less than six days nor more than thirty days. The removal of the accused person beyond the jurisdiction of the judicature during the pending trial shall be deemed presumptive proof of guilt, unless satisfactory evidence be presented of inability to be present. If the accused party confess guilt, no trial is necessary and the church can proceed at once to determine the penalty

as is provided for. If the party accused asks for a letter of dismissal before charges are preferred, the church must grant the same. See Paragraph 78. The church may grant a letter of dismissal, even after charges are preferred. When charges are preferred and the party says they are ready for trial, then no time need be given for them to prepare.

¶ 404. A complaint against any lay member of the church shall be presented to the pastor; but if there be no pastor, or if he neglect to attend to the complaint, the charges shall be presented to the judicial committee; and if there be no judicial committee, the charges shall be presented to the church at one of its meetings, and the church may proceed to try the complaint, or refer it for trial to a special committee which it may appoint for that purpose, and in all cases of conviction before a committee an appeal to the church shall be allowed, whose decision shall be final.

¶ 405. A complaint against an elder shall be presented to the chairman of a standing committee of four elders, which shall have been elected by the previous Annual Conference, and shall consist of the most discreet and experienced men in said conference, who shall have power to select three lay members of similar character residing near the accused elder, who shall together with said elders constitute a judiciary committee for the trial of all such cases; and in case of the incapacity of any ministerial member of said committee to serve as above, by reason of sickness, removal, death, or other cause, then the President of the conference shall have power to fill such vacancy.

Said committee shall constitute a court for the trial of the complaint, with power to acquit, censure, or suspend until the next session of the Annual Conference, whose decision shall be final. When a Minister is tried on a charge of immorality, and the Committee shall find that this charge is not sustained by the evidence, but that the Minister has been proven guilty of "high imprudence and unministerial conduct," it may declare this fact, and subject the offender to reproof, suspension, or deprivation of Ministerial Office and Credentials. Provided that in such cases the Annual Conference may reinstate the party by a two-thirds vote. (See Paragraph 140.)

¶ 406. When the President of an Annual Conference and at least one of the members of the Advisory Board shall determine that an elder or licentiate is violating any of the orders or resolutions of the conference, and after being labored with refuses to correct his behavior, they shall bring him to trial before the judiciary committee; provided, that whenever the President, or the ministerial member of the Advisory Board is the accused person, the other members of the board shall be authorized to act in the case.

¶ 407. The Annual Conference shall also have original jurisdiction, and may proceed to try any complaint against an elder; provided, that in its judgment sufficient notice shall have been given to the accused, and at least three weeks' time allowed him to prepare for trial; or it may refer the complaint to a committee which it may appoint as above; or to a special committee composed of four elders and three lay members which the Annual Conference shall appoint, to be tried during its session, or after adjourn-

ment, as it shall direct; or it may refer the complaint, to be presented and tried, as first provided for in this rule.

¶ 408. When an elder or a minister shall have been convicted of the crime of fornication or adultery he shall be expelled from the Annual Conference of which he is a member, and shall never be restored to membership in any Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference; and no Annual Conference shall elect to Elders Orders or receive from any other conference or Church any one who has been convicted of these crimes after entering the ministry. But this shall not prohibit membership in a Wesleyan Methodist church when the guilty person repents.

¶ 409. A complaint against a conference preacher holding an Annual Conference license shall be received and heard in all respects the same as a complaint against an elder, before the committee appointed for the trial of an elder. (See Paragraph 140.)

¶ 410. A complaint against a local preacher who is acting under the authority of a Quarterly Conference shall be presented to the pastor and by him brought before the Quarterly Conference, or if the pastor refuse or neglect to attend it, it shall be presented to the Quarterly Conference at one of its meetings, and the Quarterly Conference may proceed to try the person on the complaint, or refer the person for trial to a committee which it may appoint for that purpose. In all cases an appeal from the findings of the committee may be taken to the Quarterly Conference, whose decision shall be final. In cases where one

church constitutes a pastoral charge, the church shall conduct the trial under the rules governing a Quarterly Conference as stated above.

¶ 411. A complaint against an offending church shall be presented to the chairman of the standing committee previously elected by the Annual Conference for the trial of an elder, which committee, having selected three lay members as in the case of the trial of an elder, shall meet at the place where the accused church usually worships, or in its vicinity, and shall constitute a court for the trial of the complaint, before whom the church by its representatives shall appear. If the committee judge the church to be guilty of having violated any of the Elementary Principles, or General Rules, or any rule or section enacted by the concurrent action of the General and Annual Conferences and churches it shall so declare; and if the church shall not give satisfaction by correcting the evil, the case shall be presented at the next session of the Annual Conference, whose decision shall be final. If the Annual Conference judge the church guilty it shall withdraw fellowship from the same, and no minister or licentiate of our Denomination shall become its pastor until it shall have repented and reformed. Provided, the Annual Conference at any of its sessions may receive a complaint against any church within its jurisdiction and order a trial or investigation by a committee which it shall appoint; said committee to hold such trial or make such investigation within two months of the closing of that session of conference, and said committee may suspend

said church until the next session of the Annual Conference.

