THE DISCIPLINE OF THE WESLEYAN
CHURCH OF SIERRA LEONE

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INDEX
Chapter One - The Wesleyan Church

1. The Wesleyan Church was formed by the merger of The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America on June 26, 1968. Both of the former denominations had their origins in the Wesleyan movement which centers around the Scriptural truth concerning the doctrine and experience of holiness, which declares that the atonement in Christ provides not only for the regeneration of sinners but for the entire sanctification of believers. A revival of these Scriptural truths concerning Christian perfection and Scriptural holiness took place under the leadership of John Wesley in the eighteenth century, and continues in various ways until the present.

2. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (11), and is an established district sponsored by the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church through its General Department of World Missions with headquarters at Marion, Indiana, U.S.A. The General Secretary of World Missions is the chief administrative officer of the General Department of World Missions, with the General Board of Administration serving as the chief governing body in the interim of General Conference Sessions. The General Conference is the supreme governing body, and the General Superintendents are the general spiritual and administrative leaders of the Church. The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is authorized by the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church.

3. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all mankind the good news and glorious experience of full salvation. To this end, The Wesleyan Church shall endeavour:

   (1) To evangelize the nations of earth, seeking the salvation of the individual and the entire sanctification of believers as the primary responsibility of all missionary work.

   (2) To gather the converts into churches and enlist them in the work of God's Kingdom.
(3) To place well-qualified and Spirit-filled pastors over the churches, giving special emphasis to the training of workers and leaders for the church.

(4) To share the benefits of the gospel, and facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, education, literary, and benevolent work.

(5) To promote, in accordance with Scriptural and indigenous principles, the growth and development of the churches in each field or area to a church body that is spiritually mature, well organized, financially responsible, and missionary minded, and that can assume its place in The Wesleyan Church.

4. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to terms used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) The General Conference. Wherever the term "the general conference" is used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone it is understood to refer to the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, which is the sponsoring general conference of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(2) General Board of Administration. Wherever the term "General Board of Administration" is used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone it is understood to refer to the North American General Board of Administration which is the governing body over units of The Wesleyan Church under the administration of its General Department of World Missions, one of which is The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(3) The General Superintendent. Wherever the term "the general superintendent" is used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone it is understood to refer to the general superintendent of the North American General Conference who has been assigned the administrative responsibility of the area of The Wesleyan Church of which Sierra Leone is a part. The Board of General Superintendents refers to the cooperative functioning of all the general superintendents of the North American General Conference. The General Superintendent refers specifically to that general superintendent having administrative responsibility over The Wesleyan
Church of Sierra Leone.

(4) General Department of World Missions. Wherever the term "General Department of World Missions" is used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone it is understood to refer to the General Department of World Missions of the North American General Conference of which The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is one administrative unit, functioning presently as an established district.

(5) General Secretary of World Missions. Wherever the term "General Secretary of World Missions" is used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone it is understood to refer to the General Secretary of World Missions of the North American General Conference. He is the chief administrative officer having direct supervision of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. All communication and administrative supervision between the North American General Board of Administration and The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is channeled through his office.

(6) The Discipline. Unless otherwise specifically indicated The Discipline is understood to refer to The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as currently approved and authorized by the General Board of Administration.

5. The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is composed of three parts, as follows: (1) The Essentials, (2) The Constitution, and (3) Statutory Law. These are more fully indicated in the following paragraphs.

6. The Essentials. Paragraphs 101 to 147 of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone comprise the Essentials. These paragraphs are binding on all general conferences, provisional general conferences, and mission units of general conferences and provisional general conferences of The Wesleyan Church worldwide. They are subject to change only as described in paragraph 148. The Essentials constitute the doctrines, principles, and rules which are basic to membership in The Wesleyan Church worldwide without variation.
7. The Constitution. Paragraphs 71 to 82 of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone comprise the Constitution of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. They are at the same time the Articles of Incorporation or the legal charter for The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and as such are registered with the appropriate office of the national government of Sierra Leone. As indicated in paragraph 82 amendments to the Constitution are subject to the approval of the North American General Board of Administration.

8. Statutory Law. The remaining portions of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone other than the Essentials and the Constitution shall be considered statutory law for the government of the district and local churches of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. Amendments to statutory law sections may be submitted from the district conference of Sierra Leone for approval by the North American General Board of Administration through the General Secretary of World Missions. Except in matters of emergency importance, amendments to the statutory law of The Discipline shall be submitted for approval only once within a quadrennium of the North American General Conference, on a schedule to be arranged between the district conference of Sierra Leone and the General Department of World Missions. Amendments to The Discipline shall be implemented only after approval by the General Board of Administration.
11. The Wesleyan World Fellowship exists for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, the coordinating of the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, the promoting of a close fellowship and mutual understanding, and the providing of a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all areas and general conferences of The Wesleyan Church.

12. The Wesleyan World Fellowship consists of those bodies which have originated in or which have affiliated with The Wesleyan Church which adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and subscribe to the provisions of its Charter.

13. The Wesleyan World Fellowship functions through its general council composed of representatives from each general conference, each provisional general conference, and each mission unit functioning under a missions department. The number of representatives from each unit shall be determined according to the number of members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation.

14. The Wesleyan World Fellowship is organized and governed in accord with its Charter.
Chapter Three - History

I. Origin of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

20. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone had its origin in the missionary outreach of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection had its origins in the early 1840's in the United States of America with the first organizing convention held in 1843 in Utica, New York. Moral and social reform were strongly emphasized as well as equal ministerial and lay representation in all Church governing bodies.

21. During the last half of the nineteenth century the Connection experienced a true revival of evangelism, with particular emphasis on holiness or entire sanctification as a second crisis experience in the Christian life. The Wesleyan Methodist Church formed as a result of growth, both by evangelism and by the affiliation of other bodies of like faith.

22. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, revived Christians in England, America, and a few small nations were awakened to the need of evangelizing the world. They formed mission boards and began sending missionaries in increasing numbers to other countries. The newly organized Wesleyan Methodist Church of America (now The Wesleyan Church) was taking its first steps to initiate missionary outreach overseas. How wonderful that in God's plan to redeem the lost, He chose first of all to impress upon this Church a concern for Africa. In His divine providence, He directed them to the people of the Northern Province of Sierra Leone where The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (formerly called the American Wesleyan Mission) has continued to share the gospel to this present day.

23. The singular event that touched the hearts of these American Wesleyan was the well-timed visit of J. Agustus Cole, a Limba of Freetown. At the 1887 General Conference his passionate plea for missionaries led to the election of the Reverend J. W. Hall as Missionary Secretary. It became his duty to interest the members to pray, raise funds, and organize efforts to open new work in Sierra Leone. Within a short time, he made a trip to
study conditions of the area, and his glowing report convinced the official board to act. On December 11, 1889, the Rev. and Mrs. Henry W. Johnston, their son Irwin, and Dr. Alice Harris sailed for Africa.

24. In the early years, progress seemed to be hindered by Satan or sickness at every turn. Some building would be started or school classes begun, only to be delayed by the frequent illness of the workers. In a twelve-year period, one child and nine missionaries died of tropical diseases at Kunso or soon after they arrived home in America.

1894 - Irwin Johnston, Kunso
1895 - Henry W. Johnston, America
1897 - Anna P. Clarke, Kunso
1898 - Lucy French, America
1898 - Mary Travis, America
1901 - John F. Danner, Kunso
1902 - Willard C. Boardman, Kunso
1905 - John Ayers, Kunso
1906 - Marie Stephens, Kunso
1906 - Cora Cutshall, America

25. For two years the chief of Masumbo begged for someone to stay in his town. When the station was opened there in 1895, missionaries fully intended to begin in another new area every year. This proved to be impossible because of a lack of workers, funds, transportation and towns around Kunso and Masumbo, it was not until 1907 that a missionary was temporarily stationed at Tambiama in the Loko Chiefdom. Then in 1908, Rev. and Mrs. George Clarke moved to Kamabai and buildings were erected. In 1909, May Lord and Cleo Young opened the station at Binkolo.

26. Death claimed another missionary, J. G. Ovenshire, in 1912. Within a week ending January 4, 1918, two more missionaries, Miriam Day and Miriam Sprague, died of fever at Kunso. Dr. Alice Thomas died on her furlough. The government doctor declared Kunso an unhealthy area and ordered the workers to move. The task
of relocating the school at Binkolo was immediately undertaken. Doubtless, this long, tragic period of suffering, sacrifice, disappointment, and death laid the foundation which was needed before the Spirit of God could begin to work effectively in the hearts of men.

27. Between 1911 and 1921, ten mission organizations in Sierra Leone gave up in discouragement and left the country. The Wesleyan missionaries would not accept defeat, but patiently sowed the seed of the Word of God. Wesleyans in America joined with them in prayer and continued to believe that the Lord would prosper His Word and send a harvest in due time.

II. Development of the Church

30. Years passed before the superstitions of the un-evangelized and the indifference of the uneducated were overcome to any degree. Conversions to Christianity were by ones or twos, usually the result of patient effort and intercession on the part of a missionary. Most of the converts were school children, the sick or aged. Few people then were willing to serve God wholeheartedly, or knew enough to preach the gospel. Some who seemed promising and were dependable for a time either left the church, or returned to their former way of living.

31. To assist in the work of evangelism, itinerators had been appointed to cover the territory. In those days it was "preach and pass" for most of them were limited in the gospel presentations they could make. In larger towns, hundreds might gather, while in villages a few dozen would listen. Usually some people would decide to follow God. However, return visits to villages were so infrequent that it was difficult to build up congregations of Christians. Villagers who were interested seldom received enough instruction to live new lives in Christ.

32. In 1919 the outlook became brighter with the first formal church organization at Binkolo. Also Miss Hattie Crosby opened a new station at Gbendembu and Rev.
Mrs. Frank Birch laboured at Kamakwie. Later workers were assigned to Kortahun, Rogbin, Makoeri, Kamalu, Mabunyeli, and Kathantha. At the 1921 conference, Sierra Leoneans first served on committees and were licensed to preach. Some pastoral training was taught at night classes in several locations and extended institutes were planned at the times of quarterly conferences. Limited efforts to commence a Bible School at Kamakwie were followed by the beginning of Mt. Loma Bible School at Kamabai.

33. God began to answer the prayers of many years and sent widespread revival in 1929 which resulted in a time of evangelistic zeal, and new spiritual and numerical growth. People were responsive in many areas. Significant increases were reported in catechism and reading classes, baptisms, members, pastoral calls, and villages preached. That not all the converts remained true was unfortunate, but then the men and available materials were inadequate to follow up and disciple large numbers scattered over the territory.

34. After the revival, some men were spiritually qualified to assume positions of leadership. Sappri Turay became the first ordained pastor in 1932. Later Brahma Turay and Bai Bankura were ordained. Whereas the church at Rogbane was the first to be erected entirely by local funds in 1933, Rogbin had the significance of becoming the first self-supporting church in 1936.

35. The fiftieth anniversary of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone was celebrated in 1939. During that year a detailed plan of personal witnessing and evangelism was carried out. Missionaries and Sierra Leoneans together endeavoured to take the gospel to as many homes as possible in villages all over the mission area. This involved long treks and miles of travel. In 1937, the boundaries had been extended west to Batkanu and across the Little Scarcies River to Kambia, Forecarrier, and Katerie. To the east, preaching points reached as far as Kafogo. Also in that year of 1939, the first effort among the Susus of Kakuna took place. Rev. Brahma Turay was selected to begin that church.
In 1940, Yebaia was assigned a pastor, Robert Koroma, and the work among the Tonko Limbas began to spread over that chieftain.

36. The anniversary programme of evangelism met with opposition in a few areas untouched before by Christians. On the whole, it pointed up the locations where people did desire to know more of the gospel and wanted a church. Then again during World War II expansion had to be curtailed. Since new and returning missionaries could not get passage on ships, the staff was depleted. Shortages of supplies and funds created a hardship for several years.

37. The leaders never lost sight of their original objective - to establish a self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting church. The Bible School had been moved from Kamabai to Gbendembu in 1932. Within three years new buildings had been completed and the name changed to Clarke Memorial Biblical Seminary. A select group of students pursued their education at the school in the period that followed. However, many graduates took government jobs or entered the teaching profession rather than the pastoral ministry. In an attempt to secure pastors for the increasing number of villages calling for workers, a new venture was proposed in 1960 - the Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (formerly called Vernacular Bible School). The primary education to qualify to pastor village churches. The school also gives practical training in the dry season and future assignments. The large number of villages reached by these teams and the good response each year has resulted in new areas becoming receptive to the gospel. Through the avenue of the Bible School a programme of fruitful evangelism and successful church growth has been inaugurated.

38. However, at the time the Bible School was founded, another need also existed. The larger churches were demanding better prepared pastors to minister to the educated, professional people of their town. In order to establish a strong institution for advanced training, it seemed wise to work together with other evangelical mission groups, and the Sierra Leone Bible College came
into being in 1964 as a cooperative evangelical institution. The purpose: "To equip men and women with scholarly and practical knowledge of the Bible and related subjects, and to train them for the work of the gospel."

39. New Life For All, a highly successful programme of evangelism which began in Nigeria, was introduced in Sierra Leone by Marion P. Birch in 1967. The evangelistic thrust was to be a continuing movement in each community, not a single campaign. Laymen were recruited and trained in instruction classes, and the prayer cells and house-to-house visiting were organized. A vital phase of the plan called for personal witnessing by every Christian—sharing the gospel with non-Christians, and strengthening the faith of new converts. Wherever New Life For All has been activated, it has stimulated church growth.

40. Since 1960, another outreach has been the radio ministry over station ELWA in Monrovia, Liberia, with The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone providing programmes in local languages from the recording studio located at Gbendembu. From the 100 tapes first sent in Temne, the work has enlarged to cover Limba and Loko programmes as well. These are produced by pastors and local musical groups. The aim of radio evangelism has been to evangelize in homes and villages without a Christian testimony. Programmes are planned to encourage believers in their Christian life also.

41. In many countries of the world, education, and medicine have opened the doors to the gospel and paved the way for the church. This has been true in Sierra Leone. Churches stand in many places today because first of all a student went there to witness, or a sick person returned home to share the news of his recovery and salvation. Henry Johnston started the first classes in Kunso in 1893. Missionaries had to beg parents to send their children and then had to provide for their food and clothing. Boys and girls attended the boarding school at Kunso until 1906 when a school for girls was started at Masumbo. It remained there until 1934 when it was relocated at Kamabai. The boys
continued at Kunso until 1918 when their school was transferred to Binkolo. Many students educated in the early boarding schools claim that it was the 24-hour-a-day influence of the gospel and their teachers that made a lasting impression on their lives. In time, as the people recognized the value of an education, more and more parents wanted to enroll their children. As the demand increased, additional primary schools were built. As late as World War II, The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone operated 95 percent of all the primary schools in the Northern Province. In 1961, the Church commenced its secondary education with a school at Kamakwie. In 1964, the next secondary school was opened for girls at Kamabai, and since then two secondary schools have been opened at Gbendembu (1974) and Binkolo (1975). Religious Knowledge classes, chapel services, and school revivals continue to be included in the programme to help students understand the Scriptures and come to know God personally.

42. From the arrival of the first missionaries, limited medical service was included in the programme in an attempt to help people and to open their hearts to the gospel. After Alice Harris left Kunso in 1893, no experienced personnel served until 1906 when a dispensary was opened at Kamabai. Later a small hospital was built there. In 1930 the medical centre was transferred to Kamakwie where thousands of patients have received physical and spiritual healing. Ward services and witnessing of chaplains and staff have been effective in adding believers to the churches and in opening doors to unreached areas. Dispensaries have served the people of towns around mission stations and mobile clinics have reached outlying villages regularly or annually. Personal witnessing and clinic services have resulted in converts who have then shared their testimonies with others.

48. In 1968, The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America merged with The Pilgrim Holiness Church. The merging conference was held in June at Anderson, Indiana, United States of America, as a result of several years of preparation. The Pilgrim Holiness Church came into being as a result of the same revival of Scriptural holiness that had so vitally affected The Wesleyan Methodist...
Church during the last of the nineteenth century. Its first organization began in 1897 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its major emphases were holiness, evangelism, and foreign missions. It grew both as a result of evangelism and the affiliation of several other church bodies of like faith.

49. The Wesleyan Church was the name given to the new denomination formed by the merger of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and The Pilgrim Holiness Church. At the merging conference in 1968 the new denomination made provision for a world organization to be known as The Wesleyan World Fellowship. Delegates from all mission units of The Wesleyan Church took part in the formation of The Wesleyan World Fellowship in 1972 following the holding of the Second General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.
Chapter Four - The Constitution

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

Article I

71. Name
The corporation is called The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (11) with international headquarters in Marion, state of Indiana, U. S. of America.

Article II

72. Seat
The registered office of the corporation is situated facing Rogbaneh Road at Sylvanus Street, Makeni, Bombali District, Northern Province, Sierra Leone.

Article III

73. Purpose
The primary purposes for which the corporation is formed are religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in The Discipline, and is not for the pecuniary gain of the members thereof.

Article IV

74. Means
The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone endeavours to accomplish its stated purpose by preaching Christ, by instructing believers in the Faith, by establishing churches, by encouraging these churches to self-propagation, self-government, and self-support, by serving the church and nation in education and medicine, by acquiring and holding property (real or personal), and by collecting and dispersing funds.
Article V

75. Membership

The membership of the corporation are the members of the District Conference which is composed of ministerial and lay delegates duly representing each organized local church and specified related auxiliary organizations of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (333; 334).

Article VI

76. Directors

The Board of Directors is the District Board of Administration duly constituted and organized as required in The Discipline. It is composed of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary, the District Treasurer, and members-at-large elected by the annual District Conference. The minimum number of members of the District Board of Administration is seven. (The present membership of the District Board of Administration, 1977, numbers ten persons).

Article VII

77. Powers and Duties of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors is authorized and empowered to institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, including all matters relating to property held by the corporation or any of its local churches.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall carry out the duties assigned to it by The Discipline and shall be amenable to the District Conference, the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church and the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council.

Section 3. A director shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.
Article VIII

78. Officers

Section 1. The officers of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by The Discipline for their offices.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the regular meeting of the District Conference in the manner prescribed and for the term required in the provisions of The Discipline.

Article IX

79. Meetings

The members of the corporation will meet annually at a District Conference to transact the business of the corporation. The Board of Directors will meet four times a year to transact business in behalf of the corporation. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the chairman. The minimum notice of such meetings shall not be less than seven days. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of a majority of the members.

Article X

80. Property

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be held in trust, in the corporate name, for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as set forth in The Discipline. The Board of Directors shall see that all properties which are purchased for The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be properly titled so that said properties are held in trust for The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.
Article XI

81. By-laws

The by-laws of the corporation shall include The Discipline as legislated from time to time, and no by-laws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provision of The Discipline.

Article XII

82. Amendments

These articles may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the members of the corporation at any regular annual meeting subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church of the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council with international offices at P. O. Box 2000, Marion, Indiana, U. S. A.
Chapter Five

The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church

INTRODUCTION

101. In order that we may wisely keep and pass on to our children the right teaching of doctrine and the principles of Christian living which have been given to us in The Wesleyan Church, and to make certain that the Church is organized with proper order, and so there will be better cooperation with other branches of the church of Christ in all things that makes for the progress of God's Kingdom among all men, we, the pastors and laymembers of The Wesleyan Church meeting in an official conference, do hereby establish and set forth as the basic law of The Wesleyan Church the articles of religion and rules of Christian living as follows:

Article I. Name

102. The name of this denomination is The Wesleyan Church. Wherever the use of this name is impossible or not practical, another form of the name may be approved by the proper authorities of The Wesleyan Church (148:3).

Article II. Articles of Religion

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

103. There is but one living and true God. God is eternal and He has all power, and wisdom, and all goodness. He is the one who makes and keeps all things, both things seen and unseen. In the unity of God there are three persons who are one in being, power, and eternity - the Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 1:1; 17:1; Exod. 3:13-15; 33:20; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 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; I Cor. 8:4,6; II Cor. 1:14; Eph. 2:18; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16; I Tim. 1:17; I John 5:7,20; Rev. 19:13.
II. The Son of God

104. Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is completely God and completely man. Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried - to be a sacrifice for original (or birth) sin and for the actual sins of men, and to make us right with God. Mark 15; Luke 1: 27, 31, 35; John 1:14, 18; 3:16-17; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:10; 18; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:18-19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; 4:4-5; Eph. 5:2; I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 2:17; 7:27; 9:28; 10:12; I Pet. 2:24; I John 2:2; 4:14.

III. The Holy Spirit

105. The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son and is the same in being, honour, and glory with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is God and is eternal. Job 33:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24-26; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.

