THE DISCIPLINE
OF
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

1979

PRELIMINARY STUDY EDITION
IN PROCESS OF APPROVAL
In January 1980 the Bd. of Gen'l Supts. approved this as a preliminary study edition of the Sthrn. Africa Discipline for a two-year period beginning in January 1980. It was felt that to place a limitation of its use to a two-year period would encourage further study and preparation for a final approval in 1982.

This will advise that on March 9, 1981, the Board of General Superintendents approved extending until December 31, 1982, the time for the use of the Southern Africa Preliminary Study Edition of the Discipline.
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Note: The basic unit in The Discipline is the paragraph, rather than page, chapter, or section. The paragraphs are numbered in order through the entire volume, but with many numbers skipped, in order to allow for future additions or amendments, and to fit into the following plan:

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PART I. BASIC PRINCIPLES

Chapter I

HISTORY

A. The Origin of the Wesleyan Movement

1. The Wesleyan movement 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. Nurtured in a devout home, John Wesley committed himself to a search after God from earliest childhood. While at Oxford, together with his brother Charles and a few other serious-minded collegians, he methodically pursued holiness through systematic Bible study, prayer, good works, intensive examination, and reproof. The group earned the nicknames of the "Holy Club" and of "Methodists," but Wesley did not earn the assurance of salvation. Having graduated from Oxford, and having been ordained as a clergyman in the state church, he intensified his search for peace through legalism and self-discipline. The turning point came at a prayer meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, May 24, 1738, when he perceived the way of faith and found his heart "strangely warmed" in the new birth. As he went on to the experience of entire sanctification, he shared his testimony and teaching with others, and a spiritual awakening spread across the British Isles and to America.

3. It was not Wesley's purpose to found a church, but the awakening brought about the spontaneous origin of the "societies" which grew into the Methodist movement. Near the end of 1739, there came to Wesley, in London, eight or ten persons who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. A day was appointed when they might all come together, which from thence forward they did every week; namely, on Thursday in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices which he judged most needful for them and they always concluded their meeting with prayer. The General Rules found in this Discipline (130-132) represent in revised form those which Wesley gave to the members of the societies to enable them to test the sincerity of their purpose and to guide them in holy living.

4. The movement spread to America by the emigration of Methodists, who, beginning in 1766, began to organize the Methodist "classes" and "societies" in the colonies. In December 1784, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at the Christmas Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The new church experienced a miraculous growth, especially on the frontier, and quickly became one of the major religious forces in the new nation.

B. The Origin of the Wesleyan Methodist Church

6. John Wesley and the early Methodist leaders in America had been uncompromising in their denunciation of human slavery. But with the invention of the cotton gin, the economic advantages of slavery involved many ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in slaveholding. A group of ministers began to agitate anew for the abolition of slavery, and pressure was placed in an effort to silence them.
BASIC PRINCIPLES

7. The contention continued until there eventually was a series of withdrawals of churches and ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first extensive withdrawal occurred in Michigan in 1841 and another occurred in New England in 1842. A call was issued to all those interested in the formation of a new church free from slavery.

8. As a result of a convention held at Utica, New York in 1843, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection was organized. It provided for equal lay and ministerial representation in all its governing bodies. Moral and social reforms were strongly emphasized, and slaveholding and involvement with intoxicating liquors were prohibited.

C. The Revival of the Wesleyan Experience

12. At its first General Conference in 1844, the Connection adopted an article of religion on "Sanctification," being the first denomination to do so. But the doctrine and experience suffered neglect and decline for many years. In the late nineteenth century, God raised up a revival of holiness that swept throughout Methodism and across denominational lines. The revival led to the establishment of several new holiness denominations and the spiritual renewing of others.

13. The spiritual revival soon established holiness as the major tenet of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. In 1883, the General Conference adopted a resolution requiring the preaching of entire sanctification.

D. The Development of The Wesleyan Methodist Church

16. The revival of holiness which swept across the Wesleyan Methodist Connection resulted in a need for organized efforts in church extension and for the conservation of converts. In 1891, the name was changed to the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America. A superintendent was elected, and as the church grew, other officers were elected. In 1947, the name was changed again to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

17. Various ministers and churches joined The Wesleyan Methodist Church at different times throughout its history. One of these is of particular significance to Southern Africa. The Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada was organized in 1888 as the result of the sanctification of several Baptist ministers. In 1966, it merged its churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine, and its mission fields in Africa with The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

18. The Wesleyan Methodist Church carried on missionary work in a number of countries including South Africa, Swaziland, and Rhodesia.

E. The Formation and Development of The Pilgrim Holiness Church

23. The Pilgrim Holiness Church came into being as a result of the revival of scriptural holiness that swept across America in the last half of the nineteenth century. The awakening caused the establishment of many small groups of churches. Toward the close of the nineteenth century, many of these small groups who held the same precious faith began to draw together.

24. The point which marks the beginning of The Pilgrim Holiness Church was the formation of the International Holiness Union and Prayer League in September 1897. The Union was not thought of as a church, but as an interdenominational fellowship. The primary purpose of the Union was to unite holiness people to promote worldwide holiness evangelism.
25. In the annual meeting of the Union held in 1900, the name was changed to International Apostolic Holiness Union in order to express more fully the aim of promoting a return to apostolic principles and practices. Also in 1900, the foreign missionary work began as members of the union went out as faith missionaries to South Africa, India, Japan, the West Indies, and South America.

26. The Union gradually developed into a church organization in order to provide church homes for converts and for the conservation of the work.

27. In the years following, there were several adaptations made to the name, mainly due to other groups joining the Union. The name Pilgrim Holiness Church was first adopted in 1922.

28. Among the groups which joined The Pilgrim Holiness Church, the one which has particular reference to Southern Africa was the Africa Evangelistic Mission which joined in 1962. The Africa Evangelistic Mission carried on mission work in the Republic of South Africa and Mozambique.

35. The original purpose of the founders of The Pilgrim Holiness Church to promote worldwide holiness evangelism remained a strong characteristic. Missionary work was carried on in many countries including South Africa, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

F. The Formation of The Wesleyan Church

37. Merger between The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church was voted upon in 1966 by both groups. A planning committee was established to arrange for a uniting General Conference. On June 26, 1968, The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America became The Wesleyan Church.

6. Origin and Growth of The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa

39. To relate the history and development of The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa, one must follow the events of three missionary enterprises, (1) the International Holiness Union, which was the predecessor of The Pilgrim Holiness Church, (2) The Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada, and (3) The Africa Evangelistic Mission.

40. In October 1900, the Reverend and Mrs. William Hurst of the International Holiness Union arrived in Cape Town. They were later joined by other missionaries who initially worked mainly with the European population in the cities along the eastern coast of South Africa. As the work developed, some of the missionaries and their European converts began evangelizing among the indigenous people of the area. The work expanded to include the Mount Frere (1902) and Good Hope (1921) mission stations in the Cape Province, and Emmanuel mission station (1911) in southern Natal. In 1910, the Reverends C. Slater and G. Schoombie, accompanied by African evangelist, Pato, went to Swaziland, where Ebenezer mission station was established in the same year. Joy Mission was subsequently established.

41. The work among the Europeans was abandoned from 1914 until 1947, when The Pilgrim Holiness Church sent missionaries to undertake evangelism and church planting ministries. The work was formally organized in 1956, and the first South African superintendent of the European work was elected in 1974.

42. The second stream of missionary effort began in 1901 when the Reverend and Mrs. H. C. Sanders of The Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada arrived in Durban. After a period of Zulu language study, they
began work near Paulpietersburg, Natal, where they established the Hartland mission station in 1903. The Reverend and Mrs. I. F. Kierstead arrived to assist them in 1905. From Hartland, the work expanded south into Zululand and west into the Transvaal. The first convert from this endeavor was Samuel Mavimbela, who remained a stalwart Christian until his death in 1955. The Reverends Paul and Johanis Nkosi and Alfred Methula were the first three men to be ordained.

As the work grew and began to become indigenized, missionary personnel moved from Hartland and followed the developing work into Natal and Zululand, basing themselves at Paulpietersburg and Louwsburg during the years between 1952 and 1972. By 1973 both Paulpietersburg and Louwsburg had been vacated in favor of one central location at Vryheid. In the Transvaal, Altona mission station was established in 1930, and missionaries subsequently developed further west, basing themselves in Ermelo and in the Johannesburg area.

42. In 1955, mission work was undertaken in Rhodesia, and Bethesda mission station was established. Later a work was also begun in the city of Bulawayo.


44. In 1902, the third stream of missionary effort originated when the Reverend and Mrs. Isaac O. Lehman began work in the newly discovered gold fields around Johannesburg. Their efforts resulted in the conversion of hundreds of men who carried the gospel message back to their homes and families. Many of these converts associated themselves with established church congregations and missions in their home areas. However, those from Mozambique found no Bible-believing churches in which their new-found faith could be strengthened. Thus began the development of a missionary work which became known as The Africa Evangelistic Mission. In 1916, the Lehmans made their first visit to the families of their converts in Mozambique. Over the years, the work has continued to grow and has developed into a strong indigenous work. Among the first men to be ordained from the Mozambique converts were the Reverends Simon Nhatele, Israel Malate, and Stefane Macambaco.

45. As the work grew and expanded, groups of believers were also organized in the Johannesburg area and in the Eastern Transvaal, where Casteel Mission was established and a thriving work developed.

Chapter II
MISSION OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

75. The Wesleyan Church has grown out of a revival movement which has always given itself to one mission—the spreading throughout every land of the gospel of Jesus Christ with its provision for scriptural holiness. The message which ignited the Wesleyan revival was the announcement that God through Christ can forgive man of his sins, transform him, free him from imbibed sin, enable him to live a holy life, and bear witness to his heart that he is indeed a child of God. The message was based on the Scriptures, was verified in personal experience, and came not only in word but in the power of the Spirit. It was dynamic and contagious, and was communicated from heart to heart and from land to land. It adapted itself to and gave new vitality and purpose to various kinds of church organizations.

76. The Wesleyan Church is a product of the holiness message, and appreciates the rich heritage of spiritual values that cluster around this message. Its declared mission is and ever shall be, as constrained by the love of Christ, to share the exalted doctrines, the glorious experience, and the victorious life of Bible holiness with all mankind, and such is the central objective of all of its evangelistic, missionary, educational, literary, benevolent, and organizational activities. (Cf. 101, 791, 826, and 886.)
Chapter III
CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCH LAW

A. Constitutional Law

91. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of the Preamble and Articles I through VI (101-149) of the Constitution. The Essentials are binding on all general conferences and may be amended only by the concurrent approval of two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast in the general conferences and two-thirds of the aggregate votes cast in the district conferences thereof (148:2). The Essentials state the doctrines, principles, general rules, and world organization of The Wesleyan Church. As currently revised and amended the Essentials are the fundamental law of the Church and have precedence over all other laws or official actions of any of the governing bodies or officers of The Wesleyan Church.