¶ 412. If the Annual Conference approves of the verdict of the Judiciary Committee in any case of suspension or expulsion of an accused church, a committee shall be appointed by the Annual Conference whose duty it shall be to call together the loyal members of said church, and declare them to be the Wesleyan Methodist church in that place. Said committee shall report its action to the President of the Annual Conference who shall report the same to the Annual Conference at its next session.

¶ 413. If the President or Secretary of any Annual Conference shall receive a complaint against a church within two months preceding the time already appointed for an Annual Conference session he shall cite such church to appear at the approaching session of the Annual Conference by representation for the investigation or trial.

¶ 414. In any case of dispute about the non-payment of debts, or the settlement of accounts, the proceedings shall be the same as in all other cases; with the exception that the verdict shall be a simple declaration of what is judged to be right between the parties. If either party shall enter into a suit at law against any member of the church, unless the case justify such a measure, before these steps shall have been taken, or shall refuse to comply with such decision such party shall be cut off from fellowship, on conviction of the fact before the proper court.

¶ 415. All trials shall be public when the accused party shall demand it; the accused shall also have the right of objecting to any member of the court, and the remaining members shall allow or overrule the objections; the accused shall likewise be allowed the assistance of any minister or member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as counsel, and the court may allow or exclude other counsel at its discretion; of introducing witnesses, and of cross-examining those introduced by the plaintiff; and of making his defense without interruption.

¶ 416. No deposition or certificate from an absent person shall be received as testimony in any trial, unless the party against whom it is sought to be introduced has had a proper opportunity to cross-examine the person signing it, upon the contents thereof.

¶ 417. The proceedings in all trials shall be taken down by a secretary appointed by the court, who shall furnish a copy of the decision when demanded by either party; and on an appeal the minutes of the court below shall be read in evidence, and any new proof touching the same facts shall be heard, but no new charges or allegations shall be introduced.

¶ 418. The General Conference shall designate five members of the Board of Administration, three elders and two lay members, who shall be thereby constituted a Judiciary Committee to be known as the Board of Review, and this Board of Review shall have authority to hear appeals and to decide questions of law, subject to the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and of the Gen-

eral Conference of said Church, in the following cases and particulars: (1) In all cases of the trial of an elder or an Annual Conference preacher where three elders who have served under conference appointment during the year last preceding the trial and appeal shall join the defendant in an appeal from the action of an Annual Conference under the Judiciary Rules for the trial of an elder or an Annual Conference preacher. (2) In all cases involving the validity of the reception of member to an Annual Conference, either when such members are elected to Elders Orders or are received from some other Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference; or from some other religious body, whenever three elders qualified as in the last preceding provision shall appeal from the action of the Annual Conference. (3) In all cases of difference between any two or more Annual Conferences where there is a disagreement, and the aggrieved conference is unable to secure satisfaction by ordinary methods. (4) In all cases where three Annual Conferences shall unite in an appeal from any action of the Board of Administration when acting with reference to the Annual Conferences. The decision of the Board of Review in such cases shall be reported to the Board of Administration at its next session, whether it be a regular or special session, and it shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board of Administration to reverse the decision of the Board of Review in these particular cases. (See ¶ 214, sub-paragraph (3). In all cases brought before the Board of Review the entire case including the charges or question or questions at issue, and all of the evidence shall be submitted in writing, and one

or more persons may argue the case on each side under such regulations as the Board of Review shall establish, but in no case shall the Board of Review constitute a trial court, and it shall not hear or receive any new evidence; provided, however, that the fact that new evidence and what is intended to prove thereby may be submitted, and this may influence the Board of Review in determining the case when the question at issue is whether a new trial shall be ordered. The Board of Review shall have authority to affirm, reverse, or remand a case for a new trial. It shall select one of its number to act as chairman, and it may select a secretary from its own number or employ some one else. When the Board of Review meets in connection with the meetings of the Board of Administration it shall hear and act upon all cases submitted to it without charge to any one, but in cases of special meetings the parties bringing the action shall provide for the expenses of the meeting. In all cases the decisions of the Board of Review shall be made in writing and the principal parties to the case shall be furnished with a copy of the decision within ten days after the decision is rendered. A book of record shall be furnished at the expense of the Publishing House in which shall be recorded all cases acted upon and the decisions rendered, and all documents pertaining to cases brought before the Board of Review shall be kept on file. Four members shall constitute a quorum, and it shall require four votes to reverse any judgment rendered by a lower court. The records of this Board of Review shall be submitted to the General Conference at each

regular session and when approved by the General Conference all decisions of this Board of Review shall become the law of the Church until repealed by the General Conference, and in the edition of the Discipline following each General Conference these decisions which have been approved by the General Conference and which have the effect of rendering invalid any point of Church law shall be made a part of the Discipline. In any case where any members of this Board of Review is an interested party to the case the remaining members shall consider objections to his sitting as a member of the Board and where justice demands may select some other member of the Board of Administration to fill his place in connection with that particular case, but this shall not be deemed to cause a vacancy in the membership of the Board. All permanent vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Administration.