IV. The Resurrection of Christ

106. Christ did truly rise again from the dead and with His perfect body He ascended into Heaven, and there stays until He returns to judge all men at the last day. Ps. 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; I Cor. 15:6, 14; Heb. 13:20.

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

107. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation. What is not read in the Bible, nor can be proved by the Bible, is not required or necessary for salvation. The sixty-six books included in the Old and New Testaments are the Holy Scriptures. We believe these scriptures to be the inspired Word of God, written without error in their original form. They are higher than any human writing or authority. The books of the Old Testament are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua,
The books of the New Testament are:

VI. The Old Testament

108. The Old Testament does not oppose the New Testament. In both the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to man through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. We should not listen to those who say that the Old Testament fathers did not look for lasting promises. God gave laws to Moses for special Jewish ceremonies and government. These laws are not required of Christians today. But there are other laws, such as the Ten Commandments, which God gave to show what it right and wrong (moral laws), and these laws are to obeyed by Christians.

VII. Two Great Commandments (Relative Duties)

109. All of God's law that is revealed in the Bible is included in the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbours as ourselves. These laws from God show the complete duty of all men, families and nations. These commandments honour God as the one true God, and all men as equal in natural rights. All who obey these laws will have God's blessings.
VIII. Original or Birth Sin

110. Original sin is the corruption of the nature of every man, and is the sin with which we are born because of Adam's sin. Because of original sin man is far from righteousness and his evil nature causes him to want to do acts of sin continually.

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

IX. The Atonement

111. Christ offered Himself through His suffering and death on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, one time, for the sins, both original sin and actual sins, of the whole world. There is no other way of salvation from sin. This atonement is able to save every person when they repent and believe. The atonement also saves those infants and children who have not yet become responsible for sin, those who are not responsible mentally from birth, and saved persons who become mentally not responsible.


X. Free Will

112. Man was created by God with the power to choose between right and wrong. Thus man was made so he is responsible for his choices. The condition of man since the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn from sin and prepare himself for Heaven by his own natural strength and good works. We have no power to do good works which are acceptable to God without the grace of God by Christ working in us. It is clearly taught in both the Old and New Testaments that the grace of God
through Jesus Christ is given to all men, so everyone who will may turn and be saved. It is possible that one who has become a strong Christian may fall back into sin, for there is no experience of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God one who has fallen into sin may by true repentance and faith find forgiveness and again be made right with God.


XI. Justification of Man

113. We are considered righteous before God only because of what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has done for us, and by our faith; and not because of our own works or because we deserve salvation. We are justified by faith. This is a wonderful doctrine and very full of comfort.


XII. Good Works

114. Good works are the fruit of faith and follow after justification. Good works cannot put away our sins and they will not keep us from God's judgement. But good works are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ and come from a true heart of faith. Just as a tree is known by its fruit so faith in God is known by our good works.

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; I Pet. 2:9, 12.

XIII. Sin After Justification

115. Not every sin willfully committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Spirit and not able to be forgiven (Matt. 12:31-32). Therefore, those who fall into sin after justification may repent of their sin. After we have received salvation, we may fall back into sin, and then by the grace of God return and change
our lives. We cannot agree with those who say they are not able to sin any more so long as they live here, or those who deny the place of forgiveness to everyone who truly repents. (Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:21-22; I John 1:9; 2:1).

XIV. Regeneration

116. Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the forgiven sinner becomes a child of God. This work is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and it frees the Christian from the power of sin, so that he loves God and through grace serves Him with the will and from a heart of love—receiving "the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

John 1:12-15; 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; I Pet. 1:3-4; II Pet. 1:4; I John 3:1.

XV. Complete Sanctification

117. Sanctification begins when one is justified. From that time until a believer is completely sanctified and filled with the Spirit, he grows daily in his Christian life and slowly dies to sin. Complete sanctification is brought about by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which cleanses the heart of the child of God from all original (or birth) sin through faith in Jesus Christ. This happens after regeneration and is done immediately when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God. This experience makes the believer able to love God with all the heart and to obey all His holy commandments. Before and after complete sanctification the believer continues to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When man is full cleansed from all sin he receives power from the sanctifying blood of Christ, and is shown by an obedient life.

Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 150:8; Ezek. 36:25-29; Matt. 5:48; Luke 1:74-75; 3:16-17; 24:49; John 17:2-23; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Rom. 8:3-4; 11:26; 15:16; I Cor. 6:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:13,24; 5:25-27; Phil. 2:5,7; Col. 4:12 I Thess. 3:10; 4:3,7; 5:23; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:17; Titus 2:12; Heb. 9:13,14,18-22; James 1:27; 4:8; I Pet. 1:2,10; II Pet. 1:4; I John 1:7,9; 3:8-9; 4:17-18; Jude 24.
XVI. The Gifts of the Spirit

118. The Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are those abilities which the Holy Spirit, deciding which each one of us should have, gives to members of the church so they are able to fulfill their duties as members of the body of Christ. They are different from natural abilities, but work through the natural abilities for the growth of the whole church. These gifts are to be used with love under the direction of the Lord of the church, not through human power alone. The value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the church and not by the good feeling they give to the ones receiving them.


XVII. The Sacraments

119. The sacraments were set apart for believers by Christ and are signs to show we are Christians. They are also signs to show God's grace and good will toward us, by which He works in us to strengthen and make certain our faith in Him. There are two sacraments set apart by Christ our Lord in the Gospel: that is to say, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.


XVIII. Baptism

120. Baptism is not only a sign or mark to show that Christians are different from others who are not baptized, but it is also a sign of regeneration or new birth. All persons to be baptized shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring. Since children are born into this world with sinful natures, and yet the grace of God provides for their redemption during that period before reaching the age when they are responsible for their sins, the parents of small children may testify to their faith in God's plan of salvation for children by presenting them for
for baptism. Parents may choose to present their children for dedication, rather than presenting them for baptism.


XIX. The Lord's Supper

121. The Lord's Supper is not only a sign of love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but it is also a sacrament, which is a sign of our redemption by Christ's death. God will give grace to those who receive the Lord's Supper in the right way and with faith.


XX. The Church

122. The Christian church is the complete body of believers in Jesus Christ. The Founder and only Head of the church is Christ. It is made up of all faithful believers in Christ. Some believers have gone to be with the Lord and others remain on the earth, having given up the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are dedicated to the work which Christ gave to His church till He comes. The church is to preach the pure Word of God and give the Sacraments according to Christ's command, and to help believers in all those things that are necessary to the Christian life.

A local church is a group of believers organized according to the principles of the gospel. They meet regularly for the purpose of worship, Christian growth, instruction and evangelism. The Wesleyan Church is a denomination made up of those members within district conferences and local churches who as members of the Body of Christ hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the authority of the governing bodies of The Wesleyan Church.

XXI. The Second Coming of Christ

123. The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is a wonderful truth and a glorious hope to the people of God. The fact of the personal and soon return of Christ causes the Christian to live a holy life and to want to evangelize the world. We believe the Bible teaches that at His return He will cause the fulfillment of all prophecies made concerning His final and complete victory over all evil.


XXII. The Resurrection of the Dead

124. We believe that what the Bible says about the resurrection of the dead is true and should be accepted by all. We believe the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ was a fact of history and a miracle of great importance. We understand that the resurrection of mankind will be the resurrection of the righteous dead, at Christ’s second coming, and the resurrection of the wicked at a later time. The resurrection will be the uniting again of soul and body in preparation for final reward or punishment.


XXIII. The Judgement of Mankind

125. The Scriptures reveal God as the judge of all mankind and the acts of His judgement will be made from His knowledge and eternal justice. The judgement will be the final meeting of mankind before God’s throne where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be given.

XXIV. Eternity (Destiny)

126. The Scriptures clearly teach that there is a conscious, personal existence after the death of the body. The place man will spend eternity is determined by God's grace and man's response to that grace. Where man will spend eternity is shown by the kind of life he lives and the choices he makes. Heaven with its eternal glory and blessedness of Christ's presence is the final home of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ. Hell with its eternal misery and separation from God is the final place of all who neglect this great salvation.


Article III. General Rules

130. It is expected of those who are admitted to our churches that they should show their salvation, first by doing good, and also by being merciful as they have opportunity. As far as possible they should do good to all men, especially to fellow Christians, in the following ways:

(1) As God gives ability, do good to their bodies by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.

(2) Do good to their souls by instructing, warning, or witnessing to them in love with all possible faithfulness, that the gospel be not blamed. By running with patience the race that is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; willing to bear the shame of Christ.

131. It is expected of all who are admitted to our churches as full members that they should also show their salvation by continuing to do the following:

(1) To give respect to the name of God and to keep the Lord's Day holy by worshipping God and by doing those things which will help us spiritually; and not to do any unnecessary buying or selling, work, travel,
or pleasures, which do not help to keep the Lord's Day holy.

(2) To take no part in any form of spirit worship, sorcery, or other practices of pagan worship.

(3) To refuse to make, sell or use strong drink which causes a person to become drunk, and all harmful drugs.

(4) To refuse to grow, make, sell, or use any kind of tobacco.

(5) To take no part in any form of gambling.

(6) To respect the individual rights of all persons, no matter of what race, colour or sex.

(7) To walk carefully in the world, to be honest in all business, to faithful to all promises, to promise to do only those things which can be carefully fulfilled.

(8) To respect all rightly appointed authority in the home, in the church and in the government, except when to do so is against the clear teachings of the Scriptures.

(9) To work together for the advancement of God's Kingdom and for the spiritual growth of fellow believers, in holiness, knowledge, and love, to walk together in Christian fellowship, being careful to give and receive advice with meekness and love; pray one for the other; to help one another in sickness and trouble; to develop Christian sympathy and to show forth purity, love, and politeness in words and actions.

(10) To dress as a Christian should according to the principles of I Peter 3:3-4 and I Timothy 2:9-10, being a good example of Christian purity and modesty by properly clothing the body and by not wearing unnecessary ornaments.

(11) To recognize our responsibility to God and the Church by careful use of our time; to do only such activities as may help our spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical well-being and that of those who share in them. (Col. 3:17)
(12) To make wise use of the material things we have keeping in mind our duty to give to the church (remembering the principle of tithing which is basic to the New Testament standard of stewardship), and the needs of our fellow men; using self-control in the things we do for ourselves and showing a Christian willingness to give to those in trouble whom we may help, and in this way laying up treasures in Heaven. (Matt. 6:19-21)

(13) To keep the home holy by honouring Christ in every part of family life; to encourage the training and education of our children in the Christian faith so as to bring them early to the saving knowledge of Christ, and encourage by all possible means their Christian education.

(14) To take no part in nor become a member of secret societies and lodges which hold their members by the swearing of an oath. We believe that the near religious nature of such societies divides the Christian's loyalty, and their secret nature is against the Christian's open witness (John 18:20). The secret nature of their oaths is not acceptable to the Christian (Matt. 5:34-36; James 5:12). (These rules do not keep a Christian from becoming a member of labour, government, or other organizations which are not against complete loyalty to Christ and the church. When in these relationships Christian principles are broken, members shall be dealt with because of the offense and not because of the membership itself.)

(15) To grow in knowledge and love of God by being faithful to all those things which help the Christian to grow in grace, such as the public worship of God; the ministry of the Word of God either read or preached; the Lord's Supper; family and private prayer; studying the Scriptures; and fasting.

(16) To keep the fellowship and witness of the Church by recognizing that it is against the clear teaching of the Word of God as understood by The Wesleyan Church to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or of that complete sanctification which the baptism accomplishes (see 117-118), and by using in public worship only a language easily understood by the people.
To obey the teaching of Scripture regarding divorce and marriage. We believe that God's plan for marriage is that man should have only one wife and we consider adultery as the only right cause for divorce. In the case of a divorce for such cause the innocent person may marry again; the guilty person by his or her act has given up membership in the Church. In the case of a divorce for other cause neither person shall be permitted to marry again during the life-time of the other, and breaking of this law shall be punished by being put out of the Church (Matt. 5:32; Mark 10:11-12). In the carrying out of these principles, guilt shall be established in accordance with judicial procedures set forth in The Discipline.

These are the General Rules of our Church. We believe all these to be in agreement with the principles of Christ as taught in the Word of God, which is the only and complete rule both of our faith and practice. If any among us do not keep them and continually break any of them we will warn him with love of the error of his ways and will bear with him for a time. But if then he repent not, he shall have no more place among us.

Article IV. The First Principles of the Church

Christ is the only Head of the Church, and the Word of God the only rule of faith and conduct.

No person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, and obeys the gospel of God our Saviour, ought to be kept from church membership.

Every man has the right of private judgement in matters of religion, and an equal right to express his opinion in any way which will not break the laws of God or the rights of his fellow man.

All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only, and no pastor or member should have church membership taken from him except for immorality, the teaching of false doctrines, or for neglect of duties which are commanded by the Word of God.
139. The pastor and his duties are appointed by God, and all pastors in the Church of God are equal; but pastors are not to be masters over the church, or to have power over the faith of the Christians.

140. The Church has a right to make and enforce only such rules as are in agreement with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary or which help to put into effect the Christian way of living.

141. Whatever power may be necessary for the making of rules and regulations is to come from the pastors and the members of the Church, but some of that power may be given to delegates or representatives from time to time as they may judge necessary and proper.

142. It is the duty of all pastors and members of the Church to live a holy life and to fight against all evil.

143. It is necessary that pastors be faithful in their pastoral duties, and it is necessary that the members have proper respect to the pastors because of their work, and to give them suitable payment for their labours.

Article V. Transfer of Pastors and Members

145. Each general conference shall accept the credentials of a pastor transferring from another general conference of the Wesleyan Church, subject to approval by the general superintendent(s) or comparable officer(s) and by the church body to which he will be immediately responsible; and shall accept members transferring from local churches of another general conference of The Wesleyan Church, subject to the same approval as that provided for transfers between its own local churches.
Article VI. World Organization

145. General Conferences:

(1) The Wesleyan Church recognizes the need to preserve unity in faith and fellowship, yet provide for the distinctives of nation, tongue, and people. Therefore it provides for regional or national body to develop into a general conference whenever it shall meet the necessary qualifications (147:2) and shall adopt the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church as a part of its constitution and discipline.

(2) A new general conference may be authorized by the sponsoring general conference when the body seeking such status is recommended by the general administrative board of the sponsoring general conference on the grounds that the following requirements are satisfied:

a) An effective church organization on the local district and (or) general levels, including a satisfactory record as a provisional general conference.

b) Effective programmes for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.

c) An effective programme for ministerial training.

d) Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, including the proper management of funds and the provisions for the support of its own pastors, workers, and officers.

e) A definite programme of evangelism, church extensions and missionary outreach of an indigenous basis.

f) The existence of a property-holding body, or more than one such body if required by local laws.

g) Acceptance of the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church (148).
h) A discipline as approved by the general administrative board of the sponsoring general conference.

148. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church:

(1) The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of the Introduction and Articles I through VI, including Name, Articles of Religion, General Rules, First Principles of the Church, Transfer of Pastors and Members, and World Organization (101-149). They shall be binding upon all general conferences and shall be included in each constitution and discipline.

(2) The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church may be added to or amended only upon the concurrent approval of two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast in all general conferences and two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast in the district conferences thereof.

(3) Wherever the use of the name, "The Wesleyan Church" is impossible or impractical, the sponsoring general conference, after consultation with the other general conferences, may approve an adaptation for use by the new general conference (102).

(4) The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church may be translated into various languages and dialects including colloquial and idiomatic English, provided that the essential meaning is not changed.

149. International Board of Review:

(1) The International Board of Review shall be established by the several general conferences to maintain fidelity to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, to adjudicate matters of comity, and to supervise referendums involving more than one general conference.

(2) The International Board of Review shall be composed of the general superintendent(s) or comparable officer(s), together with an equal number of representatives from each general conference with the provision that no general conference shall be entitled to representation by more than one general superintendent.
and one other representative for each 15,000 members or major fraction there of. The representative shall be elected by the general conference or its interim administrative body, with due regard for the principle of lay representation.

(3) The officers of the International Board of Review shall be the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer (the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined). They shall be elected by the International Board of Review from among its members, and shall serve for four years or until their successors are elected.

(4) The provisions of the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church do not give the International Board of Review any powers which are not listed below in relation to the general conferences. Its duties shall be:

a) To review the legislation of all the general conferences to determine if any act appears to be in conflict with the Essentials, the execution of said act shall automatically be suspended. Upon request by a two-thirds vote of the interim administrative board of the general conference whose action in the case shall await the opportunity of said general conference at its next session to reconsider the act. Should the act be rescinded, the process shall immediately terminate. If no such request is made within one year or should it be made a general conference not rescind the act in question, the act and the findings thereon of the International Board of Review shall be submitted to all general conferences for vote. Should the findings of the International Board of Review be approved by a majority of the aggregate votes cast thereon in all of the general conferences, the act in question shall thereby be annulled. Otherwise, the act shall be sustained and the suspension of the act shall terminate. If the general conference whose action has been called into question should refuse to abide by the referendum, the International Board of Review shall be empowered to provide, at its discretion, for the reorganization of the loyal elements of The Wesleyan Church within the area of that general conference, and to declare all other ministers and members to be withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church.
b) To adjudicate any problem that may arise between general conferences involving boundaries, recognition of credentials, and other matters of comity. Should no solution satisfactory to the involved conferences be reached, the recommendation of the International Board of Review shall prevail. If within six months neither conference shall appeal, the International Board of Review shall arrange a referendum vote to decide the issue.

c) To supervise the referendum voting of the general conferences and their respective district conferences on additions or amendments to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, and on all other matters involving voting by more than one general conference.

(5) The International Board of Review shall meet at least once each four years, preferably at the time and place of the meeting of a general conference. Special meetings may be called by the officers when necessary.
160. Because of the many evils in the world today and because the Christian is faced with many temptations to do wrong, The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone makes the following statements concerning moral issues (matters of right and wrong) of the day. These statements are special rules for members of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and are for the purpose of guiding members in correct Christian living.

161. Statements on Marriage

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that the Christian marriage is God's plan for beginning the Christian home. The Christian marriage includes proper and customary arrangements between the persons and families concerned, as well as a Christian marriage ceremony performed by a pastor which joins the man and woman as husband and wife under God. The church strongly encourages the Christian man and woman who are to be married to be joined together by a Christian marriage. However, the church does accept the common practice of traditional marriage as a legal marriage.

(2) No Christian man and woman shall be permitted to live together as husband and wife until all proper and customary arrangements have been made between the persons and/or families concerned. The church shall consider sexual relationships between a man and a woman before these arrangements have been completed as the sin of fornication or adultery and an offense against the rules of the church, and if not repented of, church membership shall be terminated.

(3) The Christian man and woman who plan to be married, but who do not follow traditional custom, shall not be considered married until a marriage ceremony has been performed by a pastor.

(4) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that monogamy (having one wife) is God's plan for Christian marriage as taught in the Scriptures (Gen. 2:18, 24; Matt. 19:4–5; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:5, 6). (131:17) A Christian man who is a full or an associate member of.
the church who enters into a polygamous marriage (takes more than one wife) commits an offense against God's Word and the rules of the church. Such a person who continues with a polygamous marriage and does not repent shall have his membership terminated.

(5) A Christian woman who is included in a polygamous marriage because of traditional custom, and not because of her own desire may be accepted as a full member if she meets all other requirements.

(6) A man who has become a Christian and shows that he has new life in Christ, but who had taken more than one wife before becoming a Christian, may be baptized and accepted as an associate member of the church. No such person shall be permitted to hold any District or local church office, or be appointed to the Christian ministry (1 Tim. 3:2, 12).

162. Statement on Drunkenness

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes the Scriptures plainly teach that drunkenness is a sin against God (Prov. 20:1; Prov. 23:29-35; Isa. 5:11; Luke 21:34; Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 5:11; Gal. 5:19-20; Eph. 5:17, 18). Persons who use any kind of strong drink which causes drunkenness commit an offense against God's Word and the rules of the church (13:3), and such persons are not eligible for church membership. Church members who are found to be guilty of drinking strong drink shall be warned of the error of their ways, and if there is not repentance and evidence of change of life, their church membership shall be terminated.

163. Statements on Pagan Religious Practices

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes the Scriptures plainly teach that the Christian is to worship God only and to put his faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (Exod. 20:3-6; Acts 4:12; I Cor. 3:11; 10:21). The church strongly condemns all forms of pagan religious practices, believing that they come from Satan. Pagan religious practices include the holding or use of fetishes and jujus, making sacrifices to spirits or ancestors, causing a 'swear' to be put on people or things, and use of 'medicine' purchased from a sorcerer or Mori man, and giving
religious respect to idols, devils, ancestors, or other things connected with pagan worship.

(2) No person can be a Christian and also hold to any form of pagan religious belief or practice; therefore a person is not eligible for either associate or full membership in the church who holds any form of pagan belief or practice. Church members who return to any kind of pagan religious beliefs or practices commit an offense against God's Word and the rules of the church (13:2), their church membership shall be terminated.