92. The second part of the Constitution consists of Articles VII through XII (151-185) which state the basic policy of The Wesleyan Church and is the fundamental law of church government. Amendments to Articles VII through XII shall be recommended to the General Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of the regional conference, as provided for in 185. No recommended amendment shall be put into effect until approved by the General Board of Administration. All legislative and official actions of any governing bodies or officers must conform to the Constitution as currently revised and amended.

B. Statutory Law

94. Statutory law consists of legislation passed by the Regional Conference by a majority vote, in fulfillment of its duties as set forth in the Constitution and The Discipline, as approved and printed by order of the General Board of Administration. Such statutory law is the authority for all of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa, including the members, ministers, churches, districts, institutions, auxiliary organizations, corporations, general departments and offices, agencies, and any other official bodies of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa. Statutory law remains in effect until amended, rescinded, or declared unconstitutional.

95. All changes in or additions to the statutory law take effect when The Discipline is published by order of the General Board of Administration.

C. Ritual

97. The Ritual of The Wesleyan Church consists of those rites and ceremonies contained in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, officially approved by the General Conference by a majority of those present and voting. The reception of full members as set forth in 1624 of the Ritual of Membership, and the examination of candidates as set forth in a section of 1711 of the Ritual of Ordination have the authority of statutory law and must be followed as prescribed. In the remainder of the Ritual, a measure of flexibility is permitted as long as nothing contradicts the Articles of Religion or any other part of the Constitution.

D. Current Authority

99. Definition of Terms. The following definitions shall apply to terms used in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa. Whenever the term General Conference is used it shall refer to the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. The term General Board of Administration refers to the chief governing body of the General Conference in the interim of its sessions. The Regional Conference is the highest governing body of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa, and is authorized by its sponsor-
ing General Conference, the North American General Conference. The Regional Board of Administration is the chief administrative body in the interim of Regional Conference sessions. The Wesleyan Church refers to The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa except in those instances specifically applicable to the Wesleyan World Fellowship, or the sponsoring North American General Conference.

99. The current issue of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa as approved by the General Board of Administration is the only valid authority for constitutional law, statutory law, and ritual for The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa.

100. The Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa is authorized by its sponsoring General Conference, the North American General Conference, and administered by the General Board of Administration through the General Department of World Missions. The Regional Conference and its Regional Board of Administration shall be subject to the authority of the General Conference and/or its General Board of Administration and shall govern The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa according to the provisions of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa.
Chapter IV
CONSTITUTION

Preamble

101. In order that we may wisely preserve and pass on to posterity the heritage of doctrine and principles of Christian living transmitted to us as evangelicals in the Arminian-Wesleyan tradition, and to insure church order by sound principles of ecclesiastical polity, and to prepare the way for more effective cooperation with other branches of the church of Christ in all that makes for the advancement of God's kingdom among all men, we, the ministers and lay members of The Wesleyan Church meeting in official assemblies, do hereby ordain, establish, and set forth as the fundamental law of The Wesleyan Church the articles of religion and rules of Christian living here following:

Article I. Name

102. The name of this communion is The Wesleyan Church. Wherever the use of this name is impossible or impractical, adaptation may be made by the authorized body (148:3; 172:2). The official registered name of The Wesleyan Church in Swaziland, Transkei, and nonwhite work in the Republic of South Africa is The Emmanuel Wesleyan Church. In Mocambique it is the Africa Evangelistic Mission.

Article II. Articles of Religion

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

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

Gen. 1:1; 17:1; Ex. 3:13-15; 33:20; Deut. 6:4; 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; 1 Cor. 8:4,6; 11 Cor. 13:14; 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 begotten Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried—to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men, and to reconcile us to God.


III. The Holy Ghost

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

Job 33:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24-26; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.
IV. The Resurrection of Christ

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

Ps. 16:8-10; Matt. 27:52-56; 28:1-2; Mark 16:6-7,12; Luke 24:4-8,23; John 20:26-29; 21; Acts 1:2; 2:24-31; 10:40; Rom. 8:34; 14:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:6,14; Heb. 13:20.

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

107. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. We do understand the books of the Old and New Testaments to constitute the Holy Scriptures. These Scriptures we hold to be the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

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

VI. The Old Testament

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


VII. Relative Duties

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


VIII. Original or Birth Sin

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

Gen. 8:21; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 3:10-12; 5:12,16-19; Eph. 2:1-3.

IX. The Atonement

111. The offering of Christ, once made, through His sufferings and meritorious death on the cross, is that perfect redemption and propitiation for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual. There is none other ground of salvation from sin but that alone. This atonement is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race, and is graciously efficacious to the salvation of the irresponsible from birth, or to the righteous who have become irresponsible, and to the children in innocency, but is efficacious to the salvation of those who reach the age of responsibility only when they repent and believe.


X. Free Will

112. Man's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong. Thus man was made morally responsible for his choices. The condition of man since the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works to faith and calling upon God. Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God without the grace of God by Christ working in us, that we may have a good will, and working with us when we have that good will. That the grace of God through Jesus Christ is bestowed upon all men, enabling all who will to turn and be saved is clearly taught in both the Old and New Testaments. It is possible that one who is in possession of the highest experience of grace may fall from grace, for there is no such height or strength 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 restoration.

Gen. 6:5; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 20:40; Isa. 64:6; Luke 16:15; John 7:17; 15:5; 1 Tim. 2:5; Titus 3:5; Heb. 11:6; 1 John 1:9; 2:1; Rev. 22:17.

XI. Justification of Man

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


XII. Good Works

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

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

XIII. Sin After Justification

115. Not every sin willfully committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Spirit and unpardonable (Matt. 12:31-32). Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received this grace, we may depart therefrom and fall into sin, and by the grace of God rise again and amend our lives.

Therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent (Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:21-22; 1 John 1:9; 2:1).

XIV. Regeneration

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

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

XV. Entire Sanctification

117. Inward sanctification begins the moment one is justified. From that moment until a believer is entirely sanctified, he grows daily in grace and gradually dies to sin. Entire sanctification is effected by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which cleanses the heart of the child of God from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus Christ. It is subsequent to regeneration and is wrought instantaneously when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, and is thus enabled through His grace to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. The crisis of cleansing is preceded and followed by growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When man is fully cleansed from all sin he is endued with the power of the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of all to which He is called. The ensuing life of holiness is maintained by a continuing faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ, and is evidenced by an obedient life.

Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:8; 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. 6:3-4; 11:26; 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:13,24; 5:25-27; Phil. 2:5,7,10; Col. 4:12; 1 Thess. 3:10; 4:3,7,15; 5:23; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:17;
118. The Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself. He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit, or the supernatural endowments which the Spirit in His wise counsel bestows upon individual members of the Church to enable them properly to fulfill their function as members of the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although different from natural endowments, function through them for the edification of the whole Church. These gifts are to be exercised in love under the administration of the Lord of the Church, not through human volition. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the Church and not by the ecstasy produced in the ones receiving them.*


XVII. The Sacraments

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

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


XVIII. Baptism

120. Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others who are not baptized, but it is also a sign of regeneration or new birth. All persons to be baptized shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

Since children are born into this world with natures inclined to sin, and yet the prevenient grace of God provides for their redemption during that period before reaching the age of accountability, the parents of small children may testify to their faith in God's provision by presenting them for baptism. Parents who would prefer to emphasize baptism as a testimony by the individual believer to his own act of faith may present their children for dedication.


XIX. The Lord's Supper

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


XX. The Church

122. The Christian Church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ.

*See 131:6 in the Appendix.
CONSTITUTION

The Founder and only Head of the Church is Christ. It is composed of all faithful believers in Christ, some of whom have gone to be with the Lord and others of whom remain on the earth having renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil and are dedicated to the work which Christ committed unto His Church till He comes. The Church is to preach the pure Word of God and duly administer the Sacraments according to Christ’s ordinance, in all those things that are of necessity requisite to the same.

A local church is a body of believers formally organized on gospel principles meeting regularly for the purposes of worship, edification, instruction, and evangelism.

The Wesleyan Church is a denomination consisting 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 and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing body.


XXI. The Second Coming of Christ

123. The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is a precious truth and a glorious hope to the people of God. The certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ is a powerful inspiration to holy living and zealous effort for the evangelization of the world. We believe the Scriptures teach that at His return He will cause the fulfillment of all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil.


XXII. The Resurrection of the Dead

124. We hold the Scriptural statements concerning the resurrection of the dead to be true and worthy of universal acceptance. We believe the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ was a fact of history and a miracle of supreme importance. We understand the manner of the resurrection of mankind to be the resurrection of the righteous dead, at Christ’s second coming, and the resurrection of the wicked at a later time. Resurrection will be the reuniting of soul and body preparatory to final reward or punishment.


XXIII. The Judgment of Mankind

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

XXIV. Destiny

126. The Scriptures clearly teach that there is a conscious, personal existence after the death of the body. The eternal destiny of man is determined by God's grace and man's response, evidenced inevitably by his moral character which results from his personal and volitional choices and not from any arbitrary decree of God. Heaven with its eternal glory and blessedness of Christ's presence is the final abode of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ. Hell with its eternal misery and separation from God is the final abode of those who neglect this great salvation.


Article III. General Rules

130. It is expected of those who are admitted to our churches that they should evidence their salvation, first by doing good, by being merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith:
(1) To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.
(2) To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting them in love with all possible diligence, that the gospel be not blamed. By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their crosses daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ.

131. It is expected of all who are admitted to our churches that they should further evidence their salvation by continuing:
(1) To reverence the name of Deity and to observe the Lord's Day by divine worship and spiritual edification; and to avoid all unnecessary commerce, labors, travels, and pleasures, which do not contribute to the moral and spiritual ends of this Day.
(2) To abstain from all forms of spiritism, such as witchcraft, astrology, and the like.
(3) To abstain from the manufacture, sale, and use of alcoholic beverages and all harmful drugs.
(4) To abstain from the cultivation, manufacture, sale, and use of tobacco.
(5) To abstain from all forms of gambling.
(6) To respect the inherent individual rights of all persons regardless of race, color, or sex.
(7) To walk circumspectly in the world: to be just in all transactions; to be faithful in all commitments; to contract obligations only with due care to fulfill them.
(8) To respect all duly constituted authority in the home, the church, and the state; except when to do so violates the clear teachings of the Scriptures.
(9) To strive together for the advancement of God's kingdom and for the mutual edification of fellow believers, in holiness, knowledge, and love; to walk together in Christian fellowship, in carefulness, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection; to pray one for the other; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and to demonstrate purity, charity, and courtesy in all manner of conversation.
(10) To dress so as to adorn the gospel in the spirit of I Peter 3:3-4, and I Timothy 2:9-10, giving clear testimony to Christian purity and modesty by properly clothing the body and refraining from superfluous adornment.
(11) To recognize our responsibility to God and the Church by careful use of our time; to engage only in such activities as may contribute to 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 our material resources, ever mindful of our obligation to Christ's church (remembering the principle of tithing which is basic to the New Testament standard of stewardship), and the needs of our fellowmen; exercising strict self-discipline in personal indulgences and demonstrating Christian liberality toward those whose distress we may help to alleviate; thus laying up treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21).