PART VI
THE RITUAL

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| SECTION XXIX. | FORM OF ORDINATION. |
| SECTION XXX. | COMMISSIONING OF DEACONS. ESSES. |
| SECTION XXXI. | BAPTISM. |
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| SECTION XXXV. | THE DEDICATION OF CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES. |
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SECTION XXIX

NOTE: The Rituals for (1) Ordination, (2) The Lord's Supper, and (3) Baptism shall be followed as here prescribed; but a measure of flexibility within the established standards of our Church is permitted in the other Rituals.

THE FORM AND MANNER OF ORDAINING ELDERS

¶ 419. When the time appointed for ordination shall have come one of the elders shall present unto the presiding officer those who are to be ordained, saying:

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

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain elders. For after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if any of you know any impediment or crime in any part 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 edifica-

tion 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 presiding officer 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 meditation 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.

Presiding Officer: Is it your sincere conviction that you are truly called according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ to the office and work of an elder in The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

P. 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. Do you cordially accept our Articles of Faith and agree to declare and defend them?

A. I do, in the fear of God.

P. Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrines and sacraments

and disciplines 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 presiding officer 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 presiding officer and the elders present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each of them, and the presiding officer 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 presiding officer 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 presiding officer 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 presiding officer shall then, in behalf of the Conference, give to each of the persons ordained the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the office and work of an elder, and presenting the parchments with such remarks as he deems fitting, concluding the service with the benediction:)

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.

SECTION XXX

THE COMMISSIONING OF DEACONESSES

(Devotional exercises and suitable addresses may precede the following order of service, which may be varied as occasion may require.)

¶ 420. 1. **Presentation of candidates.** Let the pastor or some designated official present the candidates to the president, saying: "We present these sisters to be commissioned to the work of a deaconess in the Church."

2. **Hymn No. 344 in Hymns of the Living Faith,** or another appropriate selection.

3. **Responsive reading.**

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

Congregation: For ye know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Leader: Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness; therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Congregation: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house.

Leader: So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty: for He is thy Lord; and worship thou Him.

Congregation: Let thy work appear unto all servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

4. **Prayer:** O Eternal Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the creator of man and of woman, who didst not disdain that thine only begotten Son should be born of a woman; who also in the tabernacle of the testimony, and in the temple didst ordain women to be keepers of thy holy gates—do Thou now also look down upon these thy servants who are to be set apart to the office of deaconess, and grant them thy Holy Spirit that they may worthily discharge the work which is committed to them, to thy glory and to the glory and praise of Christ, to whom be praise and adoration forever. Amen.

5. **Address to the candidates:** Dear sisters, we rejoice with you that in the good providence of God an open door of usefulness has been found for you in the service of the Church of Christ. In our Master's vineyard there are various forms of labor, and to each disciple some fitting task is assigned; but to you are accorded peculiar privileges and priceless opportunities. Released from other cares you give yourself without reservation to the service of the Lord, ready for any duty which may fall to your lot. Like our blessed Master, you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering as He did to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sin-laden world. You are to minister to the

poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, save the sinning, and be ever ready to take up any other duty for which willing hands cannot otherwise be found. Such a ministry is one which confers upon you great honor, but also a solemn responsibility. You have not entered upon it lightly, and now doubtless in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have already consecrated yourselves to this office and work. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

Question: Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a deaconess in The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer: I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Question: Will you strive to walk so close to your Saviour's side, and ever be filled with His Spirit, that you will carry His blessed presence to

the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?

Answer: I will endeavor so to do.

Question: Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the prosecution of your work?

Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

6. Hymn.

(Congregation and candidates, kneeling, after a brief season of silent prayer, unite in singing:)

Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
 Take my moments and my days;
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
 At the impulse of thy love;
 Take my feet and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
 Always, only, for my King.
 Take my lips and let them be
 Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect and use
 Ev'ry power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is thine own,
 It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

(The congregation will arise and remain standing while the candidates remain kneeling.)

7. **Invocation.** May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you evermore. May His holy anointing impart to you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore. Amen.