164. Statements on Pagan Societies

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that membership in pagan societies is against the teaching of God's Word (1 Cor. 10:21; Eph. 5:11, 12; 1 John 1:6). A pagan society is any society, group or club which includes pagan religious practices or which requires its members to make secret oaths.

(2) Persons who are members of any pagan society shall not be eligible for either associate or full membership in the church unless such membership in a pagan society is renounced. A church member who joins a pagan society by his own choice shall have his church membership terminated. A church member who is forced to join a pagan society must renounce such membership or his church membership shall be terminated.

(3) The church recognizes that there are societies and organizations that are not necessarily pagan or evil in nature and to which Christians may belong. Where there is question as to whether it is wrong for church members to join a particular society or organization the District Board of Administration shall have the right to make a decision as to the rightness or wrongness of joining such society or organization, and church members shall abide by the ruling of the District Board of Administration. A Christian's first loyalty shall be to God and the church and membership in a society or organization must not interfere with Christian worship or living.

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165. Statements on Dancing

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that Christians who desire to please God and live holy lives will not take part in modern or ball dancing. Drunkenness, immorality, and other forms of evil usually take place at these dances and these evils are against the plain teaching of Scripture.

(2) The church does not condemn traditional dancing, such as folk dancing or games, but does strongly condemn any form of dancing which includes drunkenness, immorality, pagan practices, or temptation toward the same.

166. Statement on Practical Honesty

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that its members must have the Christian characteristics of honesty, truthfulness, and respect for the property of other persons. This follows the teaching of the ten commandments and the example and teaching of Jesus. It must be known that any Christian can be trusted, both in word and deed. This includes holding carefully property that belongs to others and keeping of promises to return property or pay debts. God will bless strict honesty in the smallest things. Jesus said to the faithful servant, 'You have been faithful over a few things and I will make you ruler over many things,' Matt. 25:23. (Exod. 20:15, 17; Deut. 25:15; Rom. 12:17; 13:8; I Cor. 4:2).

167. Statements on Baptism

(1) Those persons who have been saved from sin by putting their faith in Jesus Christ as their only Saviour and show their repentance by a new life in Christ shall be eligible for baptism. No person should be denied Christian baptism who has become a true Christian and agrees to obey God's will and commandments.

(2) Candidates for baptism shall first receive instruction in the basic Christian beliefs (catechism classes) (258:12). Candidates for baptism may be baptized as soon as they meet the requirements of 167:1 and have completed the course of Christian instruction.
Chapter Seven - Local Church Government

I. Local Church Organization

A. Purpose of Local Churches

200. The local Wesleyan church is a group of Christian believers who hold the faith as written in the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church, and who obey the authority of The Wesleyan Church. The members of the local Wesleyan church meet together regularly for the purpose of worship, spiritual growth, teaching the Word of God, and evangelism.

B. Kinds of Churches

1. Organized Church

201. An unorganized church or preaching point may become an organized church when it meets these requirements:

(1) Eight or more persons who are full members or are approved and ready to be received as full members (220) with at least twelve associate members (225) when the church is ready to be organized (365:20; 384:11).

(2) The ability to act as a church by having regular church services where the Word of God is preached, and by having a plan of evangelism for the purpose of winning people to Christ and bringing them into the church.

(3) The ability to carry on the business of a church with the leadership of a pastor.

(4) The ability to pay at least one-half of the pastor's salary.

202. How a church is organized: When an unorganized church (204) or preaching point (210) meets the requirements (201), it may become an organized church. An unorganized church or preaching point shall first be approved for organization by the District Board of Administration (365:20).
203. The organizational meeting shall be conducted by the District Superintendent or his representative (381:11) as follows:

(1) The reading of the Articles of Religion, the General Rules and the Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, by the District Superintendent or his representative.

(2) An examination of each of the candidates for membership, conducted by the District Superintendent or his representative (384:11). Each candidate shall be questioned concerning his Christian life, and concerning his obedience of the General Rules and the Special Rules of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(3) The reading of ritual for receiving full members and the answer by the candidates (582-589).

(4) The declaration of organization made by the District Superintendent or his representatives:

"On the basis of this examination in the presence of God, I 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 Church of Sierra Leone, and that you have all the rights, powers, and duties of an established, organized church."

(5) The first business meeting of the local church with the election of officers (242; 245:1).

(6) The report of the organization by the District Superintendent to the next regular session of the District Board of Administration and the next regular session of the District Conference (365:19; 384:11).

(7) The stationing of a pastor, if such has not already been done (365:9).
2. Unorganized Church

204. Any church group which has fewer than eight people who are qualified to be full members (220) shall be an unorganized church.

205. An unorganized church shall become an organized church within a period of five years from the time a pastor is first stationed. If unable to become organized within this period of time its situation shall be reviewed by the District Board of Administration (365:16).

206. An unorganized church shall meet the following requirements:

(1) A pastor or lay leader stationed to lead the church.

(2) The ability to act as a church by having regular church services.

(3) The ability to pay at least part of the pastor’s salary.

207. An unorganized church does not have full members, but may have associate members (225).

208. An unorganized church may have church business meetings with the pastor as chairman. The pastor shall have the right to make the final decision in all matters concerning the local church, subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (365:18).

209. An unorganized church does not have a local church board, but the pastor with the help of the section supervisor (314; 322:2) shall choose one or more laymen, who are faithful Christians, to help him and give advice in matters concerning the local church. The pastor with this advisory committee shall appoint a Christian layman to be the church treasurer. The pastor shall make certain that all church officers and Sunday School teachers are true Christians.
3. Preaching Point

210. A preaching point is a village or town which a pastor visits regularly and where he holds church services. Believers at the preaching points may become members of the organized mother church if they meet all requirements (220). All statistics of attendances and offerings at the preaching points shall be added to the statistics of the mother church.

211. A preaching point, where a pastor holds regular services, shall help pay some part of the pastor's salary. The amount shall be agreed upon by both the mother church and the preaching point.

212. A preaching point may become an unorganized or an organized church when it meets the requirements for such (201; 206).

II. Membership

A. Kinds of Membership

1. Full Membership

220. Those persons shall be admitted to full membership in any organized Wesleyan church (201) who meet the following requirements:

(1) Can testify to receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and promise to seek to be cleansed and filled with the Holy Spirit if they do not yet have this experience.

(2) Have attended catechism or membership training classes (258:11).

(3) Have been baptized.

(4) Are willing to accept the Articles of Religion and to obey the General Rules and the Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.
(5) Agree to support the church, and to live in fellowship with all the members of the church.

(6) Are at least fourteen (14) years old.

(7) Have been approved to become members by the local church board (270:7).

221. Christians who want to become full members shall be examined by the local church board to see if they meet the requirements for full membership (220; 270:7). The local church board shall give final approval for all candidates for full membership (270:7) with the action subject to review by the District Board of Administration (365:18). Persons who have been accepted for full membership shall be received as full members in a public service. Their names shall be written in the list of full members in the church record book (232).

2. Associate Membership

225. Those persons who have joined the Christian faith, have been baptized, attend church services regularly, and support the church, but who may not meet all the requirements of full membership (220), shall be accepted as associate members.

226. Associate members cannot hold church offices and they cannot vote in church meetings. An associate member may become a full member at any time he is qualified and approved by the local church board (220; 270:7). It is expected that associate members will strive to become qualified for full membership.

3. Junior Membership

230. Those children and youth thirteen years of age and under, who have been saved from their sins, shall be accepted as junior members of the organized church. Candidates for junior membership shall be approved by the local church board (270:7). When a junior member becomes fourteen years of age he must either become a full member by meeting all the requirements for such (220),
or be transferred to the associate membership list (225).

B. Record of Membership

232. Each local church shall have a record book in which shall be written all the names of the members, the date when received, and the way and the date the membership was ended, whether by death, withdrawal, or removal. All baptisms, marriages, pastoral terms, the history of the church, and other important information shall be written in the church record book.

C. Transfer of Membership

234. Any member who moves to another town or village where there is an organized Wesleyan church may transfer his membership. Upon request, the pastor shall write a letter of transfer which shall be sent to the pastor of the church to which the member is transferring. In the church record book, after the person's name, the date of withdrawal of membership and the words "Withdrawn by letter of transfer" shall be written (232).

235. The local church board of the church receiving a full member by letter of transfer shall have the right to approve the transfer only after making sure the person meets all the requirements of full membership (220). The names of transfer members and the date of receiving shall be written in the church record book (232).

236. The membership of a pastor, and his family if any are members, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which he is appointed, if it is an organized church (468).

D. Termination of Membership

240. Full membership in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may be terminated (ended) only by one or more of the following ways:
(1) Voluntary withdrawal.

(2) Removal of membership after joining another religious group, or joining a secret society involving pagan practices.

(3) Removal of membership after proper trial by the local church board and being found guilty of accepting false doctrines, or disobeying the rules of the church.

(4) Removal of membership after continued neglect of church attendance and support.

(5) Death.

III. Church Business Meetings

242. The full members of an organized, local church called together to do business make up the church business meeting. Only full members (220) have the right to vote in the church business meetings.

243. A church business meeting shall be held in each organized church at least once each year, one month before the annual District Conference. Church meetings may be held at other times, called by the pastor or the local church board.

244. The District Superintendent or his representative shall be chairman of the church business meeting whenever he is present (384:12). In his absence, the pastor shall be the chairman (258:13), except in those meetings in which matters concerning the pastor are discussed. At such times the vice-chairman of the local church board shall act as chairman. Whenever possible a secretary shall be elected annually who shall write a record of all business of the church (280). If there is no layman who can act as secretary, the pastor shall write the record of all church business.
Duties and powers. The duties and powers of the local church business meeting shall be the following:

(1) To elect the following church officers at the annual meeting: the church treasurer (276), the church secretary (280), the Sunday School superintendent (285), and members-at-large of the local church board (265).

(2) To receive reports from the pastor (258:20) and church officers as required.

(3) To remove from office, when such is in the best interests of the church, by a majority vote of those present and voting, any church officer except the pastor (365:26).

(4) To decide on plans and programmes for the growth of the church and for the interests of the church members, as long as such plans and programmes are in agreement with The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(5) To consider and vote upon items of business which are to be sent to the annual District Conference for action (351; 365:7).

IV. Pastors

A. Purpose of the Pastor

The pastor is a man who is called of God and stationed by the District Board of Administration (365:9) to serve as the spiritual leader of the local church. He is also the manager of local church affairs. The pastor is to preach the Word of God, lead the people in worship and church services, take the gospel to people in sin, and help those who are sick and in trouble.
B. Stationing of Pastors

252. The District Board of Administration shall station all pastors (365:9) with the approval of the annual District Conference (354:11). This stationing shall normally be made at the time of the annual District Conference.

253. Any church shall have the rights to ask the District Board of Administration for a change of pastor. A letter from the church asking for a pastoral change and giving the reasons should be sent to the District Superintendent at least three weeks before the annual District Conference. The District Board of Administration is not obligated to fulfill such request but shall give it due consideration (252).

254. When there is a pastoral change, any organized church shall have the right to give the name of the pastor they want to the District Board of Administration. This request should be sent to the District Superintendent at least three weeks before the annual District Conference. The District Board of Administration is not obligated to fulfill such a request but shall give it due consideration (252).

255. Any pastor shall have the right to ask the District Board of Administration for a change of station. A letter from the pastor asking for a change and giving the reasons for the request should be sent to the District Superintendent and copied to the local church at least three weeks before the annual District Conference. The District Board of Administration is not obligated to fulfill such a request but shall give it due consideration (252).

C. Duties and Powers of the Pastor

258. The duties and powers of the pastor shall be the following:

(1) To give himself to the study of the Bible, to prayer, and to the work assigned to him.
(2) To try, by all means, to bring sinners to Christ, to lead believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to help all Christians to grow spiritually.

(3) To pray to God for and with his people.

(4) To give spiritual food to the Christians by reading, teaching, and preaching God's Word.

(5) To lead the Sunday and midweek church services, helping the Christians to worship God.

(6) To baptize new Christians and to give the Lord's Supper, if an ordained pastor (463:2).

(7) To have a Christian marriage service for the Christian man and woman who are to be married.

(8) To bury the dead and comfort those in sorrow.

(9) To visit from house to house in order to give pastoral help to the church members, and to others in need of a pastor's help.

(10) To read and explain the General Rules and Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone at least once each year and to see that all full members obey the rules of the church, and to encourage all associate members to qualify for full membership (220).

(11) To accept new members into the church after being approved by the local church board (270:7).

(12) To teach catechism and membership training classes, preparing new Christians for baptism and church membership.

(13) To be the chairman of all local church business meetings, in the absence of the District Superintendent or his representative (244), and of the local church board (265); and to be the manager of all local church affairs.

(14) To help to organize and keep going men's meetings, women's meetings, and youth meetings in the church.
(15) To give leadership in the evangelistic outreach of the church.

(16) To announce to the church all the plans for the local church made by the District Board of Administration and the annual District Conference.

(17) To keep up-to-date the church record book (232).

(18) To teach the Christians the idea of tithing and good stewardship, and to see that all financial agreements are paid in full.

(19) To help and encourage the Sunday School.

(20) To give reports to the local church (245:2; 270:4), to the quarterly conference (311:1), and to the annual District Conference (354:7, 14).

(21) To prepare and submit to the District Superintendent a quarterly statistical report for the local church (384:17).

(22) To submit an annual service report to the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:5), and an annual statistical report to the District Statistical Committee (417:1).

(23) To attend quarterly conferences, the annual District Conference, and other institutes and conferences planned to help the pastor and his work.

V. Local Church Board

A. The Purpose of the Local Church Board

264. Each organized church shall have a local church board which serves as the chief governing body of the local church.

B. Membership of the Local Church Board

265. Members of the local church board shall be full members of the organized church. The pastor shall be chairman (258:13), and the church secretary (280), the church treasurer (276), and the Sunday School superintendent (285),
shall be members. Churches which have fewer than 50 full members may have two members-at-large elected to the local church board. Churches which have 50 or more full members may have up to five members-at-large elected to the local church board. The members-at-large shall be elected at the annual church business meeting (245:1). One of the lay members shall be elected as the vice-chairman of the local church board.

C. Meetings of the Local Church Board

268. The local church board shall meet once each month, and it may be called for special meetings by the pastor or the District Superintendent or his representative.

D. Duties and Powers of the Local Church Board

270. The duties and powers of the local church board shall be the following:

(1) To direct all activities of the local church to the spiritual growth of its people.

(2) To see that there is a place for worship, and to see that the place is kept clean and in good repair.

(3) To give advice to the pastor about his work.

(4) To hear the reports of the pastor (258:20), the church treasurer (277:3), and other church officers that might have reports.

(5) To help the pastor with the evangelistic outreach of the church.

(6) To make a financial plan for the church, and to direct the church treasurer how the church money should be spent (277:1).

(7) To examine all those who want to become full members of the church (221) to see that they meet all the requirements (220), and to approve those who are qualified for full membership (220:7).
(8) To examine the church membership list each year and to make necessary changes (232; 240).

(9) To hear and settle all cases between Christians in the church, to hold a trial for any member charged with an offense (297; 298:1), to suspend or terminate the membership of those found guilty of a serious offense and who do not repent and change their life, and to refer to the District Superintendent any case which cannot be settled in the local church (298:2; 384:21).

(10) To elect each year, Sunday School teachers (290), Sunday School secretary, and other church positions as are necessary.

(11) To elect special committees as are needed; such as: building committee, finance committee, evangelism committee, etc.

(12) To elect from among the full members the lay delegates to the annual District Conference (295; 337; 338; 339).

VI. Local Church Officers

A. Church Treasurer

276. The local organized church, at its annual church business meeting, shall elect a church treasurer from among the full members (245:1). He shall be a member of the local church (265).

277. The duties and powers of the local church treasurer shall be the following:

(1) To receive, hold, and pay out all money of the local church, as ordered by the local church board (270:6).

(2) To help the pastor keep a complete and true record of all money received and paid out in the local church.

(3) To make a monthly report to the local church board of the finances of the local church (270:4).
B. Church Secretary

280. The local organized church, at its annual church business meeting, may elect a church secretary from among the full members (245:1). He shall be a member of the local church board (265).

281. The duties and powers of the local church secretary shall be the following:

   (1) To write the minutes of all church business meetings and the meetings of the local church board.

   (2) To help the pastor keep the church record book up-to-date (232).

C. Sunday School Superintendent

285. The local organized church, at its annual church business meeting, may elect a Sunday School superintendent from among the full members (245:1). He shall be a member of the local church board (265).

286. The duties and powers of the Sunday School superintendent shall be the following:

   (1) To supervise the Sunday School classes, making certain that each class has a teacher, and helping the teachers with their duties.

   (2) To encourage interest in and attendance at the Sunday School.

   (3) To make a monthly report of the Sunday School statistics to the local church board (270:4).

D. Sunday School Teachers

290. The local church board shall elect teachers for each of the classes of the local Sunday School, making sure that each teacher is a true Christian (270:10).
E. Delegates to the Annual District Conference

295. The local church board shall elect, from among the full members, the lay delegates to the annual District Conference (270:12; 337; 338; 339).

VII. Offenses in the Local Church

Offenses:

297. Any member of a local Wesleyan church shall be subject to trial and punishment for any of the following offenses:

(1) Holding or teaching any doctrine which is opposed to the doctrine of The Wesleyan Church as stated in The Discipline.

(2) Disobedience to the laws of The Discipline or allowing such disobedience.

(3) Willful refusal to recognize and obey Church authority.

(4) Conduct which is wrong for a member of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) Immorality or crime.

(6) Serious or continued neglect of Christian duty.

298. Church trial. Any member of a local Wesleyan who is charged with an offense (297) shall be tried in one of the following ways:

(1) By the local church board (270:9).

(2) If a case cannot be settled by the local church board, it may be referred to the District Superintendent for trial by the District Board of Administration (270:9; 384:2).
299. **Punishments.** Any member of a local Wesleyan Church who is guilty of an offense (297; 298) may be punished in one of the following ways:

1. A strong warning in private.
2. A strong warning in public.
3. Church membership suspended for a period of time to be set by the local church board.
4. Church membership terminated (240:2, 3, 4).
Chapter Eight - Section Church Government

I. The Section

A. Purpose of the Section

300. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be divided into areas called sections so churches which are near each other may be organized for the purpose of administration, fellowship, and service.

B. Boundaries

301. The number of sections and their boundaries shall be set by the District Board of Administration (365:11).

II. The Quarterly Conference

A. Purpose of the Quarterly Conference

303. The quarterly conference shall meet for the purpose of receiving pastors' quarterly reports, for in-service training, and for fellowship. It is not a law-making conference, but it may make plans to help the growth of the churches within the section by means of evangelism, Christian education, and stewardship.

B. Membership of the Quarterly Conference

305. The quarterly conference shall be made up of all stationed ordained and licensed pastors within the section.

C. Meetings of the Quarterly Conference

307. The quarterly conference shall meet quarterly in each section during the District fiscal year, with the exception of the fourth quarterly meeting which is the annual District Conference.
D. Organization of the Quarterly Conference

1. Officers

310. Chairman: The District Superintendent shall be the chairman of the quarterly conference (384:1), except in his absence in which event the Assistant District Superintendent shall be the chairman (387:5). When neither the District Superintendent nor the Assistant District Superintendent is present the section supervisor shall be chairman (322:1).

310. Secretary: The quarterly conference shall elect one of its members as secretary who shall keep a record of all pastoral reports and other actions and plans of the quarterly conference. This election shall take place at the first quarterly conference and the term shall be for one year.

2. Duties and Powers

311. The duties and powers of the quarterly conference shall be the following:

(1) To receive oral and written reports from each pastor within the section (258:20).

(2) To make plans for the growth of the churches within the section.

(3) To discuss matters related to the pastors and local churches within the section.

(4) To receive information from the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration.

III. The Section Supervisor

A. Purpose of the Section Supervisor

314. The section supervisor shall be a spiritual leader who is given supervisory responsibility within the sec-
tion, under the direction of the District Superintendent (384:2).

B. Regulations

316. Election: The section supervisor shall be elected by the District Board of Administration during the annual District Conference session (365:12).

317. Qualifications: A section supervisor shall be elected from among the stationed ordained pastors within the section.

318. Term of Office: The election of a section supervisor shall be for a term of one year.

319. Vacancy: Whenever the office of a section supervisor is vacated, the District Board of Administration shall appoint a stationed pastor within the section to hold the office until the next annual District Conference (365:1,17).

320. Amenability: The section supervisor is amenable to the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration for his official duties.

C. Duties of the Section Supervisor

322. The duties of the section supervisor shall be the following:

(1) To be chairman of the quarterly conference in the absence of the District Superintendent and the Assistant District Superintendent (309).