(13) To preserve the sanctity of the home by honoring Christ in every phase of family life; to encourage the nurture and education of our children in the Christian faith so as to bring them early to the saving knowledge of Christ, and to encourage by all possible means their Christian education.

(14) To abstain from membership in secret societies and lodges which are oathbound, believing that the quasi-religious nature of such organizations divides the Christian's loyalty, and their secret nature contravene the Christian's open witness (John 18:20); and the secret nature of their oaths is repugnant to the Christian conscience (Matt. 5:34-36; James 5:12). (These prohibitions do not restrict membership in labor, civic, or other organizations which do not contradict loyalty to Christ and the Church. When in these relationships Christian principles are violated, members shall be dealt with because of such violations and not because of the membership itself.)

(15) To grow in the knowledge and love of God by attending upon all the means of grace, such as the public worship of God; the ministry of the Word either read or expounded; the Supper of the Lord; family and private prayer; searching the Scriptures; and fasting or abstinence.

(16) To preserve the fellowship and witness of the Church by recognizing that it is contrary to the explicit 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 entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes (cf. 117-118), and by using in public worship only a language readily understood by the congregation.

(17) To observe the teachings of Scripture regarding marriage and divorce. We affirm that monogamy is God's plan for marriage, and we regard adultery as the only justifiable cause for divorce. In the case of a divorce for such cause the innocent party may marry again; but the guilty party has by his or her act forfeited membership in the Church. In the case of divorce for other cause neither party shall be permitted to marry again during the lifetime of the other, and violation of this law shall be punished by expulsion from the Church (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.

132. These are the General Rules of our Church. We believe all these to be consistent with the principles of Christ as taught in the Word of God, which is the only and sufficient rule both of our faith and practice. If any among us do not observe them and habitually break any of them, we will admonish him with charity of the error of his ways and will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he shall have no more place among us.

Article IV. Elementary Principles

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

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

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

138. All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only; and

*See 131:16 in the Appendix.
no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, the
propagation of unchristian doctrines, or for neglect of duties enjoined by
the Word of God.

139. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appoint­
ments, and all elders in the church of God are equal, but ministers are for­
bidden to be lords over God’s heritage, or to have dominion over the faith
of the saints.

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

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

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

143. It is obligatory upon ministers of the gospel to be faithful in the
discharge of their pastoral and ministerial duties, and it is also obligatory
upon the members to esteem ministers highly for their works’ sake, and to ren­
der them a righteous compensation for their labors.

Article V. Transfer of
Ministers and Members

145. Each general conference shall accept the credentials of a minister
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

146. Each general conference shall accept the credentials of a minister
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.

147. General Conferences.
1. The Wesleyan Church recognizes the need to preserve unity in faith and
fellowship, yet provide for the distinctions of nation, tongue, and culture.
Therefore it provides for a regional or national body to develop into a gen­
eral conference whenever it shall meet the necessary qualifications (147:2)
and shall adopt the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church as a part of its con­
stitution 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 programs for the nurture and training of members, new
converts, children, young people, and lay workers.
   c. An effective program for ministerial training.
   d. Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, includ­
ing the proper management of funds and the provision for the support of its
own pastors, workers, and officers.
   e. A definite program of evangelism, church extension, and missionary
outreach on 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. Essentials of The Wesleyan Church

(1) The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of the Preamble and Articles I through VI, including Name, Articles of Religion, General Rules, Elementary Principles, Transfer of Ministers 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 superintendents(s) or comparable officers, 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 superintendant and one other representative for each 15,000 members or major fraction thereof. The representatives 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 provisions of the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church. When the International Board of Review rules that an act is 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 is called in question, further action in the case shall await the opportunity of said general conference at its next session to reconsider the act. Should the act be rescinded, the process shall immediately terminate. If such request is made within one year or should it be made and a general conference not rescind the act in question, the act and the findings thereon of the 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 ques-
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 the 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 either 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.

Article VII. Membership

151. The privileges and conditions of full membership in the Church are constitutional, and changes therein may be made only by constitutional enactment. The Regional Conference may at its own discretion establish categories of membership other than full membership. Nothing shall be included in the membership ritual that is contrary to the following definitions, conditions, and privileges of membership.

152. The conditions of full membership are:

(1) Confession of a personal experience in regeneration, and a pledge to seek diligently until sanctified wholly if that grace has not been obtained.

(2) Christian baptism.

(3) Acceptance of the Articles of Religion, the General Rules, the Elementary Principles, and the authority of The Discipline in matters of church government.

(4) A covenant to support the Church, to live in fellowship with the members thereof, and to seek God's glory in all things.

(5) The approving vote of a majority of the members of the receiving church who are present and voting, unless the church by vote shall delegate this right to the church board, provided that when objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a vote of three-fourths of those present and voting to receive.

153. The rights of full membership are:

(1) The fellowship of the saints and the encouragement, admonition, and spiritual guidance of the ministry.

(2) The access to the sacraments and ordinances of the Church.

(3) The right to vote and the eligibility to hold any office for which a person in full membership is eligible, if not under discipline.

(4) The right to trial and appeal if charged with failure to maintain the conditions of membership, with the specific provision that joining another religious body shall of itself sever membership in the Church.

(5) A member in good standing in any Wesleyan church is entitled to membership privileges in any Wesleyan church to which he may wish to transfer his membership, subject to 152:5.

154. Church membership may be terminated only by one or more of the following:

(1) Voluntary withdrawal.

(2) Joining another religious body or a secret order.

(3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction.

(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined by The Discipline.

*See 131:16 in the Appendix.
Article VIII. The Ministry

156. The Regional Conference shall from time to time enact provisions for the training, qualification, and ordination of the ministry. Every Wesleyan minister must be a member of some Wesleyan church, and each elder must be a member of a district. An elder is a minister of the gospel fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

157. The constitutional rights of ministers in The Wesleyan Church if not under discipline shall include the following:
   (1) To preach the gospel and in the case of ordained elders to administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony in keeping with the laws of the country.
   (2) To be eligible, in the case of ordained elders, for election to any office in the church for which elders are eligible.
   (3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of this Constitution (157:6; 163:1-2).
   (4) To enjoy the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the local church to which he has been appointed by the district conference.
   (5) To serve his assigned local church without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church.
   (6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Discipline from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the Regional Superintendent and the district superintendent of the district to which he seeks to transfer.
   (7) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against his character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court.

Article IX. Organization and Government

Local

160. Local Churches. The members of the denomination shall be grouped into local churches. The following are the constitutional rights of each local church:
   (1) To receive and expel or discontinue members subject to the provisions of The Discipline.
   (2) To call its own pastor, in conjunction with and subject to the approval of the district board of administration.
   (3) To grant local preachers license to preach and take away the same.
   (4) To recommend local preachers and special workers to the annual conference.
   (5) To elect its own officers and to remove the same for cause.
   (6) To be represented in the voting membership of its district conference, if not under discipline.
   (7) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other local, or district, or regional units or agencies of the denomination.

District

161. The Regional Conference shall organize the work at large into districts, which shall operate under its jurisdiction and promote the interests of the denomination, whose voting members shall include the following: All elders on stationed, reserve, and superannuated lists; all licensed ministers elected to elders’ orders; all licensed ministers serving as pastors or who are appointed as associate or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches of all categories; lay members of the district board of administration; and lay delegates from churches as provided in The Discipline. In addition the
district conference shall include such nonvoting members as The Discipline shall provide.

163. The constitutional rights of each district shall include the following:

(1) The right to take charge of all the ministers and churches within its bounds, as modified by 176:5e except such of the regional officers of the Church as the Regional Conference shall define who shall be amenable to the Regional Board of Administration for their official conduct and to their districts for their moral character, and except the district superintendent who shall be amenable both to the district and to the Regional Board of Administration.

(2) To alter the agreement entered into by any pastor and local church, or veto the action of the church and appoint another pastor when it deems this to be for the best interest of the church or pastor involved or when the general interests of the work of the district would be better served by such change; and the said church shall receive the pastor appointed by the district conference, provided that any such alteration of a previous arrangement between a pastor and church shall be separately reported and passed by vote of the district conference to be effective; to delegate this right to the district board of administration.

(3) To elect and ordain elders, and to receive elders from other denominations subject to the restrictions of The Discipline.

(4) To receive or decline local preachers and special workers recommended to it by the local churches within its bounds.

(5) To organize and receive local churches within the boundaries of the territory assigned to it by the Regional Conference, and to fix the boundaries of its circuits and stations.

(6) To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interests and prosperity of the Church and to amend or rescind the same, provided it shall not add to or take from any provision of the constitution and the Discipline, and provided further that three members of a district shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates this restriction, they may make an appeal therefrom through the channels prescribed by The Discipline.

(7) To elect its own officers as outlined in The Discipline and to dismiss them for cause.

(8) To elect in the manner prescribed by The Discipline its own board of trustees and through them to receive, hold, encumber, and dispose of all district property within the bounds of the district, including local property held by the district, according to the provisions of The Discipline and the laws of the state. All properties held by the district shall be held in trust for the use and benefit of the ministry and members of The Wesleyan Church and subject to its regulations and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared.

(9) To be represented in the voting membership of the Regional Conference, if not under discipline.

(10) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other district, local, or regional units or agencies of the denomination.

Regional

165. Regional Conference Membership. The Regional Conference shall be composed of elders and laymen elected by the several districts, and each district superintendent and a lay delegate elected on his behalf; of such Regional Conference officials as the Regional Conference may establish by legislation, provided that such legislation does not contravene the principle of balanced lay and ministerial membership of the conference.

166. Regional Conference Delegates.

(1) Each pioneer area or district, if not under discipline, shall be em-
titled to send two ministerial and two lay delegates to the Regional Conference and additional ministerial and lay delegates according to membership on a basis as laid down in The Discipline (602:1a-e).

(2) The delegates shall be appointed by the Regional Board of Administration in the case of a pioneer area and elected by ballot in the case of a district. Ministerial delegates must be ordained elders or otherwise licensed ministers serving in an active capacity. At the time of their election, and also at the time of the Regional Conference they must be members of the district or pioneer area which they represent.

(3) The lay delegates shall be chosen from the full members of the church within the bounds of the district or pioneer area they represent, and must be in full membership within the local church at the time of Regional Conference.

167. Regional Conference Sessions.
(1) The Regional Conference shall meet quadrennially on a date specified by The Discipline and at such place as shall have been determined by the Regional Board of Administration.

(2) The president or other elected officer of the Regional Conference whenever two-thirds of the districts shall request it, or the Regional Board of Administration, by such vote as the Regional Conference shall determine, shall call an extra session of the Regional Conference, fixing the place thereof and the time of assembling later than the next session of each district conference.