(The candidates arise, and the minister, taking the right hand of each candidate in turn, shall say:)

I commission thee to the office of deaconess in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

8. **Dismissal with benediction.**

SECTION XXXI

BAPTISM AND DEDICATION

¶ 421. Adult persons and the parents of every child to be baptized shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

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

A. The Baptism of Young Children

[The minister shall come to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, and shall call the parents or guardians of the child (or children) to be baptized; and when these have taken their places, with the child (or children) before the font, the minister shall say:]

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 to be consecrated by this solemn ordinance to the service of his (or her) Creator, to 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 that this child, being made partaker of the divine nature may grow up into Christ our living head in all things, and in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto perfect spiritual manhood, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; and grant 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 that this child 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 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 them that brought them; but when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them. Suffer the lit-

the 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 guardians) severally as follows:)

Question: Dost thou, in the presence of God, and of these witnesses, solemnly dedicate this child to the Lord, presenting him or her for baptism that he (or she) may live in God's service all his days?

Answer: I do.

Question: Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in the child's 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 lieth, thou will prevent the child's following the same?

Answer: I do.

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

Answer: I do.

Question: Wilt thou, out of the same, diligently teach this child the statutes and commandments of the Most High God; and wilt thou train him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Answer: I will.

(Then the minister shall take the child into his hands (arms) and say to the parents, or guardians, or friends:)

Name this child.

(And then, naming it after them, the minister shall sprinkle, or pour water upon it, or, if desired, immerse it in water, saying:)

(Name), I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen!

(Then the minister shall say:)

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, for ever. Amen!

(Then shall the minister conclude with extemporary prayer.)

B. The Baptism of Those of Riper Years

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 has promised by Christ our Lord. Amen!

(Then shall the people stand, 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 shall the minister speak to the persons to be baptized in this wise:)

Well Beloved, you have presented yourselves for holy baptism, you have heard how the congregation has prayed that God would continue His loving favor toward you and bring you unto His eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping God, has promised His only begotten Son whom He yielded up for our redemption that He would grant these gracious favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part

in the presence of this congregation that you, renouncing the devil and all his works, will implicitly believe God's holy word and obediently keep His commandments.

(Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized, severally:)

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

Answer: I renounce them all.

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

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

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer: This is my desire.

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

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

(Then shall the minister say:)

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

(Then shall the minister take by the right hand each person to be baptized and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name and then shall 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, concluding with extemporary prayer and the benediction.)

C. The Dedication of Children

(For those who desire to have their children dedicated to God and His service, without the form and

ceremony of infant baptism, we recommend that our ministers use the service which follows.)

[After the singing of a suitable hymn, the minister shall take his place at the altar and shall call to take the places before the altar the parents, or guardians, of the child (or children) to be dedicated to the Lord. These shall take their places, with the child (or children), after which the minister shall say:]

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 to be consecrated to God and to His service.

I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His bounteous mercy He will that this child, being made a partaker of the divine nature may grow up into Christ our living head in all things, and come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto perfect spiritual manhood, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; and grant 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 that this child 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 unto 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 Thy everlasting kingdom, which Thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen!

(Then shall the people stand and the minister shall say to the parents, or guardians, of the child which is brought for dedication:)

You have brought this child whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By this act you therefore signify your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that he (or she) shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the church and congregation, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and thus doing may live and die a Christian, attaining in the end of this earthly life to everlasting life in the Kingdom of God.

But in order that this may be accomplished, it will be your duty as parents (or guardians) to early teach this child the fear of the Lord; to watch over his (or her) education, that he (or she) may not be

led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct his (or her) mind to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all mankind, also to direct his (or her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (or her) from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lieth, to "bring him (or her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Question: Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of God?

Answer: I will.

(Then shall the minister read the following Scripture lesson:)

And they brought young children unto Him, that He should touch them: and the 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, and put His hands upon them, and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16).

(Then shall the minister ask the name of the child, and placing his right hand upon the child's head shall say:)

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

(The minister shall then offer the Lord's Prayer or some other appropriate or extemporaneous prayer)

SECTION XXXII

THE ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

¶ 422. General Directions.

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.

Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper.

Let the officiating minister read the following (or other suitable) Scriptures:

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it; and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26: 26-29).

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread

which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (I Corinthians 10: 16, 17).

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (I Corinthians 11:23-29).

Let an appropriate hymn be sung.

(Then shall the Elder read:)

The Invitation

Ye who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and charity with your neighbors; and ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sin, 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 let this general prayer be offered:)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail the sinfulness of our lives in times past when our errors offended Thy divine majesty and justly provoked Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our past transgressions against Thy love. The very remembrance of them is exceeding grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, O God, for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, through whose blood we have forgiveness of sins; and grant that we may serve and please Thee in newness of life and purity of heart, world without end, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

(Or, if preferred, the minister and the people may repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison.)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us that 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, for ever. Amen.

(Then shall the elder say:)

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 in-

spiration 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.