(2) To work under the direction of the District Superintendent (384:6) as a supervisor of pastors and churches within the section, being responsible to the District Superintendent for the following:

a) Visiting each church within the section
at least two times each year, carefully checking church records, the pastor's work, and the progress of the church in its attendance, membership, stewardship, and spiritual life; making certain that all church records and pastoral reports are correct.

b) Promoting evangelism and church extension within the section, and encouraging pastors to hold catechism and membership training classes.

c) Assisting churches to observe the Lord's Supper, and to conduct baptismal services.

d) Being a spiritual leader among the pastors.

(3) To inform the pastors of the section regarding matters of importance from the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration.

(4) To report to the District Superintendent as may be required regarding any or all of the pastors or churches within the section.

(5) To submit a quarterly financial statement to the District Superintendent (384:17), and an annual financial statement to the District Conference (354:7).

(6) To perform any other duties assigned by the District Superintendent or the District Board of Administration.
Chapter Nine - District Church Government

330. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is one of many districts of The Wesleyan Church located worldwide, and is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (11). The government of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is based upon the district plan of The Wesleyan Church, and is called District Church Government.

I. District Conference

A. Purpose of the District Conference

331. The District Conference is the chief governing body of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It has such powers as are given to it in the Constitution (75) and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (334).

B. Membership of the District Conference

1. Plan of Representation

332. The District Conference, as required by the Constitution (75), shall be made up of pastors and lay delegates as voting members (333; 334), and other non-voting members as listed in The Discipline (335).

333. Voting Members - Pastors. The pastoral members of the District Conference with voting rights are the following:

   (1) All ordained pastors who are either stationed or retired (440:A, B).

   (2) All licensed pastors who are stationed (440:B), except for students in pastoral training (335:2).

   (3) All Wesleyan missionaries who have served in Sierra Leone more than one year (This will be in effect through the annual District Conference of 1979).
334. Voting Members - Laymen. The lay members of the District Conference with voting rights are the following:

(1) Those laymen who are elected as delegates from the organized churches (295; 337; 338; 339).

(2) Those laymen who are appointed as delegates from each organized auxiliary of the church - Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, and Wesleyan Youth (526:3).

(3) Those laymen who are elected to the District Board of Administration.

(4) Those laymen who have been appointed as supply pastors (449:3).

335. Non-voting Members. The non-voting members of the District Conference, with a voice but without a vote, are the following:

(1) Ordained pastors who are not on the stationed list (440:F).

(2) Licensed pastors who are not on the stationed list (440:F), and licensed pastors in pastoral training (333:2).

(3) Representatives from unorganized churches (341).

(4) Commissioned special workers (440:D).

2. Lay Delegates

337. Number of Lay Delegates. Each organized church shall have lay delegates elected to the District Conference (295) according to the following plan of representation:

(1) Churches with 8 to 50 full members shall be entitled to one delegate.

(2) Churches with 51 or more full members shall be entitled to two delegates.
338. **Election of Lay Delegates.** The lay delegates of the District Conference shall be elected by the local church board of the organized church (270:12). A person accepting the election as a delegate shall agree to attend faithfully all the sessions of the District Conference, unless unable to do so because of an emergency. In such cases an alternate delegate may be elected. The pastor shall give a certified list of the elected delegates to the District Secretary before the first session of the District Conference.

339. **Qualifications of Lay Delegates.** A lay delegate must be a full member and in good standing of the organized church he represents (201; 220). A lay delegate representing an auxiliary organization of the church must also be a full member of an organized church. An ordained or licensed pastor may not be elected or serve as a lay delegate.

3. **Representatives from Unorganized Churches**

341. Each unorganized church to which a pastor is stationed shall be entitled to one representative to the District Conference. Representatives from unorganized churches have a voice in the District Conference, but cannot vote (335:3).

C. **Meetings of the District Conference**

343. The District Conference shall meet annually (79). The place and time of meeting shall be decided upon by the District Board of Administration (365:5). The District Secretary shall notify in writing all churches of the District and all ordained pastors who are not stationed of the time and place not less than thirty days before the scheduled opening (390:3).
D. Organization and Procedures

1. Officers

345. The Chairman. The District Superintendent shall be the chairman of the District Conference (384:1), unless the General Superintendent (4:3) or the General Secretary of World Missions (4:5) is present, in which event he shall be chairman. If one of the general officers of The Wesleyan Church is present, the District Superintendent may ask him to assist in presiding over the District Conference sessions. In the absence of the foregoing the Assistant District Superintendent shall be the chairman (387:1).

346. The Secretary. The District Secretary shall be the secretary of the District Conference. He shall accurately record the proceedings and keep them in a permanent form, and perform any other duties as shall be required of him by the District Conference. (See 390:1, 4)

2. Procedures

348. Quorum. A majority of all pastoral voting members (333) and lay delegates (334) of the District Conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

349. Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the annual District Conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in his place.

350. Voting. The pastoral and lay members of the District Conference shall transact business as one body.

351. Items of Business. Items of business to be voted upon by the District Conference may be submitted to the District Conference by a local church (245:5); the annual district meeting of the Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth; a District board or committee concerning the work assigned to it; the District Board
of Administration (365:7); or any three voting members of the District Conference. These items of business shall be submitted in writing to the District Board of Administration which shall be responsible to review each item as to its origin, clarity, and relationship to The Discipline, and to make recommendations concerning them. All properly submitted items of business shall be reported to the District Conference by the District Board of Administration and considered and voted upon, unless withdrawn by its authors or declared out of order by the chairman of the District Conference as violating The Discipline (352). The District Conference may by a two-thirds vote suspend the requirement that an item of business first be reviewed by the District Board of Administration (365:7) and immediately proceed to consider and vote upon said item.

352. Rules of Order. District Conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when otherwise ordered by The Discipline.

353. Questions of Order. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the District Conference body. If any matter is ruled out of order by the chairman on the basis that it is unconstitutional or in violation of The Discipline, the decision of the chairman may be appealed by any member of the District Conference. A vote shall then be taken without debate and a two-thirds vote of the District Conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chairman. If the chairman is overruled, the action of the District Conference on that particular item shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the Board of General Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church (365:15).

E. Duties and Powers of the District Conference

354. The duties and powers of the District Conference shall be the following:
Relating to The Discipline

(1) To propose an amendment to the constitution, by a majority vote, to be submitted to the General Board of Administration for approval (7, 82).

(2) To propose an amendment to the statutory law sections of The Discipline by a majority vote, to be submitted to the General Board of Administration for approval (8).

Relating to the General Conference

(3) To elect delegates to the General Conference (431).

Relating to District Administration

(4) To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: The District Superintendent (384:20), the Assistant District Superintendent (387:7), the District Treasurer (393:5), The Director of Christian Education (409:1c), and other persons as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration whose official duties are related to The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(5) To receive a report of all official actions of the District Board of Administration (365:8).

(6) To receive reports from auxiliary organizations and institutions related to the church (527:1).

(7) To consider and pass on the report, either oral or written, of each stationed, ordained or licensed pastor (258:20); and to receive a financial statement from each section supervisor (322:5).

(8) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the District by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as prepared and submitted by the District Statistical Committee (417:1); to receive a report submitted by the District Auditing Committee (393:5; 420:2).
(9) To approve financial plans proposed by the Finance Committee which will provide for the support of all stationed pastors and payment of other District financial obligations (423:1, 2).

(10) To make such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interests and growth of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

Relating to Pastors

(11) To approve the stationing of all ordained and licensed pastors, and lay supply pastors, as recommended by the District Board of Administration (365:9).

(12) To elect for ordination (461:5) a candidate the District Conference deems qualified after receiving a report from the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:4), which has been referred to the District Conference by the District Board of Administration (365:22), and which shall be acted upon as separate item of business.

(13) To grant license to Pastor, commission to special service, and restore in full standing those who are qualified after receiving the report and recommendations from the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:4), which has been referred to the District Conference by the District Board of Administration (365:23).

(14) To receive and pass on a written annual service report, through the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:5), from each ordained or licensed pastor, and commissioned special worker; to receive an explanation from each person whose report has been found unsatisfactory, and to vote on the continuation of such person for appointment which shall require a two-thirds vote or confidence for approval (397:7).

Relating to Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees

(15) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an ordained pastor to the office of District Superintendent for a term of one year. Whenever a District Superintendent is re-elected, it shall be for a term of two years. (See 382:1, 2).
(16) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an ordained pastor to the office of Assistant District Superintendent for a term of one year (386).

(17) To elect, by ballot and by a majority vote, a District Secretary (389), a District Treasurer (392), and members-at-large of the District Board of Administration (357), each for a term of one year (375).

(18) To elect, after having received nominations from the District Nominating Committee, with or without further nominations from the conference body, the members of all District standing boards and committees, and to conference session committees (370:2, 3; 371; 373).

(19) To elect, by ballot and majority vote, delegates to the General Conference and to the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council (431).

II. District Board of Administration

A. Purpose of the District Board of Administration

The District Board of Administration carries out the will of the District Conference, promotes the interest of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and serves as the chief governing body of the District between District Conference sessions.

B. Membership of the District Board of Administration

Composition and Election. The District Board of Administration is composed of the District Superintendent (384:1), the Assistant District Superintendent (387:2), the District Secretary (390:2), the District Treasurer (393:1), the Mission Coordinator (436) and a maximum of six members-at-large elected by ballot and majority vote by the District Conference (354:17). Due regard shall be given to elect a proportionate number of pastors and laymen. (See 76)
358. **Regulations for Members.** Each member of the District Board of Administration shall be a full member of an organized Wesleyan church, both at the time of his election and during the time he serves. The term of office shall be for one year, and members shall serve from the close of the District Conference at which they are elected until the close of the next regular session of the District Conference. The filling of a vacancy of a District Board of Administration until the next session of the District Conference shall be by two-thirds vote of all the members of the District Board of Administration.

359. **Amenability.** The District Board of Administration is amenable to the District Conference and the General Board of Administration (77:2).

**C. Meetings of the District Board of Administration**

361. The District Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the close of the District Conference for an organizing meeting to make plans for the year and care for any business delegated to it by the District Conference which requires immediate attention. Regular meetings of the District Board of Administration shall be held four times a year, and special meetings may be called by the District Superintendent when it is necessary. All members shall be notified at least one week in advance of a special meeting, except when all members are able to meet on shorter notice. (See 79)

**D. Organization and Procedures of the District Board of Administration**

363. The District Superintendent shall be the chairman of the District Board of Administration (384:1). The Assistant District Superintendent shall be chairman in the absence of the District Superintendent (387:2). The District Secretary is the secretary of the District Board of Administration by virtue of his office (390:2). A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient, except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline.
E. The Duties and Powers of the District Board of Administration

The duties and powers of the District Board of Administration shall be the following:

General Duties

(1) To serve as chief governing body of the District between District Conference sessions, caring for all the interests of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(2) To promote the interests of The Wesleyan Church worldwide through participation in the Wesleyan World Fellowship (11).

(3) To take a special interest and responsibility for developing supervising, and promoting an active programme of church extension and evangelism.

Related to the District Conference

(4) To carry out the plans and objectives of the District Conference.

(5) To fix the date and place for the annual meeting of the District Conference (343).

(6) To elect a District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (428).

(7) To receive items of business to be voted upon by the District Conference, to review them, and to submit them to the District Conference with the Board's recommendations; and to submit other items of business which require District Conference approval (351).

(8) To submit a report of all official actions to the District Conference (354:5).

(9) To serve the District Conference as a committee on pastoral relations and appointments, being responsible to station pastors, subject to the approval of the District Conference (354:11), for its approval of all recommendations from the District Board of Pastoral
Standing concerning ordination, licensing, commissioning, and restoration of pastors and special workers (397:4).

Related to District Officers, Boards, Committees and Auxiliaries

(10) To have the general oversight of all District officers, boards, committees, employees, and auxiliary organizations; to approve their plans and to coordinate their work; and to see that their work is carried out according to The Discipline and the directives of the District Conference.

Related to District Administration

(11) To divide the District into administrative sections and determine the boundaries thereof (301).

(12) To elect, from among the ordained pastors of each section, a section supervisor for each section within the District (316; 317).

(13) To serve as the Board of Directors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone Corporation (76); to have power to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation or any of its local churches (77:1).

(14) To provide for the preservation and security of all District records (384:8).

(15) To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of The Discipline from the Board of General Superintendents (353), through the General Secretary of World Missions.

(16) To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church and District so require, any of its own members by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members; and any member of a board, committee, officer of an auxiliary organization, or an employee of the District, by a two-thirds majority vote (376).
(17) To fill the vacancies on any District boards or committees for the unexpired term, by a majority vote (378).

Related to Churches and Pastors

(18) To organize and supervise all churches of the District in accord with The Discipline and other District directives so that each one may be an effective part of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(19) To guard carefully the spiritual life and general welfare of all churches.

(20) To authorize the organization of a church (202), and to receive a report from the District Superintendent on the effecting of such organization (203:6; 384:11); to reclassify an organized church when its number of full members drops to less than eight; and to declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (384:11).

(21) To approve the proposal of a local church to acquire, purchase, sell or transfer property.

(22) To consider and refer to the District Conference for approval (354:12) a recommendation for the election of a candidate for ordination, after receiving a report from the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:4), which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(23) To consider and refer to the District Conference for approval (354:13) recommendations from the District Board of Pastoral Standing concerning the licensing, commissioning, or restoration of pastors and special workers (397:4).

(24) To make all pastoral appointments between District Conference sessions (365:1).

(25) In case of an emergency, to elect for ordination a candidate who has been recommended by the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:4) in the interim of the sessions of the District Conference (461:5).
(26) To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by a pastor, or to remove a pastor by majority vote.

(27) To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation or trial, for any ordained or licensed pastor, commissioned special worker, local church member (270:9; 298:2) or other worker or employee under the jurisdiction of the District, and to impose just penalties upon those found guilty of an offense (297). (474; 480) (See 384:21; 477).

Related to the American Wesleyan Mission

(28) To advise the missionary council concerning the stationing of missionaries, making sure that missionaries are assigned to those tasks that will be in the best interest of the District and that will promote the growth of the church; to make recommendations regarding any failure of a missionary in service or in conduct (438).

(29) To see that no missionary's authority shall supercede that of a Sierra Leonean unless duly elected or authorized by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration to hold such authority.

(30) To advise the missionary council concerning their plan of work, and the setting of goals and priorities of the mission.

(31-39)

E. Executive Committee of the District Board of Administration

367. The District Board of Administration may establish an executive committee which shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary, the Mission Coordinator, and two other persons from its own members.

The executive committee shall have full authority to act in those matters committed to it by the full District Board of Administration. It shall also have power to act in emergencies, said action subject to review and ratification by the District Board of Administration.
III. District Officers, Boards and Committees

A. List of District Officers, Boards and Committees

The following are the officers, boards and committees of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) District Officers:
   District Superintendent (381-384).
   Assistant District Superintendent (386-387).
   District Secretary (389-390).
   District Treasurer (392-393).

(2) District Boards:
   District Board of Administration (356-357).
   District Board of Pastoral Standing (395-397).
   District Board of Evangelism and Church Extension (400-402).
   District Board of Christian Education (404-409).
   District Board of Pastoral Training (412-414).

(3) District Committees:
   District Statistical Committee (416-417).
   District Auditing Committee (419-420).
   District Finance Committee (422-423).
   District Building Committee (425-426).
   District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (428-429).

The District Conference may elect other committees which are deemed necessary for the administration of the District.
B. Regulations for District Officers, Boards and Committees

373. Election. Members of District boards and committees, other than the District Board of Administration (357) and the District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (428), are nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429) and elected by the District Conference (354:18).

374. Qualifications. A District officer, or member of a District board or committee, must be, at the time of election and throughout his term of service, a full member of a local Wesleyan church. It is expected of members of the District Board of Administration and chairman of District boards that they exemplify their support of the Church and their positions of leadership by affirming that they pay their tithe to the Church.

375. Term of Office. District officers, other than the District Superintendent (382:2), and members of District boards and committees, other than the District Board of Pastoral Standing (396), shall be elected for a term of one year. All District officers, and board and standing committee members, shall assume office at the close of the District Conference session at which they are elected, and shall serve until the close of the next District Conference session, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

376. Amenability. The District Board of Administration is amenable to the District Conference and the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church (359). All other District officers, and District Board of Administration (365:10), shall serve under the general supervision of the District Superintendent (384:6). Members may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the Church and District so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the District Board of Administration (365:16).
377. **Reports and Records.** A District officer shall report to each session of the District Conference concerning his office duties and to the District Board of Administration as may be required. The minutes of the meetings of all District Boards and committees shall be kept with the permanent records of the District (365:14).

378. **Vacancies.** The position of a District officer, or a board or committee member, may become vacant by death, by termination of full membership in a local, organized Wesleyan church, by resignation, or by removal. In all cases other than that of the District Superintendent (382:3), the filling of a vacancy for the unexpired term shall be by two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the District Board of Administration (365:17).

**C. District Superintendent**

381. The District Superintendent is the spiritual and administrative leader of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

382. **Regulations.**

(1) **Election.** The District Superintendent shall be elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the ordained pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (354:15).

(2) **Term of Office.** The first election of the District Superintendent shall be for a term of one year, and re-election thereafter shall be for a term of two years (354:15).

(3) **Vacancy.** Whenever the office of the District Superintendent is vacated, the Assistant District Superintendent shall become the District Superintendent and serve until the next session of the District Conference or until a successor shall be elected and qualified (387:8).
(4) **Amenability.** The District Superintendent is amenable to the District Board of Administration for both his official duties and moral character (365:10). He may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Board of Administration (365:16; 376).

### 384. Duties and Powers of the District Superintendent

#### Ex-Officio Duties

(1) The District Superintendent is chairman of the District Conference (345), chairman of the District Board of Administration (363), chairman of the quarterly conference (309), and chairman of the District Board of Pastoral Training (413).

#### General Duties

(2) To have the oversight of the churches and pastors within the District.

(3) To give special attention to beginning and promoting an active programme of evangelism and church extensions, as approved by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.

(4) To carry on a spiritual ministry, teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programmes of The Wesleyan Church, and promoting the interests of The Wesleyan Church throughout the District.

#### District Administration Duties

(5) To be the chairman of the District Board of Administration (363), and to submit recommendations to the District Board of Administration that will provide for a more efficient administration.

(6) To exercise administrative supervision over all District officers, boards, committees, auxiliary organizations, churches, section supervisors, pastors, and other workers of the District, and to see that the plans and policies of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are carried out (376).
(7) To meet with any District board, committee, auxiliary organization, or other District agency at his discretion, and to make such recommendations as he deems advisable; and to counsel with the various officers, board or committee members, and others serving the District, concerning their work.

(8) To have the custody, under the direction of the District Board of Administration, of property and legal records for both the District and the local churches (365:14).

Duties Related to Local Churches

(9) To visit, or to appoint the Assistant District Superintendent (387:5) or other representative to visit, each church in the District at least once each year, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church, and seeking to advance its spiritual life.

(10) To investigate carefully concerning the local support of pastors and to advise and encourage the local churches to provide for their adequate support.

(11) To recommend that the District Board of Administration authorize the organization of an unorganized church or preaching point, or the reclassification of a church; and to preside over the organization of a church or appoint a representative to do so (203), and to report the organization of the new church to the District Board of Administration and to the District Conference (354:4; 365:20).

(12) To preside over local church business meetings whenever present, and to convene a local church board in times of emergency and preside over the same (244).

(13) To recommend the removal of a pastor to the District Board of Administration whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it (365:26), and to recommend to the District Board of Administration the appointment of a supply, if necessary, until another pastor has been appointed.
(14) To perform all the functions of a pastor for a local church when such a church is without a pastor, or to recommend to the District Board of Administration the appointment of a supply pastor until another pastor has been appointed.

Duties Related to Pastors

(15) To counsel with the pastors and other workers under his care, giving special attention to the encouragement and guidance of students in pastoral training.

(16) To conduct the ritual of ordination (461:6; 620), except when a General Superintendent is present; to sign with the District Secretary ordination certificates and pastoral licenses, or other official forms as are required by his office (453:7; 461:7).

(17) To receive a quarterly statistical report from each church prepared by the pastor (258:21); to receive a quarterly financial statement from each section supervisor (322:5); and to request any special reports from the pastors and churches that will help him to give better oversight of the District.

Duties Related to the American Wesleyan Mission

(18) To act as an administrative consultant to the Mission Coordinator of the American Wesleyan Mission, making sure that the plans and programmes of the mission are coordinated with those of the District.

(19) To give advice to individual missionaries and to evaluate their work to see that it is in the best interests of the District.