168. Regional Conference Presidency. The various sessions of the Regional Conference shall be presided over by the North American General Superintendent over the region, or the General Secretary of World Missions, or his representative. In case none of these can be present, the Regional Superintendent shall preside, or if he is absent, the Assistant Regional Superintendent.

169. Other Officers. The Regional Conference shall elect by ballot a secretary and such other officers as it shall decide upon.

170. Regional conference Quorum. At all times when the Regional Conference is in session, it shall require a majority of all the delegates elected by the districts to form a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

172. Regional Board of Administration.
(1) There shall be a Regional Board of Administration to carry out the will of the Regional Conference during the quadrennium. Such Board shall be composed of the Regional Superintendent and such other regional officers and Board members as shall be required by The Discipline.

(2) The Regional Board of Administration is the chief governing body of the Church in the interim of the Regional Conferences, and as such is empowered to perfect all plans necessary to the performance of its duties; it shall constitute or create the basic board of control of each and all of the Wesleyan societies and institutions now incorporated or hereafter incorporated under the laws of the country.

173. The Regional Superintendency.
(1) The Regional Conference shall elect by ballot one ordained elder as Regional Superintendent, who shall be considered as the regional spiritual and administration leader of the Church in the region.

(2) He shall be elected for a four-year term of office to begin on the date determined by the Regional Conference.

(3) The Regional Superintendent shall preside over the sittings of the Regional Conference and over the district conferences unless the General Superintendent over the region or the General Secretary of World Missions,
or his representative, is present. At the Regional or district conference over which the General Superintendent over the region is presiding, the Regional Superintendent shall serve by being seated at the presiding officer's table to advise and assist in the chairmanship. At the district conference the district superintendent shall assist by being seated beside the Regional Superintendent at the presiding officer's table. In the event that the General Superintendent, General Secretary of World Missions (or his representative), or Regional Superintendent cannot be present at a district conference, it is the duty of the district superintendent to preside.

(4) Further duties of the Regional Superintendent shall be defined by the Regional Conference.

**Article X. Powers and Restrictions of the Regional Conference**

176. The Regional Conference of Southern Africa is authorized by the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church and is under the jurisdiction of the General Conference and in the interim of its sessions its General Board of Administration. The Regional Conference shall have powers:

(1) To recommend to the General Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting an amendment to the Essentials or the Constitution.

(2) To recommend by a majority vote of those present and voting to the General Board of Administration any proposed alteration or change in the statutory section of The Discipline.

(3) To designate a criterion for parliamentary procedure for itself.

(4) To elect its officers and regional officials as provided for in The Discipline and to define their duties and responsibilities, and these regional officers so designated together with the district superintendents shall be amenable to the Regional Board of Administration for their official duties.

(5) To make rules and regulations for The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa subject to the Constitution and the following restrictions:

a. It shall not have power to revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles, or any General Rule or the conditions of membership, or to establish any standards of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

b. It shall make no rule that shall deny any church the right to receive, discontinue, or expel its own members subject to their right of appeal; or to elect and remove its own officers; or that shall deny to the district conference the final disposition of all pastoral arrangements, except those districts in which the district conference has delegated its right to the district board of administration.

c. It shall make no rule that will discriminate against any member or minister on account of ancestry or color.

d. It shall not have the power to deprive any member or minister of the right of trial by an impartial committee, or of the right of appeal.

e. It shall make no rule that will interfere with the supervision of established districts (in distinction from provisional districts) over the ministers and churches within their bounds, unless said district is under discipline.

**Article XI. The Supreme Judiciary**

180. There shall be a judicial council to be known as the Regional Board of Review whose number of members, qualifications, terms of office, and method of election shall be determined by the Regional Conference.

181. The Regional Board of Review shall have authority:

(1) To determine the constitutionality of any act of the Regional Conference upon appeal of the Regional Superintendent, or one-fifth of the members of the Regional Conference.
(2) To hear and determine any appeal from the decisions of the Regional Superintendent as to the constitutionality of an action by a district or upon a point of Church law.

(3) To hear and determine any legality of any action by any regional church board upon appeal of one-third the members thereof, or by request of the Regional Superintendent.

(4) To settle questions in dispute between districts upon appeal by a two-thirds vote of a district that claims it has a grievance against another district.

(5) To determine the validity of any complaints against books used in the course of study or in our schools.

(6) To settle and determine the legality of issues arising between a district and the Regional Conference.

182. A decision of the Regional Board of Review shall be final unless the Regional Conference votes to appeal the same to the General Board of Administration by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Article XII. Amendments to the Constitution

185. Amendments to the Constitution (151-185) may be recommended to the General Board of Administration through the General Department of World Missions by a two-thirds majority vote of the Regional Conference. Amendments shall become effective when approved by the General Board of Administration.
Chapter V

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

186. The special directions contained herein are not tests of membership, nor considered as constitutional law. Rather they are expressions by which The Wesleyan Church seeks to witness to contemporary society of the Christian life and character required by its Articles of Religion and General Rules. The members, ministers, and officials of The Wesleyan Church may also be guided by these statements in bearing public testimony on these issues.

A. Christian Social Concern

187. The Wesleyan Church seeks recognition by the society which surrounds it of the authority of Almighty God, and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, in civil, political, and temporal as well as spiritual matters, and the transformation of that society into the image of Christ insofar as is possible in this present age. It believes that such a transformation of society shall primarily be accomplished by the divine transformation through faith in Christ of the individuals who compose society, but that Christians ought also to manifest social concern in every manner that is in keeping with their Christian testimony. To this end:

(1) Equal Rights. The Wesleyan Church upholds the right of all individuals to equal opportunity politically, economically, and religiously, and pledges itself to an active effort to bring about the possession of dignity and happiness by all men everywhere (cf. 109; 130; 131:6; 176:5c).

(2) Peace. The Wesleyan Church, knowing that war results in great suffering for the bodies, minds, and souls of men; staggering economic loss with its legacy of debt for future generations, and the unleashing of the baser passions of life, urges that men and nations seek by every legitimate means to avoid armed conflict among the peoples and nations of the world. The Wesleyan Church also urges that holy men everywhere pray earnestly for those in authority, so that peace may prevail (I Tim. 2:2), and for the quick return of the Prince of Peace.

(3) Military Service. The Wesleyan Church teaches respect for properly constituted civil authority and the proper loyalty to one's country. It recognizes the responsibility of the individual to answer the call of his government and to enter into military service. However, there are those within the fellowship of The Wesleyan Church who believe that military service is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament and that their consciences are violated by being compelled to take part in such. The Wesleyan Church will therefore lend moral support to any member who asks and claims exemption by legal processes from military service as a sincere conscientious objector and who asks to serve his country as a noncombatant.

(4) Prohibition. The Wesleyan Church seeks the prohibition by law of the manufacture, sale, purchase, and use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and other harmful drugs, unless for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes (cf. 131:3).

(5) Moral Purity. The Wesleyan Church abhors the trend to ignore God's laws of chastity and purity, and vigorously opposes public acceptance of sexual promiscuity and all factors and practices which promote it.


(7) Religion in Public Life. The Wesleyan Church advocates the enactment of suitable legislation which will strengthen the present provision for the free exercise of religion in national life and allow reference to, or the invoking of the aid of God, in any governmental or public document, proceeding, activity, ceremony, or institution. The Wesleyan Church further affirms its belief in the public school's duty to do full justice to the conviction that the Bible is an appropriate book for reading in the public schools and that the right of students to pray should not be abridged.

(8) Public School Activities. The Wesleyan Church protests the inclusion
B. Christian Worship and Fellowship

189. Rites and Ceremonies of Churches. True religion does not consist in any ritual observances such as forms or ceremonies, even of the most excellent kind, be they ever so decent and significant, ever so expressive of inward things. The religion of Christ rises infinitely higher and lies infinitely deeper than all these. Let no man conceive that rites and ceremonies have any intrinsic worth, or that true worship cannot subsist without them. Therefore, it is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same or exactly alike, for they have always been different and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times, and customs, provided that nothing be ordained against God's Word.

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

190. Language and Worship. Only a language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. Moreover, to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or that the gift of tongues is the necessary proof of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, or of that entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes, is contrary to the explicit teaching of the Word of God as understood by The Wesleyan Church (cf. 117-118).

191. Healing. The truth that Jesus is both able and willing to heal the bodies as well as the souls of men, whenever such healing is for His glory, is clearly set forth in God's Word and attested by the experience of many of His people at the present day. Prayer for healing according to the pattern set forth in the Scriptures shall be encouraged.

Jas. 5:14-16; Matt. 10:8; Luke 9:2; 10:9; Acts 4:10,14; I Cor. 12:9,28.

192. Christian Liberty. Christ, through His death on the cross, has freed His followers from sin and from bondage to the law. The Christian is "called unto liberty" (Gal. 5:13), and is not under the law as a means of salvation. He is rather exhorted, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1).

This liberty, however, is not to be construed as license (Gal. 5:13). Rather, love for Christ constrains the Christian to live righteously and holily as God demands. By the Spirit of God, His laws are written on the heart (Heb. 8:10). So the Christian resists evil and cleaves to the good, not in order to be saved, but because he has been saved.

Within the bounds of Christian liberty, there will be differences of opinion. In such cases, the believer seeks to avoid offending his brother. The stronger brother is mindful of the opinions of the one with a weaker conscience (I Cor. 8 and 10), and is careful not to put a stumbling block in his brother's way (I Cor. 10:24; Gal. 5:13). On the other hand, the weak does not criticize the strong (I Cor. 10:27-28), for the conscience of the weak may need instruction.

The recognition and exercise of that liberty which Christ affords will glorify God and promote the unity of the Church.
193. Christian Unity. The Wesleyan Church, having originated through merger between those of like precious faith, is fully committed to that true Christian unity which is based on Scriptural truth and the fellowship of the Spirit, and deplores the separation or division of Christian brethren over peripheral and nonessential matters. While The Wesleyan Church opposes the building of one all-inclusive ecclesiastical organization which regards neither Scriptural doctrine nor practice, it welcomes fellowship with those who are committed to the same doctrines and standards of holy living, and cooperation across denominational lines with those who hold the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion revealed in the Bible.

C. Christian Stewardship

195. Meaning of Stewardship. The Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things, that men are His stewards of both life and possessions, that God's ownership and man's stewardship ought to be acknowledged, and that men shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of their stewardship (cf. 131:12). God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving which acknowledges His ownership and man's stewardship. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of His gospel.

196. Storehouse Tithing. Storehouse tithing is a Scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and The Wesleyan Church shall be regarded by all of its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of The Wesleyan Church are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them.

Gen. 14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 14:27; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Mal. 3:10-11; Matt. 23:23; Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:13-14; Heb. 7:1-2,6,8.