(The Prayer—with the communicants kneeling at the altar:)

O Merciful Lord, we do not presume to come to this Thy table 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 purpose is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, to receive rightly, worthily and by faith these emblems of the death and suffering of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may be made partakers of His body and blood, and 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; 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

[Then may the minister first receive the communion in both kinds himself, and proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner (if any there be present), and after that to the people also. 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 ever-

lasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

(And when the minister delivers the cup he shall 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.

SECTION XXXIII

THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

¶ 423. Question. Do we observe any evils which have prevailed in regard to marriage and divorce?

Answer 1. Many Christians have married with unconverted persons. This has produced bad effect; they have either been hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition.

We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Denomination provided such persons have the form and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

Answer 2. We regard adultery as the only justifiable cause for divorce. In the case of a divorce for such cause the innocent party may marry again; but the guilty party has by his or her act forfeited membership in the Church. In the case of divorce for other cause neither party shall be permitted to marry again during the lifetime of the other, and violation of this law shall be punished by expulsion from the Church. When the violator of this law is a minister he shall surrender his credentials immediately to the President of the Annual Conference.

We recommend the use of the following:

Form of Marriage Ceremony

(At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing to-

gether, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:)

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

omit ~~X~~ Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

(If no impediment be alleged, the minister shall say unto the persons to be married:)

I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it. For be you well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than God's Word allows, God will not bless their union.

(If no impediment be acknowledged, the minister shall say:)

Believing, then, that you have duly considered the solemn obligations you are about to assume, and that you are prepared to enter upon the same discreetly, advisedly and in the fear of God, I shall propose to you the marriage covenant.

(Then the minister shall ask the man:)

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

(The man shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister say unto the woman:)

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

(The woman shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister ask:)

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

(Answer: I do.)

(Then the minister shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and, using their given names, to say after him:)

I, (man's name), take thee, (woman's 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 faith.

(Then shall they loose their hands, and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the minister:)

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 faith.

(Then the minister shall join the right hands together and say, using their given names:)

Together
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 faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

Chorus
(Then the minister shall pray. The following form is suggested:)

"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”:

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; send thy blessing upon this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together. and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(And the minister shall 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 ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

(And the ceremony shall conclude with this benediction:)

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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Presenting
Secretary
2109
Blanche
Blanche
Note: Sacred music may be arranged at appropriate place in the marriage ceremony.

Alternate Form of Marriage Ceremony

My friends—The ordinance of marriage was instituted by the Almighty in the Garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and the family. Your happiness for the future will largely depend upon the fidelity with which the marriage vows are cherished and kept. There must be mutual affection the one for the other, and the marriage covenant must be kept in purity of spirit, as well as in actual word and deed, would you reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

With their hands joined the minister will say:

Do you take each other to live together as husband and wife in the holy relationship of marriage, pledging before God and these witnesses, to love, honor and cherish each other, in sickness and health, for better or for worse; and, forsaking all others, to cleave to each other only, so long as you both shall live?

Both to answer: I will.

Then the minister shall place his right hand upon their joined hands and say:

Since you have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, I

now declare you to be husband and wife in accordance with the laws of the State of, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and may God keep you faithful in every duty forever. Amen.

Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.

Ushers

Presentation

Mary Shoaf + Joseph Temple

SECTION XXXIV

THE ORDER OF THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

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

At the House or at the Church

(The minister may 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" (I Tim. 6: 7; Job 1: 21).

(Then shall follow the reading or singing of a hymn.)

The Scripture Lesson

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Selah. Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knowest not who shall gather them. And now, Lord what wait I for? my hope is in thee" (Psalm 39: 4-7).

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. . . . For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night . . . we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow: for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90: 1, 2, 4, 9b, 10, 12).

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. . . . Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in

the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible body shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory? O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:20-26, 51-58).

(Let an appropriate prayer follow the Scripture lesson.)

(The message, if one be desired, should follow the prayer.)

(After the reading of the appropriate verses, or the singing of a hymn, the minister shall conclude this part of the service, with this prayer.)

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 resurrection 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, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation 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.

At the Grave

(When the casket has been placed, the minister may 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.

(If preferred, the following may be used:)

The Committal

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of the world the soul of the departed we therefore commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose second coming the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and shall be made like unto His glorious body according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

(The service at the grave shall be concluded with:)

The Benediction

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:20, 21.)

Note: Special music may be arranged at appropriate places in this ceremony.

SECTION XXXV

THE DEDICATION OF CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES

A. The Dedication of Churches

(When the minister is ready to open the service the chairman of the board of trustees, or some one designated by the trustees, shall present the building to be dedicated in the following language:)

¶ 425A. Beloved Brother: In behalf of the trustees of this church, and of the church and congregation here assembled, and for the glory of God, I hereby present to you this building to be dedicated to the service and worship of God.