Reports

(20) To report annually to the District Conference concerning his official duties and personal ministry (354:4), and to submit other reports to the General Board of Administration, the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council, and the District Board of Administration as required.
Judicial Duties

(21) To receive any complaint or accusation against any pastor, church worker, church member (270:9; 298:2), or local church, and to give such his prompt and careful attention, and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the District Board of Administration (365:27).

D. Assistant District Superintendent

386. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be elected, by ballot and by majority vote, by the District Conference from among the ordained pastors of the District (354:16). His qualifications, terms of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Officer as set forth in The Discipline, 373-378.

387. Duties and Powers of the Assistant District Superintendent.

(1) To serve as chairman of the District Conference in the absence of the District Superintendent (345).

(2) To serve as a member and vice-chairman of the District Board of Administration (357), presiding over the Board whenever the District Superintendent is not present or appoints him to do so (363).

(3) To convene the District Board of Administration in times of emergency when the District Superintendent is not able to act.

(4) To serve as member and chairman of the District Board of Pastoral Standing (396).

(5) To assist the District Superintendent and to serve as his representative to local churches or District organizations as the District Superintendent may request (203; 244; 268; 309; 384:9).

(6) To perform such duties as may be required of him by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.
To report annually to the District Conference concerning his official duties (354:4), and to the District Board of Administration as required.

To become the District Superintendent in the event of a vacancy in that office (382:3).

E. District Secretary

The District Secretary shall be elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote (354:17). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Officer as set forth in The Discipline, 373-378.

Duties of the District Secretary.

To be the secretary of the District Conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and keeping them in permanent form (346).

To serve as member and as secretary of the District Board of Administration (357; 363), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and keeping them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each member of the Board.

To write official notices and communications from the District Conference and the District Board of Administration, and to keep file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.

To sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, and The Discipline (453:7; 461:7; 465:2).

To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.
F. District Treasurer

392. The District Treasurer shall be elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote (354:17). The election of the treasurer shall not take place until after the adoption of the audited report of the District Treasurer for the previous year (420:1). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Officer as set forth in The Discipline, 373-378.

393. Duties of the District Treasurer.

(1) To serve as a member of the District Board of Administration (357).

(2) To serve as member ex-officio of the District Finance Committee (422).

(3) To have custody of all District funds; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plan of the District (423:1, 2), or as directed by the District Board of Administration (365:1).

(4) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, and at any other time as may be requested by the District Board of Administration (420:1).

(5) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in his care, certified by the auditing committee (420:1), to each regular session of the District Conference (354:4), and to submit reports to the District Board of Administration and the District Superintendent as they may require.

(6) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference and the District Board of Administration.

G. District Board of Pastoral Standing

395. Purpose: The District Board of Pastoral Standing shall be responsible for examination of pastor's annual service reports, and for the examination and recommendation to the District Board of Administration and to the
District Conference of all candidates for ordination, license, special commission, restoration, or transfer from another denomination.

396. Membership. The Board of Standing shall consist of the Assistant District Superintendent as chairman (387:4) and six other members, two of whom shall be ordained pastors, two licensed pastors, and two laymen. Members of the Board shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). The term of office for the elected members shall be for three years, with the election so arranged that two members shall be elected each year. (See Regulations 373-378)

397. Duties of the District Board of Pastoral Standing.

Related to Ordination, Licenses, and Commissions

(1) To examine carefully each candidate for ordination (444; 461:4), each pastor who is to be licensed (444; 453:4), and each special worker who is to be commissioned; to interview each candidate, and to make any other investigation deemed necessary, in regard to his personal experience of salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit, his full agreement with the Articles of Religion, the General Rules and Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and acceptance of its authority, his call and qualification for the Lord's work.

(2) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received as a pastor into the District from another denomination (462:2).

(3) To consider and examine any person applying for restoration as a pastor in full standing in the District (483; 484; 485).

(4) To present, as a separate report, to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference for approval, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination (354:12; 365:22); and to present to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District
Conference for its approval another report of all other recommendations concerning the licensing, commissioning, and restoration of pastors and special workers (354:13; 365:23).

Related to the Annual Service Reports

(5) To receive, on behalf of the District Conference (354:14), a written annual service report from each ordained and licensed pastor (456:2; 464:2), and commissioned special worker; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows:

a) A report which shows that the work has been done according to The Discipline and that the annual statistical report has been properly submitted (417:1), shall be marked as approved and returned to the person submitting it.

b) A report in which there are unsatisfactory answers, or which shows that the work has not been done according to The Discipline, or that the annual statistical report has not been properly submitted (417:1), shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the District Board of Pastoral Standing, the report shall be marked as unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it.

(6) To investigate the reason for the failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (465:3).

(7) To present a report to the District Conference concerning the results of the examination of the annual service reports, listing all members of the District responsible to submit such reports as to whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory, or not received. A person whose annual service report has been found unsatisfactory shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the District Conference to be approved for continued appointment (354:14).
Related to Appointments and District Conference Relations

(8) To submit a report to the District Board of Administration concerning the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment, as recorded on the annual service reports (365:9).

H. District Board of Evangelism and Church Extension

400. Purpose. The District Board of Evangelism and Church Extension shall be responsible for the promotion of evangelism and church extension throughout the District, and to coordinate the evangelistic activities of the District.

401. Membership. The Board of Evangelism and Church Extension shall consist of nine members, and chairman of which shall be an ordained pastor. Members of the Board are nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), with due regard for lay representative, and the election is made by the District Conference (354:18). (See Regulations 373-378)

402. Duties of the District Board of Evangelism and Church Extension.

(1) To stimulate interest in soul-winning, personal work, church extension, evangelism and missions outreach.

(2) To make recommendations to the District Conference and the District Board of Administration as to ways in which the District can promote evangelism and church extension projects.

(3) To plan and coordinate the evangelistic meetings in the churches, helping pastors to arrange the dates and evangelists for such meetings.

(4) To be responsible for the evangelistic activities of those persons appointed by the District as evangelists.

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Resolved, That Paragraph 406 be amended by striking the word "ten" and adding the word "eleven," so that the paragraph now reads:

406. Membership of the Board of Christian Education. The Board of Christian Education shall consist of eleven members, the chairman being the District Director of Christian Education. Members of the Board shall be the following:

(1) Director of Christian Education.
(2) Director of Membership Training.
(3) Director of Literature and Literacy.
(4) Director of Institutes and Camps.
(5) Director of Bible Knowledge - Public Schools.

Auxiliaries:

(6) Director of Wesleyan Men.
(7) Director of Wesleyan Women.

(8) Director of Wesleyan Youth.

(9-10) Members-at-large. (See Regulations, 373-378.)
(5) To submit a report to the District Conference concerning the plans and schedules of evangelistic and church extension activities throughout the District.

(6) To perform other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration in the interests of evangelism and church extension.

I. District Board of Christian Education

404. Purpose. The District Board of Christian Education shall be responsible to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a programme of Christian education throughout the District.

405. Departments of Christian Education. The following are the departments of responsibility for the Board of Christian Education:

(1) Sunday Schools.
(2) Membership Training.
(3) Literature and Literacy.
(4) Institutes and Camps.
(5) Bible Knowledge - Public Schools.
(6) Auxiliaries (as they relate to Christian education) (524).

406. Membership of the Board of Christian Education. The Board of Christian Education shall consist of ten members, the chairman being the District Director of Christian Education. Members of the Board shall be the following:

(1) Director of Christian Education.
(2) Director of Membership Training.
(3) Director of Literature and Literacy.
(4) Director of Institutes and Camps.
(5) Director of Bible Knowledge - Public Schools.

Auxiliaries:
(6) Director of Wesleyan Men.
(7) Director of Wesleyan Women.
(8) Director of Wesleyan Youth.
(9,10) Members-at-large. (See Regulations, 373-378)

407. Election of the Board of Christian Education.
The Directors of the departments of Christian education and the members-at-large are nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). The Directors of auxiliaries are elected by their respective groups and are members of the Board by virtue of their office (527:1).

408. Duties of the Board of Christian Education.

(1) To develop, supervise, and coordinate the work of Christian education within the District through its departments and the auxiliary organizations.

(2) To review and coordinate plans of each department and its director for which the Board is responsible.

(3) To receive reports from the various directors and advise them concerning their work, assisting each department to maintain an effective programme for its particular phase of Christian education.

(4) To elect sub-committees as deemed necessary to assist the directors with their work.

(5) To present recommendations to the District Board of Administration and the District Conference for the growth of the financial plans and other interests of the work under their care.
(6) To perform such other duties related to Christian education as are assigned by the District Board of Administration or the District Conference.

409. Duties of the Directors of the Departments of Christian Education.

(1) **Director of Christian Education.**

   a) To serve as chairman of the Board of Christian Education, helping to coordinate the total programme of Christian education within the District, and serving as a resource person in advising and assisting the directors of the departments in their particular phase of the work.

   b) To assume the duty of directing and promoting the Sunday School work of the District, assisting the pastors and local Sunday School teachers in improving the local Sunday Schools, and by holding workshops, and promoting the use of approved Sunday School materials in all the churches.

   c) To submit an annual report to the District Conference, outlining what has been accomplished by each department of the Board of Christian Education (354:4).

(2) **Director of Membership Training.** To promote catechism and/or membership training classes in all the churches in order to train new converts for church membership; to see that materials are available and distributed for such classes to assist the pastors and coordinate the membership training programme; and to submit an annual report to the Director of Christian Education.

(3) **Director of Literature and Literacy.** To plan, direct, and coordinate the translation, publication, and distribution of literature throughout the District; to cooperate with and assist the pastors in literacy classes in the local churches; and to submit an annual report to the Director of Christian Education.

(4) **Director of Institutes and Camps.** To make plans and arrangements for all regular District-wide institutes or camps, except those planned and arranged
specifically for and by the auxiliary organizations; and to submit an annual report to the Director of Christian Education.

(5) **Director of Bible Knowledge - Public Schools.**
To assist teachers of Bible Knowledge in the public schools in preparing, securing, and using teaching materials and aids; to give guidance for effective teaching of Bible Knowledge classes; to submit an annual report to the Director of Christian Education.

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**J. District Board of Pastoral Training**

412. **Purpose.** The District Board of Pastoral Training shall be responsible for the institutions and programmes of pastoral training in the District.

413. **Membership.** The Board of Pastoral Training shall consist of nine members, the District Superintendent being the chairman (384:1), and including the chief officers of the pastoral training institutions or programmes of the District as members ex-officio. The remaining members shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), giving due regard to lay representation, and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). (See Regulations 373-378)

414. **Duties of the District Board of Pastoral Training.**

(1) To act as a board of directors for the pastoral training institutions and programmes for which the District is wholly responsible (492).

(2) To approve and employ staff for all pastoral training institutions and programmes of the District.

(3) To approve the financial budgets for all pastoral training institutions and programmes of the District.

(4) To approve the course of study used in an institution or programme of pastoral training which is the responsibility of the District (492; 496); to approve of pastoral training programmes outside The Wesleyan Church (494:5).
(5) To approve and set scholarships for pastoral training.

(6) To work with other evangelical denominations in cooperative pastoral training institutions or programmes.

(7) To perform other duties as may be required by the District Board of Administration or the District Conference in the interests of pastoral training.

K. District Statistical Committee

416. Membership. The District Statistical Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). (See Regulations 373-378)

417. Duties:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the District Conference, complete statistical and financial reports from all organized and unorganized churches (258:22), and other persons and agencies as the District Board of Administration shall designate, on forms approved by the District Board of Administration and made available by the District Superintendent; and to compile and submit to the District Conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the District as a whole (454:8).

(2) To report to the District Conference the name of each person who fails to submit his report in the proper manner at the appointed time.

(3) To submit, after the committee has finished its work, all reports and records to the District Superintendent for filing in the permanent records of the District.

L. District Auditing Committee

419. Membership. The District Auditing Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and
election is made by the District Conference (354:18).
(See Regulations 373-378)

420. Duties:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the District fiscal year, and before the financial reports are presented to the District Conference, the records and funds of the District Treasurer (392; 393:4), and any other treasurer of a District board or agency having custody of District funds, and to perform such audits at other times as may be requested by the District Board of Administration.

(2) To submit a written report to the District Conference concerning the results of the audit (354:8). A financial report may not be accepted as approved until certified as correct by the auditing committee.

(3) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Board of Administration or the District Conference.

M. District Finance Committee

422. Membership. The District Finance Committee shall consist of eight members, one being designated as chairman, with the District Treasurer as a member ex-officio (393:3). Members of the committee shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). (See Regulations, 373-378)

423. Duties:

(1) To prepare and submit to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference for approval, a financial budget for the next fiscal year, showing expected sources of income and the expected disbursement of funds (354:9).

(2) To prepare and submit to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference for approval, a plan for the pastoral support of all stationed pastors in the District (354:9).
Resolved, That Paragraph 420 (1) be amended to include the words "including the Education Secretary," so that the paragraph now reads:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the District fiscal year, and before the financial reports are presented to the District Conference, the records and funds of the District Treasurer (392; 393:4), and any other treasurer of a District board or agency having custody of District funds, including the Education Secretary; and to perform such audits at other times as may be requested by the District Board of Administration.

Robert N. Lytle
General Secretary of World Missions
(3) To receive and approve requests submitted by churches through the District Building Committee for church building loans from the District funds, if such are available (426:3).

(4) To promote tithing as the Biblical standard of stewardship for the church, and to submit plans for fund raising to the District Board of Administration for approval (354:10).

(5) To recommend minimum salary scales for all stationed pastors and other workers who receive District support or are employed by the District.

(6) To perform other duties as may be required by the District Board of Administration or the District Conference in relation to District financial matters.

N. District Building Committee

425. Membership. The District Building Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the District Nominating Committee (429:2), and election is made by the District Conference (354:18). Due consideration should be given to elect those persons who are capable and experienced in the construction of buildings. (See Regulations, 373-378)

426. Duties:

(1) To prepare plans or approve the plans of a local church for the construction of a church building or parsonage.

(2) To consider the financial plans and liabilities to be incurred, and the plans of the local church for meeting such liabilities.

(3) To recommend to the District Finance Committee those churches it deems qualified to receive a building loan from District funds, if such funds are available (423:3).

(4) To submit a report in writing to the local church and to the District Board of Administration (365:10) concerning its plans and recommendations for church or parsonage construction.
(5) To perform other duties as may be required by the District Board of Administration or the District Conference in relation to the construction of the District or local church buildings.

O. District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee

428. Membership. The District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee shall consist of the District Superintendent as chairman and six other members elected by the District Board of Administration (365:6), giving due regard to lay representation. The elected members of the committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be re-elected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chairman at such time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the District Conference session. (See Regulations, 373-378)

429. Duties:

(1) To plan the annual conference programme, including the schedule for business sessions.

(2) To submit nominations to the annual District Conference for all District standing boards and committees, except the District Board of Administration and the District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (370:2, 3), and for all conference session committees (371). The District Conference shall also have the right to make nominations from the floor (354:18).

P. Delegates to General Conference and to the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council

431. Delegates to the General Conference shall be elected by ballot and majority vote of the District Conference (354:19). The number of delegates representing The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be assigned by the General Board of Administration. Pastoral delegates shall be elected from among the ordained pastors of the District, and lay delegates shall be full members of an organized Wesleyan church.

432. Delegates to the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council shall be elected by ballot and majority vote of the District Conference (354:19), which shall be guided as to the number and qualifications of the delegates by current instructions
The American Wesleyan Mission

The American Wesleyan Mission shall be constituted and organized as provided for in the Policy of the North American General Board of Administration for World Missions. The full members of the American Wesleyan Mission may also hold membership in any local organized Wesleyan Church in Sierra Leone and be eligible for election to any position to which a member may be elected, either in the local church or in the District Conference (242; 245:1; 333:3; 374).

The Mission Coordinator of the American Wesleyan Mission shall be an ex-officio member of the District Board of Administration and a voting member of the District Conference (333:3; 367).

Full missionaries serving under contract with the General Department of World Missions shall be voting delegates of the District Conference after one full year of service in Sierra Leone. This shall be in effect through the District Conference of 1979. Beginning in 1980 such full missionaries shall be eligible for membership in the District Conference only if they are ordained ministers stationed by the District Conference or lay missionaries stationed or elected by the Conference to positions which make them voting members of the District Conference (333; 334).

Missionaries serving under the American Wesleyan Mission shall be amenable to the District Conference and/or the District Board of Administration only in regard to their duties in positions given them by the District. In all other matters, including judicial processes for any offense, the missionaries are amenable only to the Missionary Council and the General Department of World Missions. The District Board of Administration shall have the right to make recommendations to the Missionary Council in regard to any failure of a missionary in service or in conduct.
Chapter Ten: The Christian Ministry

Chapter One

Appointments to the Christian Ministry

All Christian workers who maintain a relationship with the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be appointed to one of the following areas of Christian service:

A. Stationed Ordained Pastors (Elders) (460)

1. District Superintendent or other full time officer of the District.

2. Pastor of a local church.

3. District evangelist.

4. Staff member of a pastoral training institution.

5. Missionary employed and sent by the District.


7. Hospital chaplain.

8. School chaplain.

9. Interchurch service.

B. Stationed Licensed Pastors (452)

1. Pastor of a local church.

2. Missionary employed and sent by the District.

3. Hospital chaplain.

4. School chaplain.

5. Interchurch service.

6. Student in pastoral training.
C. Stationed Local Preachers

(1) Supply pastor of a local church.
(2) Student in pastoral training.
(3) Assistant pastor.

D. Commissioned Special Workers

A layman who serves the church in some form of Christian service other than as a local preacher may be commissioned as a special worker (Acts 1:26).

E. Retired Pastors

A stationed ordained or licensed pastor, because of age or because of sickness that prevents him from continuing pastoral duties, may be placed on the retired list.

F. Unstationed Pastors

An ordained or licensed pastor who is not available for appointment shall be placed on the unstationed list. A licensed pastor shall not be listed as unstationed for more than two years, after which time he shall either accept appointment by the District Board of Administration or be declared withdrawn and his name so entered in the minutes of the District Conference.

G. Add Chapter Two

As Christ chose and ordained His twelve apostles "that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends out His messengers. The Holy Spirit calls some Christians to the official and public work of the Christian ministry, and the church endeavours to confirm the call by providing for their training and employment.
The Wesleyan Church believes that there are four marks that will be seen in the person whom God has called. Each candidate for pastoral license or for ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks (See 3:20:1; 4:53:4; 4:61:4).

(1) **New Life in Christ**

Does he know Jesus Christ as his own Saviour?

Can everyone see that he has a new life in Christ?

Is he holy in life and conduct as well as in heart?

Is he a good example to the church and to the world?

(2) **Gifts for Service**

Does he have the gifts for the work of the pastor?

Does he have a clear and right understanding of God's Word?

Does he understand the doctrines of the Church?

Is he able to tell plainly the plan of salvation by faith?

Is he able to preach the Word rightly and clearly?

(3) **Fruit From His Work**

Has he any fruit because of his service to Christ?

Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God?

Are Christians strengthened by his preaching?

(4) **Call of God**

Does he continue to feel God's call to the Christian ministry?
III. Kinds of Pastors and Their Regulations

A. Local Preacher

448. A local preacher is a layman who is either a full member of an organized church or an associate member of an unorganized church, and who helps the pastor, preaching and holding service as the pastor directs; or a layman who serves as a supply pastor as appointed by the District Board of Administration. Students in pastoral training, who have not before been licensed, shall be considered local preachers (440:C).

449. Regulations for a Local Preacher:

(1) A local preacher is amenable to the local church pastor, or if appointed as a supply pastor he is amenable to the District Board of Administration. His license is to be renewed annually (245:8).

(2) A local preacher has no authority to baptize, give the Lord's Supper, or perform marriages.

(3) A local preacher has no vote in the District Conference unless he is appointed as a supply pastor by the District Board of Administration (244:4).

B. Licensed Pastor

452. A licensed pastor is a person who has been called by God to do the work of a pastor, who meets all the qualifications of a licensed pastor, and who has been appointed and given a pastoral license by the District Conference (440:B).

453. Requirements For Pastoral License. A person who is called by God to be a pastor may be given a pastoral license by meeting the following requirements in order:
(1) A full member of an organized Wesleyan Church (220).

(2) Satisfactory completion of an approved pastoral training course (334:13).

(3) Willingness to be stationed by the District Board of Administration (365:9).

(4) Examination by the District Board of Pastoral Standing as to his qualifications for pastoral work and license, including his personal Christian experience, pastoral call, matters of education and training, and personal matters concerning his family and business life (327:1:444).

(5) Recommendation by the District Board of Pastoral Standing for the granting of a pastoral license, to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference for approval (370:1, 46:24, 354:13).

(6) Stationed by the District Board of Administration to service in the Christian ministry (365:9).

(7) Issuance and signing of the licenses by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary (384:15, 350:4).