197. Methods of Fund Raising. In the light of the Scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings (cf.196) for the support of the gospel, and for the erection of church buildings, no Wesleyan church should engage in any method of fund raising which would detract from these principles, hinder the gospel message, sully the name of the Church, discriminate against the poor, nor misdirect the people's energies from promoting the gospel.

198. Wills, Bequests, and Annuities. It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one's estate after death. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give careful attention to the preparation of his last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and The Wesleyan Church and its various ministries through the local church, the district, missions, evangelism, education, and benevolences is recommended for consideration.
PART II.

LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter I

LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

A. Function of Local Churches

201. The local Wesleyan church is a body of Christian believers who hold the faith set forth in the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church, who have been duly received as members of The Wesleyan Church and formally organized according to its Discipline, who acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of The Wesleyan Church, who support its worldwide mission, and who meet together regularly for the purposes of worship, edification, instruction, and evangelism (122).

B. Types of Organization

1. Preaching Point

203. A special evangelistic, rescue, or missionary work which cannot appropriately be organized as a pioneer, provisional, or established church shall be carried on as a preaching point. A preaching point may be conducted by an established church subject to the approval of the district board of administration (274:14), by a district (473:19; 486:25), or by the Regional Department of Evangelism. It shall not maintain a membership roll, nor receive members.

2. Pioneer Church

205. A new work, or a work which does not meet the requirements for a provisional church (208), shall be organized as a pioneer church. It shall be authorized by the district conference (473:19) or the district board of administration (486:27 cf. 405) and shall be governed as follows:

(1) The pastor shall be appointed by the district board of administration.
(2) A membership roll shall be maintained, ordinarily for one to eleven members. Candidates for membership shall be examined and recommended by the pastor until such time as a local advisory council is formed and assumes this duty; and their reception shall be authorized by the district superintendent (511:15).
(3) As soon as qualified members are available, the district superintendent, in cooperation with the pastor, shall appoint a secretary-treasurer and a Sunday school superintendent, who together with the pastor as chairman shall form a local advisory council (cf. 325). They shall exercise the duties and powers of a local church board (316), making all recommendations to the district superintendent or the district board of administration instead of to the local church conference (511:15). All investments in land, buildings, and equipment (486:28), matters involving employed staff, and other major decisions must be authorized by the district board of administration: and all actions of the local advisory council shall be subject to the review and approval of the district board of administration (486:26). The local advisory council shall be responsible to assist the district superintendent in qualifying the church as quickly as possible for organization as an established church.
(4) All property of a pioneer church shall be held by the district, with titles secured as given in 1401-1408.
(5) A pioneer church shall have one lay representative in the district conference.

3. Pastoral Charge

207. A pastoral charge may consist of a single church, or of two or more
churches designated by the district conference as a circuit; is supplied as a regular pastoral appointment by the district conference; and transacts business through a local conference of the full members. The constitutional rights of pastoral charge are given in 160. If the district conference desires to appoint a minister to serve two or more churches that shall continue as separate pastoral charges, it may appoint him as pastor of one church and supply pastor of the other (1158-1159).

4. Provisional Church

208. Authorization for organization. The organization of a pioneer church, or of a group of believers who have applied to a district superintendent for organization as a provisional church, empowering it to assemble for business as a local church conference and to elect a local church board as given in the Constitution (160) and as set forth elsewhere in The Discipline, may be authorized by the district board of administration when it meets these requirements:

(1) Twelve or more persons who are full members or are approved and ready to be received as full members when the organization shall be effected. A provisional church shall be reclassified as a pioneer church if its full members drop to ten or fewer. (cf. 473:21; 486:25; 1531).

(2) A reasonable degree of financial stability, including the meeting of such obligations as it may have to district and regional organizations.

(3) A reasonable degree of leadership and organizational maturity, with sufficient qualified persons to staff the minimum organization provided for in 326.

5. Established Church

209. A provisional church may be classified as an established church by the district board of administration when it meets the following conditions:

(1) Being capable of paying a pastor the average salary paid by the district to full-time pastors.

(2) Being capable of meeting all current expenses.

(3) Being capable of providing for all maintenance and building needs.

(4) Being capable of meeting district and regional obligations.

(5) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 1401-1408, or steps taken to accomplish the same.

210. Procedure of Organization. When the organization of a provisional or an established church has been authorized by the district board of administration, the district superintendent shall consult with the pastor and the local advisory council, or if there are none, with those interested in forming the church, and appoint a time for an organizational meeting. The organizational meeting shall be conducted by the district superintendent or his representative as follows:

(1) The reading of the Articles of Religion, General Rules, and Elementary Principles by the presiding officer.

(2) An examination of each of the candidates for membership, conducted by the presiding officer, using the questions commonly addressed to such candidates (cf. 1623-1629), and the baptism of such as have not previously been baptized. When the organization involves a church previously organized as a pioneer church, those who have been accepted as members of the pioneer church need not be reexamined.

(3) A mutual pledge of purpose and fellowship on the part of all full members, including those being received. The presiding officer shall ask each one:

Question 1. "Are you in Christian fellowship with all those who present themselves for membership in this church organization?"

Answer. "I am."

Question 2. "Will you receive each other as brethren and sisters beloved, and enter into mutual communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with each
other in Christian sympathy, tenderly to instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish each other with all longsuffering, gentleness, and love?"

Answer. "I will."

(4) A declaration made by the presiding officer:

"On the basis of these mutual pledges in the presence of God, I proceed to give you each the right hand of fellowship, and declare by this act that you are a Christian church organized on the basis of The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church, and are invested with all the rights, powers, and duties assigned to an established church by The Discipline."

(5) The first session of the local church conference, with the election of officers who shall serve for the remainder of the year, or until the time specified, and the installation of the officers (1768) by the person presiding over the organizational service.

(6) The report of the organization by the district superintendent to the next regular session of the district board of administration, and to the next regular session of the district conference (573:27; 511:14).

(7) The taking of steps to provide for the pastoral oversight and care of the new church, if such is not already done.

212. Relationship of Circuit and Church. A circuit is a pastoral charge in which a district conference has grouped two or more local churches under one pastor, and designated them as a circuit, with business to be transacted by a circuit conference. Each church on a circuit shall be organized and conduct its business and exercise its constitutional rights according to its status as laid out in The Discipline. The circuit shall exercise all of the constitutional rights of a pastoral charge which are not reserved to the local church (160:2-4,6-7), and take charge of all matters of circuit business.

213. Circuit Conference. The full members of the several churches on a circuit, duly called and assembled together to do business, shall constitute a circuit conference. It shall follow the same organizational and procedural pattern as a local church conference (cf. 263-272). Its duties and powers shall be:

(1) To call the pastor and set the terms of his service (160:2; 278-292).

(2) To license local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses: and to recommend local preachers, deaconesses, and special workers to the district conference for study and for license (160:3-4).

(3) To elect lay delegates to the district conference (160:6; 443-445).

(4) To elect a circuit secretary, such members of the circuit advisory council (214) in addition to the ex officio members as the circuit conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation, and a circuit board of trustees (if such is needed, cf. 215).

(5) To determine all matters involving two or more of the churches on the circuit, including the authorization of transactions involved in the purchase, erection, encumbrance, sale, or other disposition of a circuit parsonage or other property.

214. Circuit Advisory Council. The circuit advisory council shall direct circuit affairs between sessions of the circuit conference, bearing the same relationship to the circuit conference that the local church board bears to the local church conference (316). It shall consist of the pastor as chairman, the circuit secretary as secretary, the chairman of the circuit board of trustees, the treasurer of each local church, and such other representatives as the circuit conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation. It shall elect one of its members as vice-chairman, and shall meet at least quarterly at such time and place as it shall determine.

215. Circuit Trustees. The circuit board of trustees shall consist of three to five members elected by the circuit conference. They shall organize themselves and carry on their work under the direction of the circuit advisory council in the same manner as the board of trustees for a local church (348-351), except that they shall have jurisdiction only over that property owned by the circuit, such as the circuit parsonage.
216. Circuit Committees. The circuit advisory council may appoint such committees as are necessary to the proper conduct of circuit affairs, including a nominating committee to nominate the circuit officers. (cf. 331-332).

218. Preaching points, circuits, pioneer, provisional and established churches located in pioneer areas shall be authorized, organized, and governed by the Regional Board of Administration, which shall be in harmony with The Discipline.
Chapter II

MEMBERSHIP

A. Categories of Membership

1. Full Membership

226. Those persons shall be admitted to full membership in The Wesleyan Church who meet the conditions set forth in the Constitution (152:1-5).

(1) Candidates for full membership shall be examined as provided for by the local church board (316:7; 342-343), to determine whether they meet the requirements of the Constitution concerning their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, General Rules, Elementary Principles, and the authority of The Discipline in matters of church government, and their willingness to enter into covenant with the Church.

(2) Candidates for full membership who have satisfactorily passed the local church board’s examination, shall be voted upon by the local church conference unless the local church conference has delegated this right to the local church board (152:5; 274:1). It shall require a majority vote of those present and voting to receive, and if objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a three-fourths vote of those present and voting.

(3) Persons who have been duly accepted for full membership as explained in 226:2, should be formally received into full membership in a public service, in which they shall make their confession and vows public, according to the manner given in 1623ff., and be given the right hand of fellowship by the pastor or his representative.

227. The rights of full membership are set forth in the Constitution (153). No full member shall be transferred to any other category of membership except at the specific written request for, or written agreement to such relationship, by the person involved. Any full member charged with failure to uphold the Articles of Religion or to observe the General Rules must be dealt with by Judicial process as given in The Discipline (1501-1519).

2. Preparatory Membership

229. Those new converts, who because of spiritual immaturity are not able to assume the responsibilities of full membership, shall be received promptly after their conversion as preparatory members. The local church board, having provided for their examination concerning their Christian experience and their willingness to study diligently the doctrines and standards of the Church so as to prepare for full membership, may, if satisfied, receive them by majority vote. Persons who have been approved for preparatory membership shall be formally received according to the manner given in 1627ff.

230. A preparatory member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 153). Preparatory membership shall be for not less than three months nor for more than one year. It shall be the duty of the pastor and the local church board to assist a preparatory member in qualifying for full membership. At the end of a year, the preparatory member must either qualify for full membership, being received into full membership as given in 226, or by vote of the local church board he shall be transferred to the associate membership list or be dropped from the roll, unless the local church board shall by vote extend the time. A transfer to the associate list will not require any further public confession.

3. Junior Membership

231. Those children and youth thirteen years of age and under, who have been saved from their sins, shall be received promptly after their conversion as junior members. The local church board, having provided for their examination concerning their Christian experience and their intention to develop toward spiritual maturity, may, if satisfied, receive them by majority vote. Junior members shall be formally received according to the manner given in 1628ff.
232. A junior member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 153). He may become a full member at any time he is qualified and received as given in 226. If a junior member has not qualified for full membership by his thirteenth birthday, every effort shall be made by the pastor and the local church board during the following year to prepare him for full membership. When he is fourteen, he must either become a full member, or by vote of the local church board he shall be transferred to the associate membership list. A transfer to the associate list will not require any further public confession.