(Then the preacher shall read the twenty-fourth Psalm, which follows:)

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up,

ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

(Then the preacher shall read the eighty-fourth Psalm, which follows:)

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 that 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.

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.

Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

DEDICATION OF CHURCHES ¶ 425A

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 host, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

(The officiating minister shall then read or cause to be read the following:)

Dearly beloved in the Lord; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the law as under the gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for His glorious Majesty and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father; let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg His blessing upon this our undertaking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(After the singing of a suitable hymn the following prayer shall be offered to God:)

The Prayer of Supplication

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to thee in this house of baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from thy wrath and from eternal death and received as a living member of Christ's church, and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of His passion.

Grant, O Lord, that by thy Holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by the Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that whosoever shall draw near to thee in this place, to give thee thanks for the benefits that they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto thee, and to seek the blessed grace of entire sanctification, and ask such things as

are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give them whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient to them: all which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour.

(After singing another appropriate hymn let a sermon suited to the occasion be preached, to be followed by the prayer of dedication as follows:)

The Prayer of Dedication

O most glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all these thy servants who shall call upon thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with a solemn apprehension of thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Note—It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in

which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure by an authorized Committee of the Annual Conference.]

The Dedication of Parsonages

¶ 425 B. Brother Beloved: In behalf of the trustees of this church, and of the church and congregation here assembled, and for the glory of God, I hereby present to you this parsonage to be dedicated as a home for the minister of God to this church.

(Then shall be read Psalm 24)

Dearly beloved in the Lord; for as much as devout and holy men, as well under the law as under the gospel, moved either by expressed command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the Blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected homes for God's ministers, separated to a special ministry in things spiritual in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for God in His glorious Majesty and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our Heavenly Father; let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this building as a home for those called to minister in holy things, and let us faithfully and devoutly beseech His blessing upon this our undertaking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Prayer of Supplication

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall dwell in this house shall be so yielded and dedicated to thy service as "Vessels sanctified and meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work," that their ministry shall be a heavenly benediction to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall enter this the home of thy ministering servants shall be made to sense thy presence and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in thy holy commandments, and that all who minister to the material comforts of thy servants in this home shall by thee be richly rewarded.

Grant, O Lord, that all who come to this home for spiritual counsel and comfort, shall by thy blessings be made to both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in holy estate of matrimony in this home may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that at the family altar of this home when prayer with thanksgiving and supplication shall be offered that they may receive from thy hand such things as are requisite and necessary. Also, that as thy servants study and search thy Word that divine illumination for life and duty may be given as in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them; all of which

we ask for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(Then shall follow an appropriate discourse)

The Prayer of Dedication

O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this home to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all thy servants who shall call upon thee in this home; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with a solemn apprehension of thy Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that those who dwell in this home may walk before thee with lowliness and devotion, with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, that they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECTION XXXVI

THE INSTALLATION OF A CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

¶ 425 C. Charge By the Denominational Representative.

President Today you stand before us, duly and prayerfully selected by the members of this Annual Conference, as their leader. It is in you the members of this Conference, representing the various charges within its boundaries, are investing their confidence and trust for the coming year. This is, indeed, a position of significance and it is only as God is with you that you will be enabled to fill it.

Many will be the problems faced, many the responsibilities carried, many the difficulties encountered, yet with Paul it will be your privilege to know that you may be "troubled . . . yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair. . . ." And, alongside these graver experiences, there may be the satisfying reward of steady progress under the smile of God and some glorious victories because He has led the way through.

In counseling, may He grant needed grace; in decisions, may He impart of His wisdom; in labours may your secret be His all-sufficient strength; in administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present Help." The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days that lie ahead; together may you build a conference that knows its

INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT ¶ 425C

best days spiritually, numerically and materially as well.

As Representative of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, I charge you with this responsibility and present you with (Certificate) and declare that you are formally installed as President of theAnnual Conference.

(It is suggested that this ceremony be concluded with an appropriate prayer by the Representative.)

PART VII
FORMS

SECTION XXXVII
FORMS, CREDENTIALS, LICENSES,
CERTIFICATES, ETC.

¶ 426

Form of a License to Exhort

This certifies that A—— B——, a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of C—— has been and is hereby duly authorized to hold public meetings for the promotion of the cause of God, and to exercise himself as an Exhorter in the Church of Christ.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference (or Church) of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of D——, this——day of——.

This license to be renewed yearly.

E—— F——, Chairman.

C—— D——, Secretary.

¶ 427

Form of Transfer

The bearer, A—— S——, a member in good standing in the O—— Annual Conference, having requested to be transferred to the M—— Annual Conference, is hereby duly transferred.

C—— S——,

President of the M—— Annual Conference.