Renewing A Pastoral License. The District pastoral license is effective for one year only and must be renewed annually by the District Conference until such a time as the holder of the license is qualified for ordination. A pastor may be granted renewal of his pastoral license by meeting the following requirements:

(1) Satisfactory service in his last appointment.

(2) Acceptance of his annual service report by the District Board of Pastoral Standing and the District Conference. A licensed pastor who fails to hand in his annual service report, unless such failure is due to sickness or other emergency, shall not have his license renewed (354:14, 397:5).

(3) Agreement to continue under District appointment.

(4) Willingness to pursue requirements for ordination (961:8563).
Rights of Licensed Pastor. As long as a pastor is qualified for and receives a District License, he shall have the following rights:

1. To preach the gospel and to perform the duties of a pastor of a local church.
2. To perform marriages and conduct funerals.
3. To be a voting member of the District Conference, if stationed as a pastor of either an organized or unorganized church.
4. To present his case to the District Board of Administration in any matters involving complaint against his character or pastoral conduct.

Duties of a Licensed Pastor. A person holding a pastoral license shall be responsible for the following:

1. To serve the District faithfully under whatever appointment he may receive.
2. To report annually to the District Conference on the service report form, and to the District Superintendent and the Board of Pastoral Standing as required.
3. To continue his study and improve his ministry as there is opportunity by attending institutes, seminars, refresher courses, and other pastoral training courses and programmes.

Regulations For A Licensed Pastor:

1. A licensed pastor is amenable to the District Conference and the District Board of Administration, and his license may be taken away by the District Board of Administration after being found guilty of an offense.
2. A licensed pastor's credentials shall consist of his license, signed and issued annually by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary, and an annual pocket certificate of standing.
(3) A licensed pastor has not authority to baptize, or give the Lord's Supper.

(4) A pastor from another denomination who has been licensed or authorized to pastor a church, but has not been ordained, and wishes to join The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as a pastor, may present his letter of standing, license, or other credentials, and records of pastoral training, to the District Superintendent for consideration. He must join a local Wesleyan Church and serve one year as a supply pastor, after which if he meets all the requirements as set forth in 952, he may be granted a pastoral license.

(5) If a pastor's license is not renewed by the District Board of Administration or by the District Conference, and he is not under charges nor under discipline, he may be considered as a local preacher.

D. *Ordained Pastor (Elder)*

460. An ordained pastor is a person who has been called by God and has the proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of the District Conference and by the act of ordination (440:A).

461. Qualifications for Ordination. A licensed pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone who knows that he has been called by God may be ordained to the Christian ministry by meeting the following requirements in order:

(1) A full member of an organized Wesleyan Church (220).

(2) For those who are graduates of an approved Bible college or seminary (441,2): Satisfactory service for two years as a licensed pastor.

For those who have completed an approved Bible school or other pastoral training programme (443,4): Satisfactory service for four years as a licensed pastor.

(3) A diploma, certificate, or other credentials showing completion of an approved course of pastoral training.
(4) Examination by the District Board of Pastoral Standing concerning his qualifications for the Christian ministry and for ordination, including his personal Christian experience, pastoral call, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the Christian ministry; and after examination, a report by the District Board of Pastoral Standing to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference (397:1; 444).

(5) A vote of election for ordination by the District Conference (354.12). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the District Board of Pastoral Standing may be elected for ordination by the District Board of Administration in the interim of the sessions of the District Conference (365:25).

(6) A public service of ordination at which time he shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the Church through the laying on of hands in the person of the District Superintendent and the ordained pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (284:16).

(7) Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary (384:16; 390:4).

Receiving an Ordained Pastor from another Denomination. An ordained pastor from another denomination who wishes to join The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may present his letter of standing or other credentials, and records of pastoral training, to the District Superintendent. Before being accepted as an ordained pastor in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone he must meet the following requirements:

(1) He shall join a local organized Wesleyan Church as a full member (220).

(2) He shall be examined by the District Board of Pastoral Standing regarding his Christian experience, call and qualifications for the Christian ministry, pastoral training, and the nature of his ordination which he received from another denomination (397:2).
(3) If the District Board of Pastoral Standing so recommends, the District Board of Administration may appoint him as a supply pastor, which relation shall continue for at least one year. While serving under this relation, he shall be a non-voting member of the District Conference, and shall correct any lack in his pastoral training, particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and policies. If at any time the District Board of Administration shall feel that it is not in the best interests of the District to continue the relation, they may by majority vote terminate the relation and any supply appointment, and this way dismiss him from all pastoral relations to The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(4) If his year of service is satisfactory and all deficiencies are re-corrected, the District Board of Pastoral Standing may recommend to the District Board of Administration for its consideration and referral to the District Conference that he be recognized as an ordained pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (257:4).

(5) There must be a vote of acceptance as an ordained pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone by the District Conference (265:4; 354:12).

Rights of an Ordained Pastor. As long as an ordained pastor maintains his spiritual life, moral character and faithful service which first qualified him for ordination, and as long as he is neither under discipline nor expelled from the Christian ministry, he shall have the following rights:

(1) To preach the gospel and to perform the duties of a pastor of a local church (258).

(2) To baptize, give the Lord's Supper, perform marriages, and conduct funerals.

(3) To be eligible for election to any office in the Church for which ordained pastors are eligible.

(4) To be a voting member of the District Conference (257) if on the stationed or retired list (440:A,E), or a non-voting member of the District Conference (355) if on the unstationed list (440:F).
(5) To present his case to the District Board of Administration in any matters involving complaint against his character or pastoral conduct (565:27).

464. Duties of an Ordained Pastor. An ordained pastor shall be responsible for the following:

(1) To give himself completely to the Christian ministry as he is led by the Holy Spirit and fulfills the appointment of the District Board of Administration.

(2) To report annually to the District Conference on the service report form (375:5), and to the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration as required.

(3) To surrender voluntarily his credentials if he is guilty of an offense (247) which would disqualify him from service in the Christian ministry.

465. Regulations for an Ordained Pastor.

(1) An ordained pastor is amenable to the District Conference and the District Board of Administration, and he may be dismissed from the Christian ministry and ordered to surrender his credentials by the District Board of Administration after being found guilty of an offense (565:27) (410:28).

(2) An ordained pastor's credentials shall consist of his certificate of ordination, and annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the District Secretary (340:4).

(3) An ordained pastor who fails to give his annual service report for two successive years shall be notified by the District Board of Pastoral Standing (375:6), and requested to report at the next session of the District Conference. If he then fails to report he shall be declared withdrawn from the District, and his name so entered in the minutes of the District Conference.
General Regulations for Ordained and Licensed Pastors

468. Local Church Membership. Each ordained or licensed pastor shall be a full member (220) of an organized Wesleyan Church. If he serves as a pastor of an organized church his membership is automatically transferred to the church he pastors (236).

469. Relationship to Other Pastors and Churches. Each pastor shall respect the rights of each of his brother pastors, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone against any pastor or District officer. If a pastor shall leave the District to serve another denomination or religious body, the District Board of Administration may order that he be declared withdrawn.

470. The Pastor and Marriage. Any pastor who enters into a marriage relation which is against Scripture and the General Rules and Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall be dismissed from his pastoral standing (131:17; 161).

Chapter Four

A. Offenses

471. A licensed or ordained pastor, commissioned special worker, or District officer of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for any of the following offenses:

1. Holding or teaching any doctrine contrary to the doctrine of The Wesleyan Church as stated in the Discipline.

2. Disobedience to the provisions of the Discipline or allowing such disobedience.

3. Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize church authority.

4. Conduct which is wrong for a pastor of The Wesleyan Church.
(5) Immorality or crime.
(6) Serious or persistent neglect of duty.

B. Judicial Proceedings

Accusation. An accusation or complaint against any pastor, commissioned special worker, or District officer shall be made in writing and submitted to the District Superintendent.

Investigation and Trial. The ordering of an investigation and trial of a pastor, commissioned special worker, District officer or Church member shall be the responsibility of the District Board of Administration. Each person accused shall have the right to a fair hearing with the privilege of counsel and calling of witnesses for his defence.

C. Penalties

Just penalties shall be imposed upon those persons found guilty of an offense after proper trial. There shall be five degrees of penalty for the administration of discipline which are as follows:

(1) Admonition. Admonition is the mildest penalty and consists of a gentle warning and an exhortation to greater watchfulness by the offender.

(2) Rebuke. Rebuke is a stronger penalty for a more serious offense and consists in publicly stating the offense with an official warning to the offender.

(3) Suspension. Suspension is that penalty by which the offender is placed "under discipline" and is deprived of certain rights and privileges for a period of probation. Suspension may be applied to rights and privileges of membership, the rights and privileges of the Christian ministry, or the exercise of an office. Suspension may be for a definite period of time, or it may be indefinite until the offender shows genuine repentance and reformation of life to the proper authorities.
(4) Deposition. Deposition is that penalty by which a person is removed from an official position or appointment, or expelled from the Christian ministry. Such a person may continue to hold membership in a local Wesleyan Church unless such membership has been suspended.

(5) Dismissal. Dismissal is the strongest penalty and is the termination of membership in the Church (240:2,3,4). Dismissal should be used only for the most serious offenses, such as reversion to pagan practices and immorality, and for those persons who continue with a serious offense without genuine repentance and reformation of life. Dismissal can only be used by the local church board (270:9) and the District Board of Administration (365:27), and is for the purpose of correcting the offender, freeing the church from sin, and to warn others.

D. Restoration

483. A licensed pastor who is not stationed or voluntarily resigns from the District, if he was neither under charges nor under discipline, may at a later time again be recommended by the District Board of Pastoral Standing (277:4) and qualify for and be granted a pastoral license (453).

484. An ordained pastor who has voluntarily resigned from the District, or who has been declared withdrawn when neither under charges nor under discipline, may at a later time again be accepted as an ordained pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, if such is approved by the District Conference (244:13) after examination and recommendation for restoration by the District Board of Pastoral Standing (397:3,4).

485. An ordained or licensed pastor who has been expelled from the Christian ministry, either through voluntary surrender of his credentials because of guilt or through judicial process and disciplinary action, may be restored to the work of a pastor provided that he shall have shown evidence of repentance and a change of life, and provided that such restoration is approved by
by the District Conference (354:13), after examination and recommendation for restoration by the District Board of Pastoral Standing (37:3,4). In case of immorality, such restoration shall not be made until three years after the person has shown evidence of repentance and change of life.

An ordained or licensed pastor who has been expelled from the ministry because of a marriage that is against the Scriptures and the General Rules and Special Rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall not be restored to the Christian ministry as long as he continues in the wrong marriage relationship. If he has divorced and remarried, he shall not be restored as long as his later wife and present wife are both living. If he has married more than one wife, he shall not be restored until he has put away and made proper arrangements for all wives except his first wife. Such restoration shall be made only after meeting the requirements as set forth in (485).

Chapter Five
Pastoral Training

A. Importance of Pastoral Training

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone recognizes the importance of training for the Christian ministry, and even as Christ trained His disciples, so the Church provides for the training of its pastors through approved institutions and programmes of pastoral education. The Church expects each person who answers the call to become a pastor, to prepare himself by completing an approved course of study for pastoral training.

B. Administration of Pastoral Training

The institutions and programmes of pastoral training which are completely the responsibility of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are under the administration of the District Board of Pastoral Training (414:4), and the course of study used shall be approved by this Board (414:4, 496). Candidates for the Christian ministry may be accepted who have completed their pastoral training.
in other institutions and programmes that have been approved by the District Board of Pastoral Training (414:4; 494:5).

C. Approved Programmes of Study

The following are the approved programmes of study for meeting the pastoral training requirements of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) Graduation from a three-year seminary course under the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation, or graduation from one of the colleges of The Wesleyan Church, involving the completion of a four-year pastoral training course.

(2) Graduation from the three-year pastoral training course of the Sierra Leone Bible College.

(3) Graduation from the four-year pastoral training course of the Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School.

(4) Completion of an approved programme of Theological Education by Extension, with additional courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and government.

(5) Completion of a pastoral training programme outside The Wesleyan Church which has the approval of the District Board of Pastoral Training (414:4). Candidates for the Christian ministry who have completed a pastoral training programme outside The Wesleyan Church must complete additional courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and government in order to meet all requirements.

D. Approved Courses of Study

Courses of study for pastoral training which are approved by the District Board of Pastoral Training shall include the full range of pastoral training subjects, including Bible, theology, church history, evangelism, homiletics, pastoral theology, and Christian education. In addition they shall include, especially for the Christian ministry in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, subjects in Wesleyan doctrine, history and church government (414:4). Courses of Study shall include:
Other organizations (called auxiliaries) may be established within The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone at the local church and District levels. All such organizations shall be established according to the Discipline.

Other organizations (auxiliaries) within the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may be: Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, and Wesleyan Youth. Other groups wishing to organize as an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, both on the local church or District levels, shall first get approval from the District Board of Administration for such organization (255:1, 10).

All organizations within the local church shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor and the local church board (258:14; 270:1).

All auxiliary organizations established at the District level shall be subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration (255:10; 254:6).

Constitution for Local Church Auxiliary Organization

(Note: This constitution may apply to all auxiliary organizations within the local church).

Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be of Wesleyan Church. (The first blank may be either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth. The second blank should have the name of the local church. For example: Wesleyan Women of Kamakwie Wesleyan Church).

Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of this auxiliary
shall be to build up its members in Christian experience and holy character and to give the members opportunities to work together for the growth of the Church through evangelism, service, stewardship, Christian education and fellowship.

Article 3. Relationship. The local organization of (Write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank) shall act as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (258:14), and shall be amenable to the local church board (270:1).

Article 4. Membership. Membership in the (Write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank) shall be open to all (write either men, women, or youth in the blank) who are interested in the Church and who attend regularly the meetings of the organization.

Article 5. Finance:

(1) The local auxiliary organization shall have the right to raise money by regular and special offerings and by other ways which are approved by the local church board (270:1). Money shall be spent in the cooperation with the plans of the district auxiliary organization and according to the plans of the local auxiliary which have been approved by the local church board (270:1).

(2) The local auxiliary organization shall submit an annual financial report to the local church business meeting (245:2).

Article 6. Meetings.

(1) The local auxiliary organization should meet regularly, either weekly or monthly, for inspiration, instruction, business, and fellowship.

(2) Special meetings may be called from time to time for evangelistic or other special purposes.
(3) A business meeting for the election of officers shall be held whenever there is a vacancy in any office or at other times as may be decided by the local auxiliary.

Article 7. Local Auxiliary Officers:

(1) Executive Officers. The executive officers of the local auxiliary organization shall be the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be one officer if desired.

(2) Executive Committee. The executive committee of the local auxiliary shall be made up of the executive officers and the pastor of the local church. Each local Wesleyan Youth organization shall also have an adult sponsor who shall be a member of the local executive committee (515:6).

(3) Delegates. The president of each local auxiliary organization is a member of the district auxiliary business meeting by virtue of his (or her) office. Also each local auxiliary organization may have at least one additional delegate to the District business meeting (525:2).

(4) Other Officers and Committees. Each local auxiliary organization may have other officers and committees as may seem necessary, subject to the approval of the local church board (270:1).

(5) Qualifications of Officers. The executive officers and the delegates shall be full members of the organized Church. If the local church is not organized the officers and delegates shall be associated members of the unorganized church.

(6) Election of Officers. The executive officers and delegates shall be elected at a business meeting of the local auxiliary organization. Elections shall be made in a way agreed upon by the members of the auxiliary. All elections of officers and delegates shall be approved by the local church board in the organized church (270:1), and by the pastor in the unorganized church (208).

(7) Term of Service. Local auxiliary officers shall
take office as soon as they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

(8) Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committees of the local auxiliary organization shall be amenable to the local church and may be removed for cause whenever the best interests of the church or the local auxiliary so require by a majority vote of the local church business meeting (245:3). Vacancies shall be filled by an election held by the local auxiliary and approved by the local church board (514:6).

Article 8. Duties of Local Auxiliary Officers.

(1) Local Auxiliary President. The president shall cooperate with the District director, have the leadership of the local auxiliary under the supervision of the pastor (258:14), be the chairman of all meetings of the auxiliary and of the executive committee (515:5), give reports to the local church as required (245:2), and shall serve as a member of the local auxiliary business meeting (525:2).

(2) Local Auxiliary Vice-President. The vice-president shall help the president as the president shall request, and shall do all the duties of the president in case the president is not able to serve.

(3) Local Auxiliary Secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of all members, and shall write the minutes of all business meetings.

(4) Local Auxiliary Treasurer. The treasurer shall receive, record, hold and disburse all funds of the local auxiliary in keeping with financial plans of the District Organization and the local auxiliary. An annual financial report shall be given to the local church (245:2).

(5) Local Executive Committee. (514:2) The local president shall be chairman of the local executive committee (515:1). The local executive committee shall direct the affairs of the local auxiliary between business meetings, and make recommendations concerning activities and projects. All plans and actions of the local auxiliary executive committee may be reviewed by
the local church board, which may veto any of the committee's plans or actions (270:1).

(6) Local Adult Youth Sponsor. (514:2) The adult youth sponsor shall supervise the work of the local Wesleyan Youth in cooperation with the pastor. He shall attend all meetings of the local Wesleyan Youth executive committee. He shall seek to encourage, advise, and guide the youth in their service and activities. He shall be elected by the local church board (270:10).

Article 4. Standing Rules. The local auxiliary organization may have such standing rules as may seem necessary, provided they are not against this constitution, The Discipline, or the District organization, and provided they are approved by the local church board (270:1).

Chapter Three

Constitution for District Auxiliary Organization

(Note: This constitution may apply to any auxiliary organized on the District level within The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone).

Article 1. Name. All the local auxiliary organizations of one kind (Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth) shall make up the District auxiliary organization and shall be known as the District (Write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank).

Article 2. Purpose. The District auxiliary organization shall seek to carry out the purposes of the auxiliary (505) by encouraging the organization of local auxiliaries in Wesleyan churches of the District, and by promoting District-wide activities and projects.

Article 3. Relationship. The District auxiliary organization shall act as a part of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It shall be subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent (384:6) and amenable to
the District Board of Administration (365:10). It shall cooperate with the District Board of Christian Education in those matters related to Christian education within the auxiliary organization (405:408:2,3).

Article 4. District Business Meetings.

1. Purpose and Organization. There shall be an annual district business meeting of the district auxiliary at such a time and place as is arranged. The purpose of the district business meeting shall be to receive reports, to elect district auxiliary officers (526:5), to make recommendations to the District Board of Administration, to carry on other business related to the auxiliary, and to provide the members of the meeting with a time of inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. The district director of the auxiliary shall be the chairman of the business meeting (515:1). The District Superintendent or his representative may be present at the District business meeting of the auxiliary (384:7).

2. Membership in the District Business Meeting. The members of the district business meeting of the auxiliary shall be the district auxiliary officers, the presidents of the local organizations (514:3), and delegates from the local organizations (514:3). Delegates shall be members of the organized church or associate members of the unorganized church.

3. Committees. The district business meeting may elect such committees as may seem good or necessary, and shall state the duties of these committees.

4. Approval. All plans and actions of the district business meeting shall be subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (365:10).

Article 5. District Auxiliary Officers.

1. Executive Officers. The executive officers shall be the director, assistant director, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the District Superintendent (384:7), shall make up the District executive committee of the auxiliary.
(2) Other Officers and Committees. There may be other officers and standing committees as may seem right and necessary for the work of the auxiliary.

(3) Delegates to Annual District Conference. The District auxiliary shall be entitled to two delegates to the annual District Conference. The delegates must be laymen who are full members of an organized church. A District auxiliary officer may be elected as a delegate if he (or she) is a layman. Election of delegates is made at the annual District business meeting (365:2).

(4) Qualifications. All officers must be full members of an organized church and members of a local auxiliary organization. All committee members must be either full or associate members of a local church.

(5) Election. The executive officers of the District auxiliary organization, as well as all other officers and committee members, shall be elected by the District auxiliary business meeting. The District executive committee may appoint a nominating committee which shall meet before the District business meeting to select two or more persons for each position. Members of the District business meeting shall have the right to make further nominations. Election of all officers and committee members is made by the District business meeting and subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (365:10).

(6) Term of Service. District auxiliary officers and committee members shall take their office at the close of the District business meeting at which they are elected and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(7) Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committee members shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration (365:10), and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the auxiliary or District so require by a majority vote of the District Board of Administration (365:16). The District Board of Administration may fill all vacancies (365:17).

Article 6. Duties of District Auxiliary Officers:

(1) District Auxiliary Director. The director shall
exercise general leadership of the auxiliary throughout the district under the general oversight of the district superintendent (527:10). The director shall be chairman of the meetings of the District executive committee (527:5) and the District business meeting (525:10; seek to organize local auxiliaries; visit local organizations whenever possible; and report annually to the District Conference (354:6). The director of the District auxiliary shall be a member of the District Board of Christian Education by virtue of his (or her) office (406:407).