4. Associate Membership

233. The category of associate membership shall be maintained by The Wesleyan Church to provide for those who have been born again but who do not choose to be full members. The local church board, having provided for the examination of such candidates concerning their Christian experience, their acceptance of the cardinal doctrines of the Church as stated in the Articles of Religion, and their intention to live so as to edify the Church, may, if satisfied, receive them by majority vote. Associate members shall be formally received according to the manner given in 1629ff. Transferring a preparatory or junior member to the associate list shall require only the vote of the local church board and not any additional public confession.

234. An associate member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 153). An associate member may become a full member at any time he is qualified and received as given in 226.

8. Reception of Members

238. Members may be received in any category of membership by confession of faith, or by letter.

239. Those who are received as full members after having been a preparatory, junior, or associate member, shall be considered as having joined or confessed of faith. The pastor and the local church board shall be responsible to provide membership training classes for all preparatory and junior members, and for such associate members as wish them, training them in the biblical doctrines and standards of the Church, acquainting them with the history and organization of The Wesleyan Church, and explaining to them the meaning of the vows and covenant of full membership (cf. 894:5).

240. Those who present letters of recommendation from other denominations shall be examined by the pastor and the local church board. If it is discovered that the person involved has indeed been previously converted and is fully committed to the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church, he may be received as by letter (cf. 1625). But if it is discovered that he has only now given his heart to Christ and is seeking after a full knowledge of the truth, he shall be encouraged to become a preparatory member by confession of faith, and to prepare for full membership like any other convert.

C. Transfer of Membership

243. When any full member, preparatory member, junior member, or associate member shall request a letter of transfer to another Wesleyan Church, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form as given in 1801-1803, providing the member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Both pastor and secretary shall sign the letter, and shall send it by registered or certified mail to the pastor and local church secretary of the church to which the member is transferring. The letter shall be presented to the local church board of the receiving church at its next session, but not later than thirty days from the date of issuance, and acted upon in the manner indicated in 244. When the member has been duly received, the second part of the form shall be completed by the receiving church and forwarded to the church.
granting the transfer. The date the return letter is received shall mark the expiration of membership in the church granting the letter, and in the official membership record the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member’s name the date and ‘Withdrawn by letter of transfer’.

244. The receiving church shall handle transfers as follows:
(1) Preparatory, junior, and associate members shall be received without action by the receiving local church board or local church conference.
(2) Full members shall be received, subject to the approving vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated this right to the local church board (152:5). The transfer of full membership may be questioned by the receiving church if it is evident that the person involved is not in a state of grace or is living in open violation of the Articles of Religion or the General Rules.
(3) The membership of a pastor, and of such members of his family as desire and have the proper credentials, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which he is appointed, or if the pastoral charge consists of more than one church, to the church of his choice.

245. A member of The Wesleyan Church transferring from one local church to another shall not be required to be involved in a public service of reception.

B. Termination of Membership

247. Full membership in The Wesleyan Church may be terminated only by one or more of the following (154):
(1) Voluntary withdrawal.
(2) Joining another religious body, or joining a secret order.
(3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction (157:8).
(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 253-254.
(5) Death.

248. Membership in The Wesleyan Church in the preparatory, junior, and associate categories may be terminated in any of the above ways or by simple majority vote of the local church board.

249. When any member requests a letter of recommendation to some other denomination, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1804, if the member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Such a person’s membership in the local church granting the letter shall cease immediately, and the secretary shall enter opposite the member’s name, the date and ‘Withdrawn by letter of recommendation’.

250. When any member requests a letter of withdrawal, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1805. The secretary shall enter on the record book (256), opposite the member’s name, the date the letter was granted and ‘Withdrawn by letter of withdrawal’. If the member’s withdrawal occurs during the course of a judicial investigation, the secretary shall note on the membership record, ‘Withdrawn under accusation’; and if withdrawal occurs during the course of a trial, ‘Withdrawn under charges’ (cf. 1563).

251. When any member joins another denomination, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a secret society, no trial is necessary to remove such a member. The pastor, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall report the same to the next session of the local church board, and upon the board’s order the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member’s name the date of the session and ‘Withdrawn through having joined another body’.

252. When any member moves away from the church of which he is a member, and it is evident that distance will not permit his full and regular participation in the life of the church, the pastor shall encourage him to transfer...
his membership to the Wesleyan church nearest his new residence. The pastor shall notify the Regional Secretary of Evangelism of the name and address of the member who has moved to where there is no Wesleyan church (837:15).

253. When any member moves away from the church of which he is a member, and does not leave a forwarding address, or fails to report his spiritual standing or to send his financial support, or to transfer his membership to the nearest Wesleyan church, after one year he may be dropped from the roll provided that every effort has been made to contact him and notify him of such an intention. His name shall be dropped upon the recommendation of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the local church board. The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote and 'Discontinued by vote'.

254. When any member fails to attend the services of his church for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the local church board, or to support his church financially as he is able, the pastor and local church board shall seek to restore him to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, his name may be dropped upon the recommendation of the local church board and the majority vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the local church board. The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote and 'Discontinued by vote for persistent neglect'.

E. Record of Membership

256. Each local church shall have a book of records maintained by the local church secretary, in which shall be recorded all the names of the members, the time when received and whether by profession of faith or by letter, the time and manner of termination of membership, whether by some manner of withdrawal, or by expulsion, removal for neglect, or death; and all baptisms, marriages, pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent record of the life and ministry of the local church. It is recommended that dual records of church membership be maintained, the one in a permanent binding with the members listed in chronological order as they have joined, and the other being a card file or loose-leaf record listing the members in alphabetical order.
Chapter III
LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

A. Composition and Function

261. The full members of a local church, duly called and assembled together to do business, constitute the local church conference. It is the highest governing body of a local Wesleyan church, and exercises those powers granted to the local church by the Constitution (160), and other powers specifically granted to the local church conference by the Regional Conference as set forth in The Discipline.

B. Sessions

263. Regular Sessions.
(1) Annual Sessions. The local church conference shall meet annually, near the close of the fiscal year, as established by the district conference, at least thirty days prior to the annual session of the district conference, at a time arranged by the district superintendent and the pastor and announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance. (cf. 267.) Reports shall be made by all the officers and departments of the church; the officers, local church board, trustees, and delegates to the district conference shall be elected; and such other business shall be transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

(2) Quarterly Sessions. The local church conference may choose to meet quarterly at such times as the district superintendent and pastor shall arrange, unless the district superintendent shall delegate full authority for setting such dates to the pastor in writing. Such quarterly sessions shall be announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time. One of the quarterly sessions shall coincide with the annual session described in 263:1, at which time the elections shall be held. At the other three sessions, reports shall be given and other business transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

265. Special Session.
(1) General Business. The local church conference may be called into special session by the pastor, or in times of emergency by the district superintendent, for the transaction of any business other than the election of officers, with announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be given not less than one week before the appointed time. Notice shall be given one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available.

(2) Reception of Members. In those churches in which the local church conference must vote on the reception of full members (152:5), the pastor may call a special session for such a vote, with announcement from the pulpit in one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

266. Jurisdiction in Pastoral Voting. All matters related to voting on securing or retaining a pastor, shall be the concern of the district board of administration in consultation with the local church board of a provisional church. Consultation shall be with the local church conference of an established church (274:2).

C. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

267. Chairman. The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the local church conference whenever present. In their absence, the pastor shall preside, except over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor. The vice-chairman of the local church board (310) shall preside over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor, if the district superintendent or his representative is not present, and
LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

may preside, at the pastor's option, over sessions or portions of sessions dealing with salary schedules which affect the pastor. In emergencies, when the pastor is absent or incapacitated, the vice-chairman may preside over other sessions with the written permission of the district superintendent.

268. Secretary. The local church secretary, elected annually by the local church conference, shall serve as secretary of the local church conference by virtue of his office (337:1).

2. Procedure

269. Quorum. Those full members which assemble for a meeting of the local church conference when such has been duly called shall constitute a quorum.

270. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting in the local church conference shall be sufficient in all items of business unless otherwise required by The Discipline or by local laws when dealing with legal matters.

271. Rules of Order. The business of the local church conference shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, except when formally suspended or otherwise ordered by The Discipline.

272. Order of Business. The local church conference, in all regular sessions, whether annual or quarterly, shall give special attention to the spiritual, numerical, and financial progress of the church, including the following items:

(1) Reading of minutes of last session.
(2) Receiving the reports of the pastor(s), Sunday school superintendent, president of Wesleyan Men, president of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, director of Young Missionary Workers' Band, president of Wesleyan Youth, director of Junior Youth, and any others the local church conference shall order.
(3) Receiving the reports of the various treasurers (cf. 353).
(4) Receiving and acting upon the reports of boards and committees.
(5) Receiving the reports of the local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses.
(6) Granting or renewing of local licenses for preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses.
(7) Recommending suitable local licentiates and special workers to the district conference for study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing, and for district licenses.
(8) Electing of officers, trustees, and delegates (at annual sessions only).
(9) Miscellaneous business.

D. Duties and Powers

274. The local church conference has duties and powers:

(1) To approve by vote the reception of full members and to expel or to discontinue full members unless it delegates full authority concerning membership to the local church board (152:5; 160:1). Such authority may be withdrawn from the local church board at any annual session of the local church conference.
(2) In the case of an established church, to call or recall a pastor (160:2; 279:1; 296), or to terminate a recall (292:2-3).
(3) To authorize a nominating committee, which shall be chaired by the pastor, to which the local church board shall elect three members, and to which the local church conference may, at its option, elect three additional members (331-332).
(4) To elect the church officers, which shall consist of the lay leader (if any), the local church secretary, the local church treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, the trustees, the members at large of the local church board, and the lay delegates to the district conference (160:5-7).
(5) To receive reports from the pastor(s), church officers, local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, and other persons, boards, and committees as desired, and as listed in 272:2-5.

(6) To remove, when such is in the best interests of the church, by a majority vote of those present and voting, any church officer, trustee, or delegate mentioned in 274:4. (Cf. 316:25.)

(7) To license local preachers and exhorters (160:3), and deaconesses, and to renew or revoke such licenses. (Cf. 316:19; 1106; 1107; 1109:2; 1182.)

(8) To recommend local licentiates and special workers to the district conference for study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (537:2), and for district license (160:4). (Cf. 316:20.)

(9) To adopt petitions or resolutions to the district conference, including memorials proposed for recommendation to the Regional Conference (462-464).

(10) To adopt financial policies, which policies shall be administered by the local church board (cf. 316:29).

(11) To authorize the enlargement or decrease of the employed staff (cf. 316:16).

(12) To adopt an annual budget (cf. 316:30), and to authorize all expenditures not provided for in the annual budget.