To E—— H——,

President of the O—— Annual Conference,

January 1, 19——,

FORMS

(This license is good for one year only.)

¶ 428

Form of a Local Preacher's License

To Whom It May Concern:

This may certify that A— B—, the bearer, having been duly recommended by the church of which he is a member, and having been examined concerning his gifts, graces and usefulness, is judged by us to be a proper person; therefore he is hereby authorized to preach the gospel according to the usages of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, as a Local Preacher.

Done at the Quarterly Conference, (or Church) of—, this— day of—, A. D., 19—, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C— D—, Chairman.

¶ 429

Form of Annual Conference License to Preach

To All Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that A— B—, the bearer, has been received by the — Annual Conference to travel under its direction, and has been appointed by said conference to pastoral labors therein; therefore he is hereby authorized to preach the gospel according to the usages of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Done by the — Annual Conference this — day of — A. D., —, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C— D—, President.

E— F—, Secretary.

FORMS

¶ 430

Form of a Certificate for an Unstationed Minister or Preacher, Who Desires to Remove to Another Circuit, Station or Conference

The bearer, S—— B——, an unstationed minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, being desirous of removing from this circuit, is entitled to receive from the undersigned this certificate of his good standing.

F—— Circuit, January 1, 19—.

W—— P——, Preacher in Charge.

—————

¶ 431

Form of Elder's Credentials

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that C—— D——, having been duly elected by the —— Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, has been this day set apart, by the imposition of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an Elder in the Church of God so long as his life and doctrines shall comport with the Holy Scriptures. And he is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the aforesaid Annual Conference held at ——, this —— day of ——, A. D., 19—.

E—— C——, Pres.

E—— F——, Sec'y

FORMS

¶ 432

Recommendation for Admission to Travel

To the members of the C— Annual Conference, next to be held at D—, on the — day of— next.

The Quarterly Conference (or Church) of —, being acquainted with the gifts, grace and usefulness of our brother E— F—, do hereby recommend him as a suitable person to be received to travel under your direction.

Done this — day of —, 19—, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

G— H—, Chairman.

E— F—, Clerk

—

¶ 433

Form A

Certificate of Membership*

This certifies that A— B—, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in C—, and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby dismissed and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

Given on behalf of the aforesaid church the— day of —, A. D. —

E— F—, Pastor (or Clerk.)

—

* It is understood that this form of certificate dismisses the bearer from membership in the Church.

FORMS

¶ 433

Form B

Church Membership Transfer

The bearer, A—— B——, a member in good standing in the —— Wesleyan Methodist Church, being desirous of transferring his membership to the —— Wesleyan Methodist Church, is hereby transferred.

——, Pastor (or Clerk).

Note.—This dismisses the member from the church granting the transfer when he is received by vote of the church to which the member is transferred.

To be returned to the Pastor or church issuing the above letter.

To the Pastor or Church Issuing the Above Letter:

The member of your church, ——, to whom you issued a letter of transfer to —— Wesleyan Methodist Church, has been received by vote of this church into its membership, and we send you this notification in completion of this transaction.

——, Pastor

Address, —— Date, ——

Form C

Certificate of Membership

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, has been up to this date a member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in C—— and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby dismissed and granted this certificate of membership.

Given on behalf of the aforesaid church this—— day of ——, A.D., ——

E—— F——, Pastor (or Clerk).

FORMS

¶ 434

Certificate of Election to General Conference

This will certify that A—— B—— was duly elected a Ministerial (or Lay) Delegate to the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, to be held at D——, beginning ——.

Done by the ——Annual Conference this —— day of ——.

E—— H——, Chairman
C—— W——, Secretary

¶ 435

Authorization to Administer the Sacraments

To All Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that the bearer, the Rev. —— having been appointed to definite, active work by the —— Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, is hereby authorized to administer the sacraments and to solemnize matrimony for the period of one year from the date given below, provided he remains in pastoral work under the direction of the conference; but should he abandon his work, then this certificate must be returned to the President of the said Annual Conference, and the authority given in this certificate ceases at once.

Given by the President of said —— Annual Conference, this —— day of ——, 19——.

——, President

FORMS

¶ 436

Form of Letter of Dismissal

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at C——, and being desirous of withdrawing from said church, is hereby dismissed.

Given on behalf of the aforesaid church this —— day of —— A. D. ——

D—— E——, Pastor, (or Clerk)

¶ 437

Form of Recommendation of Local Preacher to be Received by an Annual Conference to Study Under Its Direction

To the members of the —— Annual Conference, next to be held at —— on the —— day of —— next. The Quarterly Conference (or church) of ——, being acquainted with the gifts, grace, and usefulness of our Brother (or Sister) —— do hereby recommend h— as a suitable person to be received to study, preparatory to travel under your direction.

Done this —— day of ——, 19——, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or church) and signed in its behalf.