(2) District Auxiliary Assistant Director. The assistant shall help the director as the director shall request and shall take over the duties of the director in case the director is not able to serve.

(3) District Auxiliary Secretary. The secretary shall write the minutes of the District business meeting and of the meetings of the District auxiliary executive committee, and perform other duties as shall be assigned.

(4) District Auxiliary Treasurer. The Director auxiliary treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all funds which are given to or raised by the District auxiliary, and shall disburse funds in keeping with the financial plans of the District organizations or as directed by the District executive committee. The District auxiliary treasurer shall report annually to the District business meeting of the auxiliary (525:1), and to the District Board of Administration as required. The treasurer's books shall be submitted to the District Auditing Committee annually (410:1).

(5) District Auxiliary Executive Committee. (526:1) The District director of the auxiliary shall be the chairman of the executive committee (527:1). The District Auxiliary executive shall direct the affairs of the auxiliary between annual business meetings, subject to the review and coordination of the District Board of Administration (355:10).

528. Article 7. District Standing Rules. The District auxiliary may make such standing rules as it may seem right and necessary, provided they are in agreement with this constitution. The Discipline and subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (355:10).
Chapter Twelve - The Ritual

550. These forms of service have been prepared for the use of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It must not be thought that there is here any attempt to discourage the practice of free form in any of the services. It is to be hoped rather that the use of these services will greatly help and give guidance to the pastor as he leads his people in both the form and spirit of each service. The danger of formality is present in every kind of worship. Let us bring, by the grace of God, to these services and to every act of worship, a sense of living faith that lays hold of God and ever seeks to worship Him, in spirit and in truth.

(Note: Throughout the Ritual a word may change form due to the sex or number of persons to whom the ritual is being administered on a given occasion. For example, 'this child' may become 'these children', 'he' may become 'she' or 'they', etc.)

I. Church Service

551. To establish a guideline for our churches, in public worship on the Lord's Day, the following order could be observed:

1. prayer (call to worship), 2. singing, 3. reading the Scripture, 4. prayer, 5. announcements, 6. offering, 7. singing, 8. preaching, 9. singing, 10. prayer, 11. benediction.

552. The songs should be of the language of the people. The tunes should be those with which the people are familiar.

553. The Scriptures should be read in every worship service and in the language of the people.

554. Some Scriptures that may be used for Call to Worship are: Isa. 55:6-7; John 4:23-24; Micah 6:6-8; Ps. 24:3-4; 95:6-7; 121:1-2; Ps. 33:12; 84:1-2,4; 95:1-3; 92:1-2; 96:2-4; 46:1-3; Isa. 40:31.
II. Dedication of Infants

560. (When the parents or guardians have presented themselves with the child before the pastor at this call, the pastor shall say:)

Dearly beloved, you have brought this child whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By this act you therefore show forth your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that he shall receive the benefits of dedication to God and of the prayers of the church, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and so doing may live and die a Christian, and so in the end of this earthly life go to that everlasting life in the Kingdom of God.

But in order that this may be accomplished, it will be your duty as parents to teach this child early the fear of the Lord, to watch over his education, that he may not be led into wrong ways by false teachings, to direct his mind to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all mankind, and to direct his feet to the church, to keep him from bad companions and habits; and as best you can to 'bring him up in the proper training of the Lord'. Will you try to do so, by the help of the Lord?

(Then the parents or guardians shall answer:) We will.

(Then the pastor shall read the Scripture - Mark 10:13-16).

(The pastor shall then ask the name of the child, then take him in his arms, place his right hand upon the child's head, and say:)

On behalf of the parents and of this congregation, I dedicate (name) unto the Father, and the Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The pastor shall then pray for the child and his parents.)
III. Baptism of Adults

564. The baptismal service may be a part of a regular service or a separate service at the waterside as fits the occasion. Singing before the ceremony is good. The baptisms should be recorded in the church record book (232).

565. (When the candidate for baptism has presented himself before the pastor at his call, the pastor shall say:)

Dearly beloved, this one has presented himself before us, that he may receive the sacrament of baptism. All men are by nature sinful, and have nothing in themselves by which they can be delivered from the guilt and evil of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Therefore we ask you to join with us in prayer for our brother/sister, that he may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

(Then shall the pastor pray:) Almighty God, the helper of all who have need, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon Thee for this person, that in coming to Thy holy baptism, he may by this act testify truthfully to that inner washing through faith in the precious blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and that he may enjoy the everlasting blessing of His Heavenly washing and come to the eternal Kingdom which Thou hast promised by Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

(Then shall the pastor say:) Hear the words of the Saviour as written in Matthew 28:19-20, 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you; and remem- ber, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'

(Then the pastor shall speak to the candidate for baptism saying:) Beloved, you have presented yourself for holy baptism. You have heard how the congregation has prayed that God would continue His loving favour toward you and bring you unto His eternal Kingdom. And God, the promise-keeping God, has promised wonderful favours. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the presence of
this congregation that you, having nothing to do with the devil and all his works, will believe God's Holy Word and obey His commandments.

(Then shall the pastor ask each candidate individually:) Will you no longer have anything to do with the devil and all his works, the useless glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the evil desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

(Answer of candidate:) I will no longer have anything to do with them at all.

(The pastor will ask:) Do you 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, and that He rose again on the third day, that He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from there shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the living and the dead? And do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church for all people, the fellowship of Christians, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

(Candidate answers:) All this I believe.

(Pastor asks:) Do you desire to be baptized in this faith?

(Candidate answers:) This is my desire.

(Pastor asks:) Will you obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of your life?

(Candidate answers:) I will try to do so, God being my helper.

(At the waterside the pastor shall baptize the candidate and say:) __________ (name) I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the pastor shall pray and a closing song can be sung.)
When it is appropriate, short testimonies of the candidates can be given before they are baptized.

IV. The Lord's Supper

A. General Directions

The Lord's Supper should be observed in each local Wesleyan Church at least once each three months.

It is expected that Wesleyan Pastors shall carefully warn the people that only those who are in right relations with God and with their fellowmen should come to the Lord's table, and that others should come only if in so doing they are repenting and seeking forgiveness.

Only unfermented drink shall be used in observing the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper may come at the end of a service, or it may be the complete service itself as fits the occasion. When it is the complete service a sermon or meditation can be included before the hymn and invitation.

B. Order of Service for the Lord's Supper

(The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white cloth. The minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; Heb. 9:11-17; Heb. 9:22-28).

(Then shall the congregation sing a hymn such as 'Rock of Ages', 'There is a Fountain Filled with Blood', 'Just as I am', or a vernacular song that is good for the occasion.)

(Then the pastor shall call the congregation to kneel at the alter using this invitation:) You who are walking in fellowship with God, and have love for your neighbours; and you who truly and earnestly repent of your sins and
intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from now on in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and kneeling make your humble confession to Almighty God.

(When the people have knelt at the altar, the pastor shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the pastor shall pray the prayer of consecration:)

O God of grace and mercy, we thank Thee that You did ever love us and provide for our redemption. We thank Thee for Thy Son Who died to save us, and for the Spirit Who invites us to draw near. Guide us now as we remember the death of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to feel close to Thee and to each other. And so consecrate the bread and wine which is here prepared, that as we partake of them we may receive the spiritual benefits of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

(Then the pastor shall first serve himself the bread, and give it to the people. Then he shall say:) The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, keep your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

(Then the pastor shall first serve himself the wine, and then give it to the people. Then he shall say:) The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, keep your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

(After all have partaken the pastor shall say the closing prayer:) May the God of peace, 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 Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

V. Reception of Members

When candidates for full membership, associate membership, or junior membership have been approved for acceptance as given in The Discipline, 220-221, 225, 230, 270:7, the pastor shall set a time during a regular
worship service for their public reception. The pastor or his representative shall preside over this service.

581. The service of reception may begin with a hymn and Scripture reading such as: Rom. 12:1-8; Eph. 4:17; Eph. 4:11-16; Eph. 5:25b-27; I Cor. 12:4-27.

582. Introductory Remarks.

Pastor: Dearly beloved, the privileges and blessings which we have in fellowship together in the church of Jesus Christ are very holy and precious. Christ so loved the church that He gave Himself for it. He spoke of Himself as the Head of the church, and of the church as His body. He spoke of Himself as the Husband and of the church as His bride. As Christ gave of Himself unselfishly, He asked the church to share its relationship with all mankind, and sent it unto the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to administer the sacraments, to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to strengthen the believer until He comes again. All of us stand in heed of Christ’s church and of those means of grace which it alone makes available.

It is in keeping with Christ’s commission to the church, that we meet together now. There are some among us who testify to having been received already into the spiritual fellowship of the Christian church, and who come now to be received into the official and visible fellowship of this local church which is a part of the body of Christ.

583. Reception of Full Members.

(The Pastor shall call before him those who are being received as full members.)

Pastor: These are they who come to enter into a covenant as members in full relation of The Wesleyan Church, with all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of such membership. They testify to having been born again. They have been baptized, have been instructed in and have accepted the doctrines and rules of The Wesleyan Church, and have been approved by vote as showing in spirit and practice God’s work of grace within their
hearts. We now desire, in the fear of God, to question them as to their experience, faith, and purpose, that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into this church.

(The pastor then speaks to the candidates:) We are asking you now to publicly make your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose by answering the following questions:

Pastor: Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Have you the witness of the Spirit that you have been sanctified completely? If not, will you diligently seek this grace?

Candidate: I have the witness (or) I will seek this grace.

Pastor: Is it your purpose that your life shall be governed by the Word of God in all its relations to God and your fellowmen?

Candidate: It is.

Pastor: Do you accept our Articles of Religion, our General and Special Rules as set forth in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, as the guide for your faith and rule of conduct?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you recognize your stewardship to God and the Church and will you give as the Lord has prospered you of your means for the support of the church?

Candidate: Yes, I will.

Pastor: Do you confess the Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to be your God? To give of yourself in every way to His service and glory? To give attention to His Word? To seek the honour of His Kingdom? To deny ungodliness and worldly desire, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? To join
yourself to this church and submit to its rules of government? To walk with all its members in love, faithfulness, and peace?

Candidate: I do.

584. Reception of Members by Transfer.

(This may include transfer of membership from another Wesleyan church or from another denomination (234-236). The pastor shall call before him those who are to be received by transfer into full membership.)

Pastor: Friends, in transferring your membership to this church, you again renew your vows of church fellowship. Relying upon the grace of God, do you promise to walk in all His commandments and to seek His service as your highest joy? Do you promise to submit to the rules and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone; to work for its peace, purity, and prosperity, and to walk with all its members in love and Christian faith?

Transferee: I do.

585. Other Categories of Membership.

Pastor: The church of Jesus Christ is not only for those who are spiritually strong and mature, but it is intended by Christ for all who know Him as Saviour and who love and serve Him as Lord. There are those who are not ready for full membership in The Wesleyan Church, either because they are young in years, or because they do not feel free to assume all of the responsibilities which go with full membership. The Church has provided other categories of membership that they may enjoy its pastoral care and spiritual nurture, and that they may grow in grace and knowledge until they take their place in full relation to the Church. These have come now that they may be questioned and received.

(The pastor shall call before him those who are being received as associate members and/or junior members.)
586. Reception of Associate Members.

Pastor: To those who have the witness that their sins are forgiven, who desire to share the fellowship of this local Wesleyan church, and who have presented themselves for reception as associate members, we ask these questions:

Pastor: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate: Yes, He does.

Pastor: Do you desire to be associated with The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, do you accept the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as expressed in our Articles of Religion, and will you seek to love so as to help the church and to strengthen its spiritual life and fellowship?

Candidate: Yes, this is my desire and purpose.

587. Reception of Junior Members.

Pastor: To those who have been converted to Christ quite early in life, who desire to know about Jesus and His will for them so that at the proper time they too may assume a place of responsibility and leadership in the church, and who have presented themselves for reception as junior members, we ask these questions:

Pastor: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate: Yes, He does.

Pastor: Is it your purpose that you shall grow spiritually as well as physically and that you shall study daily in private devotions and regularly at the church so as to prepare for a fuller place of service?

Candidate: Yes, it is.

588. Response of the Church.

Pastor: May the members of the church now stand and join me in welcoming these new ones to our fellowship, assuring them of our love, of our prayers, of our care over them in days to come.
Congregation: (Let the pastor read phrase by phrase as the congregation repeats the response.) We, the members of this church, do receive you as brothers and sisters to our fellowship. We promise to walk with you in love, and watch over you, to instruct, counsel, warn, and help you, with all longsuffering, gentleness, and love.

589. Right Hand of Fellowship.

(The pastor will pray and then extend the right hand of fellowship.)

Pastor: And now, on behalf of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and this local congregation, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, welcoming you as members with us of the body of Christ.

(Membership cards which should be prepared beforehand should now be given to the new members in front of the congregation.)

590. The service of reception may close with a hymn and closing prayer.

Benediction: Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

591. Membership information shall be recorded in the church record book (232).

VI. Marriage

A. General Directions

596. Since God at the beginning made the first man and first woman to live together in close fellowship as husband and wife and the comfort and love of the home, it is right that Christians should bless their marriage
contracts with prayer to Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ.

597. The marriage ceremony may be held at the close of a morning or evening time of worship, after the sermon or at a separate time if so desired. The sermon in such a service could be used by the pastor to emphasize the Christian home and the sacredness of Christian marriage.

598. The marriage ceremony should be marked by quietness and simplicity.

599. The persons to be joined in Christian marriage should be examined and counselled by the pastor sometime before the ceremony.

600. Some Scriptures that can be used in the service are as follows: Gen. 2:18-24; Mark 10:2-12; Eph. 5:22-23.

601. In cases where there are also civil matters to be cared for, such as the signing of registration certificates, the pastor should see that this is taken care of.

602. The pastor shall record the names and dates of those married in the church in the church record book (232).

B. The Marriage Service

605. Pastor: Will the two persons who wish to be joined in Christian marriage come forward and stand before this congregation, facing the pastor, with the woman at the left side of the man.

Friends of this church, it is your joy to witness today the joining together in Christian marriage this man and this woman. The Bible teaches the holiness of the marriage union, for it was created by God for the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden, it was blessed by Jesus when He went to the wedding at Cana of Galilee, and St. Paul says it is to be honoured by all and that the husband is to love the wife as Christ loves the Church.
I now address you who have come to be married. The vows you are to take today are holy and are to be made in the fear of God. The Bible says these vows are to be broken only by death. If you are truthful persons and take these vows with honest hearts, you will have happiness for many years to come. Your hearts will know joy and your home will have peace. We do believe you have thought of those things in the fear of God.

Will you now join your right hands and hear the vows you are to take. I will now address the man. Will you (name) have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together as God's Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other lovers, keep yourself only for her as long as you both shall live?

Man: I will.

Pastor: I will now address the woman. Will you (name) have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together as God's Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other lovers, keep yourself only for him as long as you both shall live?

Woman: I will.

Pastor: And now as your pastor, I place my hand over your hands as a sign that your vows are sealed in the fear of God, and in the name of the Christian faith. Since you have declared your vows to each other in the fear of God and before these people, I declare you are husband and wife in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no man ever separate.

Pastor's Prayer: Let us pray. O God our Father in Heaven, we thank You for the creation of love in the hearts of two persons that draws them together in holy Christian marriage. Teach them the true meaning of this new way they will now be living together. Bless them with Your love, Your joy and Your peace. May happiness be in their home now and always. And may they so love and trust in You, their Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour, that they will some day have a home in Heaven.
Lord's Prayer: And will all the congregation now join in the Lord’s Prayer. 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: Now, I am asking those who have been joined in Christian marriage to turn and face the congregation, the woman now on the right side of the man. Will the father and mother of the man, and the father and mother of the woman, if they are present, come and stand beside them. Then, will you who have seen this happy Christian marriage come and greet them one by one and wish to them God's blessing.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

C. Marriage Blessing

606. There may be those Christians who are married but have not had a Christian ceremony and would like to have their marriage blessed by God in a public service. The following blessing can be used after a morning or evening worship service.

607. Pastor: We come before God and before these witnesses today to ask God's special blessing upon this man and this woman as they live together as husband and wife and serve the Lord. This is not the same as taking each other for the first time in marriage, but, before God, it is an agreement to continue to live together and serve as one in this life.

Pastor: (Addressing the man) (name) do you agree to live with your wife according to Bible standards? Will you agree to love, honour, and comfort her in sickness and in health, when times are good and when times are hard, and do you agree to leave all other women and remain faithful to this one woman so long as she shall live?

Man: I will.
Pastor: (Addressing the woman) [name] do you agree to live with your husband according to Bible standards? Will you agree to love, honour, and comfort him in sickness and in health, when times are good and when times are hard, and do you agree to leave all other men and remain faithful to this one man so long as he shall live?

Woman: I will.

Pastor: Because [man's name] and [woman's name] have agreed together before God and these witnesses to be true to each other, I pray that God will bless their marriage and their home. Help them to keep these vows and may they remain in love and peace together and love according to thy laws. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The pastor may say a closing prayer.)

VII. Burial

A. General Directions

610. Whenever a member dies, the pastor should go right away to comfort those who are left and to make plans for the burial service. It is his work to plan for a proper funeral and this work should be done carefully with the agreement of the family.

611. The purpose of a burial service is to show respect for the dead, to comfort those who mourn the loss of a loved one, and to warn those still living. The service is to the living, not for the dead.

612. The pastor should take care not to allow anything to be included in the burial which would be against Christian principles or practices.

613. There may be opportunity, to help those who are mourning in other ways besides the actual burial service,
such as a Christian wake the night before the service. This could take place in the home of those sorrowing. Hymns, songs, and testimonies could make up the service.

B. Burial Service at the Church

616. The pastor shall open the service with a Scripture sentence, such as one of the following: Job 19:25-27a; Ps. 46:1-3; John 5:25; John 11:25-26a; II Cor. 1:3-4; 4:17-18; II Tim. 4:6-8; Matt. 5:4; Deut. 33:27; Rom. 14:8; John 14:19.

Hymn: One or two hymns may be sung.

Scripture Reading: The pastor shall read a Scripture lesson such as one of the following: Ps. 39:4-7; 90:1-2, 4, 9b-10, 12; I Cor. 15:20-26; I Cor. 15:51-52, 54-57; Rev. 7:9-17; I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 21:1-4; Ps. 23:1-6; Rom. 8:35, 37-39; I Pet. 1:3-9.

Prayer for the family: (The pastor shall pray as fitting or use the following prayer:) O God of life, as we have learned to do in all our experiences, we come to Thee in the hour of death. We know that You do love us, and that You can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before Thee with reverent and submissive hearts. Make this a time of opening our eyes and our understanding and a time of warning to our hearts and souls. Bless those who feel this sorrow most deeply, and cause the bonds of Christian love to bind us close together, so that we may share with them the spiritual strength and that faith in God which is sure through the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(If is is necessary for someone to speak about the deceased, they should speak here, otherwise leave out this part.)

Hymn:

Message: (The pastor shall preach an appropriate message.)

Benediction: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us now and evermore. Amen.

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C. At the Grave

617. The pastor shall read a short Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Ps. 121; John 14:1-6, 23, 27.

Committal: (The pastor shall read the committal after the body has been lowered into the grave.) Seeing that it has pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take our brother/sister/friend out of this world, we now commit his/her body to the earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 should then be closed with prayer.)

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 forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13:20-21).

VIII. Ordination of Pastors (Elders)

620. Call to Worship. (The ordained pastors presiding over the ordination service shall begin the service with a call to worship such as: I Sam. 52:7; I Cor. 1:21-24; II Cor. 4:5-6.)

Hymn:

Prayer:

Message:

Presentation of Candidates: (The ordained pastor appointed for this duty shall present to the District Superintendent, or other church official, those who are ordained, saying:) I present (read names aloud) to be ordained as elders in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.
(Then the District Superintendent, or other church official, shall say unto the people:) Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain. For, after due examination, we find that they are lawfully called to this duty and ministry, and that they are qualified for the same. If any here knows any reason for which any one of them ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and show what that reason is.

(Then the appointed ordained pastors shall read the Epistle and the Gospel respectively.)

The Epistle: Eph. 3:7-9; 4:11-13
The Gospel: John 10:7a, 9-16

The Charge: (An ordained pastor shall address the candidates, giving the charge,) You have heard, brethren, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation now made to you from the Gospel and Epistle, of what dignity and great importance this office is, unto which you are called. You are messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord, called to teach and warn, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family, to seek for Christ’s sheep that are scattered abroad and for His children who are in the midst of this evil world that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Remember always, therefore, how great a treasure is committed to your charge; for they are the sheep of Christ which He bought with His death and for whom He shed His blood. The church and congregation which you serve is His body and His bride. And if that church or any member thereof is hurt or hindered by reason of your neglect, you know the greatness of the fault and also the seriousness of the punishment which will follow. Wherefore, consider with yourselves the purpose of your ministry toward the children of God, toward the Bride and the Body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labour, your care and diligence, until you have done all within your power to bring those committed to your charge unto maturity in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for sinfulness in life.