(13) To recommend to the district board of administration where applicable the purchase or sale of property, the erection or major remodeling of buildings, and all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, according to the procedure set forth in 1401-1408.

(14) To authorize, subject to the approval of the district board of administration, the establishment and operation of a preaching point (cf. 203; 316:5; 486:25), a branch Sunday school, or a pioneer church, in order to share the benefits of the gospel with others.

(15) To adopt an annual calendar of events (cf. 316:6).

(16) To delegate such responsibilities as it shall choose to the local church board.

(17) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other local, or district, or regional units or agencies of the denomination (160:7; 1525:4; 1543).
Chapter IV
PASTORS

A. Function

276. The pastor is an elder or a licensed minister, who is called of God and appointed by the church to serve as the spiritual shepherd and administrative overseer of the local church, preaching the Word, directing the worship, administering the sacraments and ordinances of the Church, taking the comforts of the gospel to the sin-burdened, the sick, and the distressed, and serving as chief executive officer in the government of the local church.

B. Manner of Pastoral Voting

1. Jurisdiction in Pastoral Voting

278. In an established church all matters related to voting on securing or retaining a pastor are the concern of the church in consultation with the district board of administration. In a provisional or pioneer church responsibility for pastoral appointments rests with the district board of administration in consultation with the local church board (266, 274:2, 281).

2. Regulations for All Pastoral Voting

279. Procedure for Pastoral Voting. In all matters related to voting on securing or retaining a pastor, the following regulations shall be observed:

1. All pastoral votes shall be taken at a duly announced session of the local church conference (263-265).
2. The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the local church conference for the taking of the pastoral vote. If neither can be present, the vice-chairman of the local church board (310) shall preside.
3. All pastoral votes shall be taken by secret ballot.
4. A favorable vote by a majority of the local church conference present and voting shall constitute a call, recall, or vote of confidence, as the case may be.
5. The minister shall be notified in writing by the local church secretary of the results of the vote, and, if the vote is favorable, of the support (including salary, expense allowances, housing, fringe benefits, moving expenses) and related matters which the church proposes to maintain.
6. If the vote is favorable, the minister shall notify the local church board and the district superintendent in writing of his decision within two weeks.

281. District Approval of Pastoral Agreement. In the case of a provisional church, pastoral appointment shall be arranged by the district board of administration in consultation with the local church board (266). In the case of an established church, a pastoral agreement, whether for an initial call or renewal of call, must be reviewed and recommended by the district board of administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the district conference. Each year the district board of administration shall review those pastoral agreements which are continuing before making its report to the district conference (278; 473:27; 486:a).

282. Time of Pastoral Changes. Except for such emergencies as resignations, removals, or deaths, pastoral changes shall take place at the close of the session of the district conference or at such time as the district conference shall designate.

283. Annual Review of Pastoral Support. The pastor's financial support and related matters shall be reviewed annually by the local church board prior to the annual session of the local church conference, whether or not a vote is being taken on the securing or retaining of a pastor. A report
of the final action, whether by the local church board or by the local church conference, shall be sent by the local church secretary in writing to both the pastor (or pastor-elect), (cf. 279:5) and the district superintendent.

3. Regulations for Initial Call of Pastor

284. Procedure for Initial Call of Pastor. Whenever it is necessary for a pastoral charge to secure a new pastor, the following regulations shall be observed:

(1) The vote shall be for a one-year call, subject to such adjustment as the district superintendent shall approve, so that the term shall expire at the uniform time set by the district conference (282).

(2) In an established church, the local church board, under the leadership of its vice-chairman, shall counsel with the district superintendent concerning possible candidates. If the church desires to call a minister from another district, the local church board shall first secure from its own district superintendent and regional superintendent assurance that his transfer would be approved. (cf. 157:6.) When a candidate has been approved by a majority vote of the local church board, his name shall be presented as a nomination to the local church conference, and the vote shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (279).

(3) In a provisional or pioneer church, pastoral appointments are made by the district board of administration in consultation with the local church board and as approved by the district conference (205:1; 266).

285. Waiver of Local Church Rights. If a pastoral charge has been unable to secure a pastor prior to thirty days before the annual session of the district conference, the local church conference may, at any time thereafter, by majority vote, delegate full authority for the employment of a pastor to the local church board, or it may waive its rights and leave the selection of a pastor to the nomination of the district board of administration and appointment by the district conference. If a pastoral charge waives its rights, or if neither local church conference nor local church board shall have secured a pastor by the time the annual session of the district conference convenes, the district board of administration shall nominate a pastor, for appointment by the district conference. A pastor so appointed shall be received and supported by the pastoral charge the same as if he had been employed in the usual manner.

286. First-Year Resignations. If a pastor resigns during his first year of service to a church, he must notify the local church board and the district superintendent sixty days in advance. If the district superintendent and the local church board deem it wise, he may be released sooner.

287. First-Year Removal. If during the first year of a pastor's service, a meeting of the local church board presided over by the district superintendent shall request by a two-thirds majority vote, or if, upon the recommendation of the district superintendent, the district board of administration deems it in the best interests of the work, the district board of administration may remove a pastor by a two-thirds majority vote.

288. Ad Interim Procedures. If a church is left without a pastor between sessions of the district conference due to death, resignation, or removal, the district board of administration shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the conference year.

4. Regulations for Renewal of Call

290. Procedure for Renewal of Call of a Pastor. Whenever the term of service of the pastor of an established church is expiring, the matter of a recall shall be governed by the following regulations:

(1) Unless the pastor whose term of service is expiring shall give notice
otherwise to the vice-chairman of the local church board (310) and the district superintendent, in writing and at least sixty days prior to the convening of the district conference, he shall be considered as available for renewal of call, and a vote on recall shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (279).

(2) Prior to the vote on renewal of the call, the local church board shall recommend and the local church conference shall determine by majority vote whether the recall shall be for two years, or for four years.

292. Termination of Renewed Call. The service of a pastor ministering under recall may be terminated prior to the expiration of his term in one of three ways:

(1) The pastor may resign, provided that such abrogation of his prior agreement be first approved by the district board of administration. Except as otherwise mutually agreed upon by the local church board and the district board of administration, notification of the pastor's resignation shall be given at least ninety days in advance and the resignation shall become effective at the time set by the district for pastoral changes (282).

(2) If one-third of the members of the local church board so request the district superintendent in writing, he or his representative shall call and preside over a special session of the local church board for the purpose of deciding on whether to call for a pastoral vote of confidence by the local church conference. If the local church board by majority vote calls for the taking of such a pastoral vote, and the district board of administration approves the taking of the same, it shall be taken in keeping with 279. If there is a majority vote of the local church conference in favor of retaining the pastor, and he agrees to remain, he shall be free to continue as if the vote had not been taken. If less than a majority are favorable to retaining the pastor, his service shall be terminated at a time set by the district for pastoral changes (282) or at a time mutually agreed upon by the pastor, the local church board, and the district superintendent.

(3) The district board of administration may, by a majority vote, order the district superintendent to conduct a pastoral vote of confidence in keeping with 279. Or the district board of administration, upon the recommendation of the district superintendent (511:19), and for the sake of the pastoral charge involved, may remove the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote (486:32), with his services terminating in ninety days unless ordered otherwise by the district board of administration. If at any time the district board of administration shall deem it in the interests of the district as a whole that the pastor be free to serve elsewhere, it may by majority vote request him to resign.

C. Duties and Powers

294. The pastor shall administer the spiritual and temporal affairs of the work under his care in keeping with The Discipline and other general and district regulations, and shall be responsible:

General

(1) To devote himself diligently to the study of the Scriptures, to prayer, and to the work assigned to him.

(2) To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of believers, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith.

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

(4) To feed the flock by reading, expounding, teaching, and preaching the Word.

(5) To have the general guidance, under the Holy Spirit, of the religious services, including the midweek service, cultivating the practice of corporate worship.

(6) To administer, if an elder (157:1) or licensed minister (114:1), the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each pastor shall provide for
the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once every three months. A supply pastor shall secure the services of an elder, or of a licensed minister who is a pastor, for such observance.

(7) To solemnize, if an elder (157:1) or a licensed minister (1113:1), the rite of matrimony, in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline (131:17; 1130); to counsel with those being married and those already married, emphasizing the spiritual values in all phases of marital and parental life, seeking to develop the spiritual ideals and resources necessary to build permanent unions and godly homes.

(8) To comfort the bereaved and to bury the dead.

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

(10) To read and explain the General Rules (130-132) at least once a year, and to enforce vigorously but calmly all the rules of The Wesleyan Church.

(11) To be responsible for the instruction of all prospective members in the doctrines and polity of The Wesleyan Church, and in the meaning and purpose of church membership, holding or arranging for membership classes for preparatory and junior members that they might be adequately prepared for full membership (cf. 239-240; 316:7; 363:11; 894:9).

(12) To administer the ritual of membership and to give the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church to new members (226:3; 1621-1633).

(13) To report the names and addresses of members who have moved away to the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (252; 837:15).

(14) To grant, in conjunction with the local church secretary, letters of transfer, recommendation, or withdrawal (243; 249; 256; 1801-1805).

(15) To receive any complaint or accusation against any member of a church under his care, and to give such his prompt and careful attention as required under the Judiciary (1515:1, 4; 1552), and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the local church board for disposition (316:11).

Administrative

(16) To preside as chairman of the local church conference and the local church board except as otherwise provided (267; 309-310), and to oversee and direct all departments and local church organizations as the chief executive officer.

(17) To serve as a voting member of boards and committees established by the local church board, and to meet with all boards and committees as time will permit.

(18) To meet with Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth and any of their committees as he deems best and to call a special meeting of a society or any of its committees; to serve as an ex officio member of the executive committees of the auxiliaries (1223), and as chairman of the nominating committees of the auxiliaries (1227:5).

(19) To give leadership to the missionary, evangelistic, educational, and devotional programs of the local church in harmony with objectives and programs of the districts and the general church.

(20) To promote all the interests of the general church and the district on his charge, in the manner and to the extent authorized by the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the district conference, and the district board of administration.

(21) To instruct his people concerning the financial plans of the regional church and of the district, and to see, together with the local church board, that their obligations are met in full; and to protect his church from solicitations not authorized by the regional church or the district.

(22) To promote stewardship, emphasizing tithing and the storehouse plan as a part of the Christian's total stewardship (cf. 195-198), and to see that tithes and freewill offerings are collected regularly.

(23) To see that trustees are elected and all church property properly secured according to The Discipline and the local laws, with all legal papers submitted to the district superintendent for approval.
To see that no steps are taken involving a church under his care in financial liability without proper authorization from the local church board and local church conference, or without the approval of the district board of administration when such financial liability involves the mortgaging or other encumbering of the church property (274:12-13; 316:30-31; 486:28).

To see that all property and building transactions are carried out as set forth in 140:1408.

To circulate holiness literature, promoting all subscription campaigns for official regional church periodicals, setting a proper example with his own subscriptions; and to use in all educational departments and agencies curriculum materials provided by The Wesleyan Church.