——, Chairman

——, Clerk

N. B. Please designate whether the licentiate is a Brother or Sister by the use of an ink line through either the word Brother or Sister.

FORMS

¶ 438

Certificate of Election to Annual Conference

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, was duly elected by the —— charge a Delegate to the C—— Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, to be held at D—— on the —— day of —— next.

Done by the members of said charge, assembled this —— day of ——, 19—.

E—— F——, Chairman

¶ 439

Form of a Certificate for a Stationed Minister or Preacher, who Desires to Remove to Another Conference

The bearer, J—— L——, having fully complied with engagements to the —— Annual Conference, living a good moral character, and desiring to remove to another conference, is entitled to this certificate of good standing.

A—— S——,

President of the M—— Annual Conference.

January 1, 19—

—————

¶ 440

Letter of Standing of Elder

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, an Elder, being in good standing in the C——

FORMS

Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and being desirous of residing for a time without the bounds of said conference, is entitled to this certificate of his good standing.

Given at C—— this —— day of ——, 19—
A—— B——, President

[Limited to one year.]

¶ 441

Recommendation for Deaconess Work

To the members of the C—— Annual Conference, next to be held at D——, on the —— day of —— next:

The Quarterly Conference (or Church) of E——, being acquainted with the gifts, grace and usefulness of our Sister A—— B——, do hereby recommend her as a suitable person for Deaconess work under the supervision and direction of the Annual Conference.

Done this —— day of ——, 19—, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

G—— H——, Chairman

E—— F——, Clerk

FORMS

¶ 442

Form of a Certificate for a Minister From Another Denomination

This is to certify that A— B— has been admitted by C— Conference as a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, he having been ordained according to the usages of the Church of which he has been a member and a minister.

Given under my hand and seal at —, this — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

¶ 443

Probationary Deaconess License

To All Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that A— B—, the bearer, has been received by the — Annual Conference as a probationary Deaconess, to study and to labor under its direction, looking forward to consecration as a Deaconess in the Wesleyan Methodist Church; therefore she is authorized to do the work and bear the name of Deaconess, subject to the usages and provisions for such work and office in the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Done by the — Annual Conference this — day of —, 19—, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C— D—, President
E— F—, Secretary

FORMS

¶ 444

Deaconess Credentials

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that A— B—, having been duly elected by the — Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, has this day been set apart by consecration to the work and office of a Deaconess of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Signed by order and in behalf of the aforesaid Annual Conference, held at —, this — day of —, 19—.

E— F—, Secretary
C— D—, President

¶445

Form of a Register of Marriages to be Kept
by the Quarterly Conference

| Man's Name | Woman's Name | When Married | Where Married | Min's Name |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| T— S— | E— R— | Dec. 9, 19—. | At the Home of N— M— | S— W— |

349

¶446

Form of a Register of Baptisms to be Kept
by the Quarterly Conference

| Child's Name | When Born | When Baptized | Minister's Name | Par'ts Name |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| C— E— | Sept. 1, 19—. | Dec. 5, 19—. | C— — | L— C— F— C— |

Recommendation of Special Worker

To the members of the A— Conference next to be held at — on the — day of — next.

The Quarterly Conference (or Church of — being acquainted with the gifts, graces, and usefulness of — do hereby recommend — (him or her) as a suitable person to be appointed as — (state type of special work) and to travel under your direction.

Done this — day of 19— by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

A— B—, Chairman;

C— D—, Secretary.

Appointment to Special Work

This certifies that A— B—, the Bearer, and acceptable member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, feeling called to serve in the field of — (state sphere of service), and having met the provisions of Paragraph 166A in the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, is appointed thereto for a period of one year from this date.

Done by the — Annual Conference in session at — on the —, 19—

—, President;

—, Secretary.

FORMS

¶ 449

Appointment to General Evangelism

This certifies that A— B—, the Bearer, is an Elder in good standing in the — Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and was appointed to General Evangelistic work for a period of one year from the date hereto affixed, under the provisions of Paragraphs 167 and 168 of the Wesleyan Methodist Discipline. This certificate must be renewed annually.

—, President;

—, Secretary.

Date —

¶ 450

Form of Letter to Ministers Leaving Our Denomination

This certifies that —, the bearer, has been up to this date an elder in the — Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and being desirous of withdrawing from said Denomination is hereby dismissed and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

Given at — this — day of —.

—, President.

(Footnote: This certificate may be granted without recommendation in the discretion of the President and his Advisory Board.)

FORMS

¶ 451

Certificate of Recognition

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, has honorably pursued and passed satisfactory examinations in the Course of Study for in the Wesleyan Methodist Church as outlined and given in the Discipline (Editor of ——) and is entitled to this certificate of recognition.

Done by the —— Annual Conference this —— day of A.D., ——, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C—— D——, President;
E—— F——, Secretary.

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