We have hope that you have considered these things long before this time, and that you have clearly determined by God’s grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, unto which it has pleased God to call you; so that as much lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one
thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and
that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the
mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the
Heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily
reading and study of the Scriptures you may grow stronger
in your ministry; and that you may so endeavour to sanctify
the lives of you and yours after the rule and doctrine of
Christ, that you may be wholesome and godly examples, and
patterns for the people to follow.

Examination of Candidates: (The District Superintendent, or other church official, shall administer the
examination to the candidates.)

Now, that this present congregation of Christ here
assembled may also understand your minds and wills in
these things, and that this your promise may the more
move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to
these things, which we, in the name of God and His church,
shall demand of you.

Is is your sincere conviction that you have been
called of God to the office and work of an ordained
pastor in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone?

Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures are the
fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, and that
contain sufficiently all doctrine required for eternal
salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined
out of the said Scripture to instruct the people committed
to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of
necessity to eternal salvation but that which you shall
be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

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

Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion
and General Rules, and agree to declare and defend them?
And do you acknowledge your obligations to promote the
institutions established and approved by The Wesleyan
Church?

Answer; I do, in the fear of God,
Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine, and sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, as the Lord has commanded?

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

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 exhortations as well to the sick as to the whole, within your charge, as need shall require and occasion be given?

**Answer:** I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you be diligent in prayers and in reading the Holy Scriptures and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same?

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

Will you be diligent to fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ, and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

**Answer:** I shall apply myself to this, the Lord being my helper.

Will you seek to promote quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are, or shall be committed to your charge?

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

Will you obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves, since they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief?

**Answer:** I will, the Lord being my helper.

Covenant with the Candidates' Wives: *(If it is so desired, the District Superintendent, or other church official, may call the wives of the candidates to come and stand beside them, each one at her husband's left side, and shall address them saying:)*
It is the admonition of Scripture that the wife be the helpmate and companion of her husband. Now as your husband commits himself to the fulfilling of the ministry of God, it requires of you to be his helpmate in the task. It requires that you will share with him the responsibility of ministering in love and patience to all. It requires that you will be his companion in prayer and concern for the work of the church. It requires that together you will fashion your lives and home to be an example of the body of Christ.

Each of you has just heard the response of your husband in which he affirms his call to the holy ministry as an ordained pastor in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. As his companion, will you to the best of your ability be his helpmate in the several ministries to which God in His providence may lead you?

Answer: Yes, by the grace of God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (Then shall the District Superintendent, or other appointed pastor, pray the prayer of thanksgiving.) Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we bless and magnify Thy holy name for the gift of Thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and for all His apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors, whom He has sent abroad into the world. For these here present, whom Thou hast called to the same holy office and ministry, we render unto Thee our most hearty thanks. And now, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to grant, that by these Thy ministers, and by those over whom they shall be appointed, Thy holy name may be forever glorified, and Thy blessed Kingdom enlarged; through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who livesth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Act of Ordination: (The candidates for ordination shall kneel, and if so desired, their wives may kneel at their sides. The ordained pastors shall lay their hands upon the head of each one and the District Superintendent, or other church official, shall say:)

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an ordained pastor in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. And be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of His holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(They shall continue to kneel and the District Superintendent, or other church official, shall give to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:) Take thou authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy sacraments and to perform all the duties of an ordained pastor in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

Prayer for Enduement: (Then the District Superintendent, or other appointed ordained pastor, shall pray the prayer of Enduement.) Most merciful Father, we beseech Thee to send upon these Thy servants Thy Heavenly blessings; that they may be clothed with righteousness, that Thy Word spoken in their mouths may have success and that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and to receive what they shall deliver out of Thy most holy Word, or what agrees 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. Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Right Hand of Fellowship: (The newly ordained pastors shall then arise, and the District Superintendent, or other church official, and the members of the District Board of Administration shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the work and labours of the ministry. Then the congregation may be directed to file by and greet the new ordained pastors.)

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.

IX. Installation Ceremonies

A. General Regulations

630. The installation ceremonies provided here shall normally be used as a part of some general service or worship, and in most cases the other parts of the service, such as hymns,
Scripture reading, and prayers, will need to be supplied, being chosen in such a manner as to give the entire service unity and dignity.

B. Installation of a Pastor

634. (The District Superintendent, or his representative, shall preside over the installation of a pastor.)

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as John 15:1-8)

Message: (The District Superintendent, or other appointed pastor, may deliver an appropriate message.)

Installation: (The District Superintendent, or his representative, shall address the congregation saying:) Dear beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God to install Pastor/Rev. (name), who has been appointed to become the pastor of this church, and whose installation has been authorized by The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(The pastor shall come and stand before the presiding officer, who shall address him, saying:) Dear brother, the duties of your holy position are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador or our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both the Law and the Gospel, as they are understood in the Holy Scriptures and interpreted in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. This you are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle warns, "whoever preaches, must preach God's Words" (I Pet. 4:11a).

Whatever is against right doctrine shall be refused, but with kind words as the Scripture warns, "The Lord's servant must not quarrel. He must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, who is gentle as he corrects his opponents." (II Tim. 2:24-25a).

Those who are put into your pastoral care are to be carefully warned to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. Those who do wrong are to be warned with the truth which the Word of the Lord demands of faithful pastors, as the prophet Ezekiel was instructed, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel" (Ezek. 3:17).
Because of the Saviour's kind word, "Let the children come unto me" (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special way have your pastoral instruction and care.

The standard of faithfulness with which you are to seek the lost is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of the Apostle Paul who said, "I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men of God will cause you to pray often for your people and to be an example unto them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfill faithfully these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before the church of Jesus Christ, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

Answer: (by the pastor) Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding officer shall read the following charge:) "I solemnly call upon you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge all men, living and dead; because of His coming and of His Kingdom, I command you to preach the message, to insist upon telling it, whether the time is right or not; to convince, reproach, and encourage, teaching with all patience... But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances; endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News, and perform your whole duty as a servant of God." (II Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

(The congregation shall rise and the presiding officer shall address them saying:) And now, dearly beloved, I instruct you to receive as your pastor, (pastor's name) whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by him whether it be to comfort you, to warn you, or to teach you, even as Christ has said, "Be careful then, how you listen" (Luke 8:18).

Be sure that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God's House, in order to obey the advice of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to raise their children "with Christian discipline and instruction" (Eph. 6:4b).

Pray for your pastor that through his ministry many souls may be saved, and that through his work, you, together with him, may be saved.
Honour and respect him who is to minister to your souls. As the Apostle Paul writes, "We beg you, brother, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, those whom the Lord has chosen to guide and instruct you. Treat them with the greatest respect and love, because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves." (I Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as is right for a Christian church, accept these duties to your pastor?

Answer: (by the congregation) Yes, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the pastor saying:) Because of these promises made by you and the church, I now install you, (pastor's name) as pastor of the (church's name) Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the presiding officer shall lead in prayer, concluding by leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. Then he shall address the congregation and the pastor, saying:) The Lord bless you that you may bring forth much fruit and that your fruit may remain.

(Then the congregation shall join in singing an appropriate hymn. Then the congregation may come forward to greet the pastor and his family at the altar. The pastor shall pray the closing benediction.)

C. Installation of Local Church Officers

638. (This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just before the time the newly elected officers shall take up their duties. The pastor shall preside over the installation.)

Hymn:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as: Acts 2:41-44; Acts 6:1-8; I Tim. 3:8-13).

Reading of Duties: (Each of the officer's duties may be read from The Discipline.)
(The pastor shall then call the newly elected officers in front of the congregation, and shall address them, saying:)

Dear beloved, it is written in the Acts of the Apostles that when the early church was growing and the number of disciples was multiplying, and the duties of the church became many, that the church called its members together and chose men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to help in the administering of the affairs of the church; and that the officers thus chosen by the church were set before the apostles, who laid hands on them and prayed, thus setting them apart in the presence of the church to the duties of their honourable position.

In like manner this church, having first sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has chosen you to important positions to work together with the church members and with the pastor before whom you have now come for public consecration.

Therefore, we, the pastor and the people of this church, call upon you to hear and join in this promise of trust to Christ and His church.

The Officers' Promise: (to be read by the pastor)

Trusting in Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church, I humbly promise Him and His church that I will be faithful to the extent of my ability to all known duties and responsibilities assigned to me as an officer of this church. I will endeavour to be regular in my attendance, cheerful in my service, wholehearted in my giving, open-minded in my planning, patient in the face of trials, enduring in the face of difficulty, and Christlike in my faithfulness to His service. I will seek by my example and my words, the spreading of the message of full salvation and the progress of Christian fellowship among all the members. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the officers) I do.

(Then the pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:)

We, the pastor and officers of this church, call upon the members and friends of this church to hear and join in this promise of faithfulness to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.
The Church's Promise: (To be read by the pastor or full member of the church.) Having chosen these officers to guide us in the administration of the church, we, its members and friends, do now promise our faithfulness to its work and promise our consideration of the plans and our friendly cooperation in the service suggested to us. We acknowledge our duty and promise to pray for all leaders and to share with them in the wonderful responsibility of spreading the Good News. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the congregation) We do.

(The officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer for them.)

D. Installation of Sunday School Teachers and Officers

642. (This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just before the time when the newly appointed teachers shall assume their duties. The pastor shall preside over the installation.)

Hymn:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as: Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 4:8; Matt. 18:2-6, 14.)

(The pastor shall then call the newly appointed teachers before the congregation, and shall address them saying:) Dearly beloved, we are met together in the presence of God, to acknowledge that He has called and the church has chosen some of our congregation to the work of teaching in our Sunday School. As they come to offer themselves to God for this service, it is right that the church should support them by the fellowship of our prayers. We will seek with and for them the touch of God in their lives and teaching, that they may be enabled to carry out their task with reverence and faithfulness to the glory of God. Therefore, we the pastor and people of this church call upon you to hear and join in this promise of trust to Christ and His church.
The Teachers' Promise: (To be read by the pastor)

At the call of Christ, and trusting in His strength, I here offer myself to Him for the work of a Sunday School teacher or officer of this church. In all things it shall be my aim to lead pupils to the knowledge of the love of God in Jesus Christ, and into the fellowship of His church. In loyalty to my Master, I will endeavour to be faithful in preparation and service, to be regular and on time in attendance, and to present the example of a good Christian life.

(Then the pastor shall ask:)

Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the Sunday School teachers and officers)

I do.

The Church's Promise: (The pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, this church welcomes you into the ministry of teaching, to serve in the work of the Sunday School, praying that your labours may be accepted and blessed by God. We will support you by our attendance in class, by our study of the lesson, and by seeing that our families are with us for the study of the Word.

(Then the pastor shall ask:)

Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the congregation) We do.

(The teachers, and Sunday School officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer for them.)

E. Installation of District Officers

646. (One of the ordained pastors, or an officer of The Wesleyan Church, shall be the presiding officer for the installation service. The installation of District officers shall be before the adjournment of the District Conference.
in which they are elected. Other ordained pastors may share in other parts of the service as desired. A hymn and appropriate Scripture lesson could be included.

The newly elected District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, and members-at-large of the District Board of Administration shall be called before the presiding officer, who shall first address the District Superintendent, saying:

District Superintendent (name), today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. You have been prayerfully selected by this District Conference to serve as leader of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It is in you that the pastors and members of the various churches within the bounds of this District are investing their confidence and trust. Yours is indeed a position of significant honour and responsibility, 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 will also be the satisfying reward of steady progress under the smile of God and 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 administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present help"; in labours, may your secret be His all-sufficient strength. The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a District that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially as well.

And now, that we may hear publicly your intention to accept this charge with proper regard for all that is therewith involved, we ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and do you hereby solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church as a whole, and to all the members of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, according to The Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.
(Then the presiding officer shall address the District Superintendent, saying:) In behalf of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, entitled to the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining.

(Then the presiding officer shall lead in prayer.)

X. Dedication Services

A. General Suggestions

650. The dedication of a church building is a time of joy and thanksgiving and also a time of rededication to God, realizing that only by His blessing has the church been built and only by His blessing will it succeed in the future.

651. Arrangements for the entertainment of invited visitors should be carefully planned beforehand.

652. All persons involved on the program should be notified well in advance of the day of dedication.

653. The builder and crew should be invited to the service.

B. Dedication of a Church Building

660. Outside the Church: The congregation should gather outside the church at the main doors which should be closed with a ribbon tied across them. The meeting shall be opened with prayer. The pastor, or one appointed, shall then hand the District Superintendent, or an appointed person, a pair of scissors and request him to open the Church which he shall do by cutting the ribbon and declaring the building open to the glory of God. The congregation shall then enter the church preceded by the pastor, officers of the church, and invited guests.
661. In the Church: Order of Dedication of a Church Building.

Call to Worship: (The pastor or other appointed pastor shall give the call to worship.) Psalms 100:2-4

Opening Prayer: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall lead in prayer.)

Songs: (The congregation shall join in singing several appropriate hymns/or vernacular choruses.)

Scripture Reading: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following:) II Cor. 6:1-2, 18-21, 40-42; 7:1-4; Ps. 24; 48:9-14; 100:1-5; 122:1-9; Ps. 84; Heb. 10:19-25.

Remarks: (A brief history of the church may be given, as well as words of appreciation for those who helped in the building of the church.)

Offering: (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 when this is not done, appeals may be made and an offering taken for the building fund.)

Sermon: (The District Superintendent, or other invited speaker, may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task of the church.)

Presentation of Building for Dedication: (The District Superintendent or his representative shall take his place at the pulpit and the pastor and local church officers shall stand before him. The pastor, or one of the officers, shall address the District Superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the members of this church, and this congregation, I present you this building to be dedicated to God as a place of worship and of service in His Kingdom.

Acceptance of Building for Dedication: (Then the District Superintendent shall answer, saying:) Dear beloved, for countless years men have erected buildings for the public worship of God and have separated them from all unholy uses in order to increase man's reverence for God and for those places in which he prays to God.
We rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this house in this place to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, to be known as the [name] Wesleyan Church, to dedicate it, and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and holy uses.

Litany of Dedication: (Then the District Superintendent shall ask the congregation to stand and to join him in the responsive litany of dedication.)

Leader: To the glory of God the Father, Who has called us by His grace; to the honour of His Son, Who loved us and gave Himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, Who illumines and sanctifies us;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the everlasting gospel; for the celebration of the holy sacraments;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the comfort of all who mourn; for strength to those who are tempted; for light to those who seek the way;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the hallowing of family life; for teaching and guiding the young; for the perfecting of the saints;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the conversion of sinners; for the sanctification of believers; for the promotion of righteousness; for the extension of the Kingdom of God;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian brotherhood; in charity and good will to all;
Leader: In gratitude for the labours of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; in the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

All in Unison: We now, the people of this church and congregation compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice or our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication: (Then the District Superintendent shall give his own prayer of dedication or he may use the following:) Almighty God, we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging unto us. We humbly acknowledge that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it". Yet we beseech Thee, in Thy great goodness, accept the dedication of this place to Thy service. Prosper this our understanding. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all those Thy servants who shall call upon Thee in this house. 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. May they always approach Thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion. May they always come before Thee with clean thoughts, and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified. May they always perform a service acceptable to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: (The congregation shall join in singing an appropriate hymn.)

Benediction: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall pronounce the benediction:) May Thou, O Lord our God, make this house Thy abiding place from this day forth, and let Thy ministers be clothed with salvation, let Thy saints rejoice in goodness all their days, as the blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest and abide upon them. Amen.
670. Order of Dedication of a Parsonage

(At the time appointed for the dedication service, an appropriate hymn may be sung, followed by prayer and a Scripture lesson such as: I Cor. 9:7-10, 13, 14. Then the District Superintendent or his representative shall address the congregation, saying:) The Scriptures clearly teach us that as Aaron was divinely appointed to the priestly office, even so today men are called to the ministry for the purpose of preaching the Word and otherwise giving aid and comfort to the spiritually needy. In the same divine program it is also "ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (I Cor. 9:14). Providing a house for the pastor is a recognition of his high position and great value to the church. This house about to be dedicated as a pastor's home has been made possible by the generous gifts of those who are interested in the Christian ministry and the church.

(Then the officers of the church shall come and stand before the District Superintendent, and one of the officers appointed shall address the District Superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the members of this church, and this congregation, I present this house to be dedicated to God as a home for the man whom He has appointed to pastor this people.

(Then the District Superintendent may give an appropriate response, gratefully commending the people for providing this house, and charging the pastor to live in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then he shall offer a prayer of dedication, or the following prayer:) O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging to us. Yet we beseech Thee that Thou wilt accept the dedication of this house to Thy service, and that Thou wilt prosper this our undertaking.

Grant that whosoever shall live 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 home shall be made to sense Thy presence, and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in Thy holy com-
mandments and that all who minister to the material comforts of the servants in this house 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 both to see 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 marriage in this home may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto the end of their lives.

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 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 best for them.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(Then the District Superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:) I now declare this house duly set apart as the home of the pastor of the Wesleyan Church.

(Then the District Superintendent, or other appointed pastor, shall pronounce the benediction:) The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.
Certificate of Church Membership:

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

This is to certify that (name) is a(n) Junior/Associate/Full Member in the (Church name) Wesleyan Church and is entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof.

Date ____________________  Pastor ____________________

Letter of Transfer:

(Letter sent by church granting transfer to another Wesleyan Church).

To the Pastor of (Church) Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that (member's name) is a(n) Junior/Associate/Full Member in good standing in the (Church name) Wesleyan Church, and wishing to transfer to your church, is hereby transferred and given to your care and fellowship.

By the authority and in behalf of the (Church) Wesleyan Church, this ______ day of ________, 19____.

Pastor ____________________

Secretary ____________________
Certificate of Authorization as a Supply Pastor:

This certifies that _name_ has been appointed on a temporary basis as a supply pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and perform such other duties as shall be authorized by the District Superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this ___ day of ___, 19___.

Valid for one year from date of issue.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

Pastoral License (See 452-454; 57:2):

This certifies that _name_, having been duly examined concerning his gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a Licensed Pastor according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, for one year, provided that his spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The
By order and in behalf of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this ______ day of ________, 19__.  

District Superintendent  
District Secretary  

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the District Superintendent and the District Secretary).

Certificate of Ordination (See ¶60-61; ¶65.2):

This certifies that ______ (name)____ having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the District Conference of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an Ordained Pastor in the church of God so long as his spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and he is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, 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.

By order and in behalf of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this _______ day of _________, 19__.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(Note: The certificate of ordination does not need to be renewed annually. Certificate of Ordination must carry the footnote requested by the General Board of Administration, May 1974: The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church are the fundamental law of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone which is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship).

Pocket Certificate of Standing (See 157:2; 465:2):

This certifies that (name) was, on this _______ day of ___________, 19__, a(n) Licensed/Ordained Pastor in good standing of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

Expiration date__________________

District Secretary

1516.

1520.
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Resolved, That the following additions be made to the respective paragraphs with the exception that 365:37 be amended by striking "when the need arises."


(5) Lay-missionaries.

(6) Education Secretary and Pension Treasurer (542; 3; 354:21).
(Unless elected otherwise as voting members 334.)

(7) These laymen who are Full Members of The Wesleyan Church serving as administrative heads of hospitals or institutions of higher learning sponsored by The Wesleyan Church (eg. Principals).

354. (20) To elect two members-at-large of the Primary Education Committee (537:1).

(21) To elect, after having received nominations from the District nominating committee, with or without further nominations from the Conference Body, a District Pension Treasurer.

357. ".... ADD: In addition, the Education Secretary shall be a nonvoting member of the District Board of Administration."

365. Related to Education

(31) To nominate its candidate for Principal of a Secondary school when vacancy occurs.

(32) To submit nominees for the five proprietary members of the Board of Governors for various Secondary schools.

(33) To receive reports from the Primary and Secondary School Committees and take appropriate actions.

(34) To appoint qualified Chaplains to Secondary schools (538:1).

(35) To appoint School Managers over the various areas of the Primary schools (544).
(36) To appoint members to the Primary Education Committee in addition to the District Superintendent, Mission Coordinator, Education Secretary, and School Managers (540: 1).

(37) To appoint an Education Secretary from recommendations made by the Primary Education Committee when the need arises (542: 1).

(38) To place students in theological training institutions (547).

(39) To supervise applications and placement for advanced theological or other education (548).

370. (1) ADD.

District Pension Treasurer (354: 21).
Education Secretary (365: 37; 541-543).

385. Related to Education

(22) To be an ex officio member of the Primary Education Committee (540: 1).