To have general supervision of the educational program of the local church, organizing classes for the instruction of adults, youth, and children in the Word of God and for Christian living, attending all sessions possible, promoting the faithful attendance of his members, and providing for the instruction and inspiration of the leaders in educational work.

To enlist youth for the gospel ministry, and for missionary, deaconess, and other special work, encouraging and helping them to prepare for their God-appointed task at educational institutions provided by The Wesleyan Church; to sign, in conjunction with the local church secretary (337:3), licenses for local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, granted by the local church conference (274:7; 316:19); and to have the oversight over all local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, employing their services as constantly and effectively as possible.

To approve the designation of an associate pastor (296); to nominate to the local church board an assistant pastor (297) or a lay assistant to the pastor (299); to nominate to the local church board all members of the employed office staff; and to supervise, in conjunction with the local church board, the services of all employed staff members, including the custodians.

To see that up-to-date files are kept on the church constituency, membership, Sunday school enrollment, membership of subsidiary organizations, and subscriptions to the various regional church and district publications, and to be ready to turn over such lists to his successor (cf. 256; 337:2,5; 370; 388; 1228:4).

To see that adequate historical records and financial records are maintained for the church (cf. 256; 345:2,6; 371; 1228:5).

To see that all necessary data are collected for the various statistical and financial reports, and to present reports to the local church board monthly, to the local church conference at its regular sessions, to the district superintendent quarterly and as requested, to the district conference annually on forms approved by the Regional Board of Administration, and to various regional church or district departmental officers as required.

To attend district conference sessions, institutes, and conventions planned for his edification by the regional conference or the district, and to participate in the life and work of the district and region as opportunity affords.

D. Associate and Assistant Pastors

296. Associate Pastor. If two ministers are appointed to one pastoral charge, whether a husband and wife or other co-laborers, one shall be designated as the pastor and the other as the associate pastor. Or if a local church calls a minister to assist its pastor, and the minister being called has training, experience, and ministerial standing comparable to those of the pastor, it may choose to call him as an associate pastor and ask the district conference to appoint him as such. An associate pastor shall be called and recalled in the same manner as a pastor (278-292, 254:29), and shall assist the pastor in carrying out his duties as the pastor and the local church board shall determine.

297. Assistant Pastor. A local church may employ such ministers as assistant pastors as are necessary and as it can properly support. The employment of an assistant pastor shall be authorized by the local church conference.
and the selection shall be made and the terms of work determined, upon the recommendation of the pastor, by the local church board. The agreement of the local church with the assistant pastor, like all pastoral agreements, is subject to the review and recommendation of the district board of administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the district conference (281).

An assistant pastor shall not be employed for more than one year at a time, and may be reemployed upon the renewed recommendation of the pastor, the majority vote of the local church board, and the approval of the district conference.

298. Duties of an Assistant Pastor. An assistant pastor shall assist the pastor in carrying out his duties as the pastor and the local church board shall determine. He may be called assistant pastor, or bear a title descriptive of his major field of service, such as minister of Christian education, minister of music, or minister of visitation.

299. Lay Assistant. Laymen may also serve as paid assistants. The employment of such a lay assistant to the pastor shall be authorized by the local church conference, and the selection shall be made and the terms of work determined, upon the recommendation of the pastor, by the local church board. Employment shall be for one year at a time. The lay assistant shall bear such a title as director of Christian education, director of music, or director of youth ministries.
Chapter V
LOCAL CHURCH BOARD
A. Function

301. The local church board carries out the will of the local church conference, serving as the chief governing and coordinating body of the local church in the interim of local church conference sessions.

B. Membership

303. The local church board consists of the pastor as chairman, the associate pastor (except when the pastor's spouse), the church secretary, the church treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, and at least one member of the board of trustees designated by the local church conference (348). In addition, the local church conference may elect up to ten members at large to provide for proper representation within larger congregations, and may designate its assistant pastor and lay leader as members of the local church board.

304. It is recommended that no two persons of the same household be elected to serve on the same local church board, and that no person shall be elected to more than one office carrying ex officio membership on the board.

C. Sessions

306. Regular Sessions. The local church board shall meet monthly at such time and place as it shall choose.

307. Special Sessions. The local church board may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the pastor, the vice-chairman (for sessions dealing with the call or renewal of call of a pastor or with his financial support and related matters), or in times of emergency by the district superintendent or his representative. A special session may be held without previous announcement, if all members of the local church board are present. Otherwise, each shall have been notified either personally or by a notice mailed to his residence at least forty-eight hours prior to the convening of the session. A special session may not be conducted in the absence of the pastor except as provided for in 310.

D. Organization and Procedure

I. Officers

309. Chairman. The pastor shall be chairman of the local church board, ex officio, presiding over all sessions except as noted in 310.

310. Vice-chairman. The local church board shall elect one of its members as vice-chairman. The vice-chairman may preside over meetings of the local church board when the pastor's support or the calling or renewal of the call of a pastor is under discussion (for exceptions, cf. 287; 292:2). He may also preside over sessions or portions of sessions of the local church conference dealing with the pastor's support, call, or renewal of call, when neither the district superintendent nor his representative is present (267; 279:2). He may preside over sessions of the local church board or of the local church conference in times of emergency when the pastor is absent or incapacitated, with the written permission of the district superintendent. The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over all sessions of the local church board considering the termination of a pastoral agreement (287; 292:2), and in times of emergency.

311. Secretary. The local church secretary shall be secretary of the local church board, ex officio (337:1). If he is absent, the local church board may elect a secretary pro tem.
LOCAL CHURCH BOARD

2. Procedure

313. Quorum. A majority of the members of the local church board shall constitute a quorum.

314. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient in all items of business except when voting on the reception of a full member against whom an objection has been made, which shall require a three-fourths majority vote of those present and voting (152:5; 316:8); and when petitioning the district board of administration to remove a pastor during his first year of service, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (287; 316:13).

E. Duties and Powers

316. The local church board shall administer the affairs of the church in keeping with The Discipline, other regional and district regulations, and the directions of the local church conference, and shall be responsible:

General

(1) To direct all activities of the church toward the spiritual, moral, and social maturity of its people.
(2) To provide a place of worship.
(3) To counsel with the pastor, as he may request, concerning all phases of his work, and to direct and coordinate the work of all the officers, boards, committees, and societies of the church.
(4) To receive and consider reports from the pastor (294:32), associate and assistant pastor(s), church treasurer (345:3), Sunday school treasurer (371), treasurer of Wesleyan Men (1228:5b), treasurer of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization (1228:5b), and treasurer of Wesleyan Youth (1228:5b); quarterly reports from Sunday school superintendent (368:7); and reports as the local church board shall require from all officers, boards, committees, societies, and society officers. (Cf. 1108:3.)
(5) To direct the church in its evangelistic outreach, seeking to win its community to Christ; to establish an extension department of the Sunday school (378); to recommend to the local church conference the establishment and operation of a preaching point, a branch Sunday school, or a pioneer church, as it deems necessary and proper (cf. 274:14).
(6) To recommend to the local church conference an annual calendar of events (cf. 274:15).

Membership

(7) To provide for the examination of all candidates for church membership, which may be done by delegating the actual examination to a committee on witness and membership (342-343); and to assist the pastor in providing church membership classes (239-240; 294:11; 363:11; 894:5).
(8) To make recommendations concerning the reception of full members to the local church conference, unless full authority concerning such reception has been delegated by the local church conference to the local church board (152:5; 274:1); and when such authority has been delegated, to authorize the reception of full members by a majority vote, except that when an objection is raised against the reception of a member it shall require a three-fourths majority vote of those present and voting to receive (152:5; 226:2; 314).
(9) To approve, by its own authority, the reception of preparatory, junior, and associate members; to transfer preparatory or junior members to the associate relation; or to drop preparatory, junior, or associate members from the roll (259-256).
(10) To examine the church membership roll annually, and to provide for its revision according to the provisions of The Discipline (226-256; cf. 274:1).
(11) To consider all accusations and charges against members of the local church (cf. 1511), and to appoint a committee of investigation and a local...
LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

judicial committee is provided for in the Judiciary (1515:1; 1517; 1558; cf. 1518; 1525:1).

(12) To instruct the church secretary concerning the removal of the name of a member who has joined another religious body or secret society (251); to recommend to the local church conference that it may remove from the roll by majority vote the name of a member who has moved away and neither transferred his membership to the nearest Wesleyan church nor maintained contact with and support of his former church (253) and that it remove by majority vote the name of a member who has failed to attend or support his church for one year without proper reason (254), unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibilities in such matters to the local church board (274:1).

Pastors, Staff, and Licensed Workers

(13) In the case of an established church, to nominate pastor and associate pastor to the local church conference (264:2-3; 296); to assume full responsibility for securing a pastor when such is delegated by the local church conference (285); and to recommend to the district board of administration by two-thirds majority vote the termination of a pastoral agreement if such becomes necessary during the first year of a pastor's service (287).

(14) In the case of an established church, to recommend to the local church conference the length of a pastoral renewal or call (290:2); to meet, at the request of one-third of its members and under the chairmanship of the district superintendent or his representative, to consider the possibility of ordering a pastoral vote of confidence before the expiration of a recall period, and to call for such a vote by a majority vote (292:2).

(15) To review annually the pastor's support and related matters (283).

(16) To recommend to the local church conference the number of employed staff positions, including office secretary and assistant pastor(s) (274:11); to employ persons for all such staff positions as have been authorized by the local church conference, subject to the pastor's nominations for office employees and assistant pastors; to define the duties and working conditions of such employees; and to assist the pastor in the supervision of all employed staff members.

(17) To employ evangelists, evangelistic singers, and other special workers as needed (cf. 511:21).

(18) To provide, in cooperation with the pastor, for the supply of the pulpit during the pastor's absence; and to provide, in cooperation with the district superintendent, for the supply of the pulpit during temporary vacancies.

(19) To recommend to the local church conference the licensing, and the renewing or revoking of licenses, of local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses (cf. 274:7; 1108:3; 1182).

(20) To recommend preachers, deaconesses, and special workers to the local church conference for their approval and recommendation to the district conference for their appointment to the district board of ministerial standing, and for district license (274:8).

Officers, Boards, Committees, and Societies

(21) To elect, when so authorized by the local church conference (274:3), three members of a nominating committee to serve as set forth in 331-332.

(22) To elect annually at such time as it shall determine, an auditing committee (363); all Sunday school officers except the superintendent, and all departmental supervisors and teachers (369-372; 374); one or more offering tellers (346:2); and such of the following as are needed and can be supplied: musicians (386), Junior Youth director (383), local educational secretary (386), literature secretary (388), local secretary of evangelism (390), adult youth counselor (1227:1), and other special assignments.

(23) To act upon each local society's nominating committee's report of nominees for president of the society by approving, substituting, or adding to the nominations prior to the presentation of the nominees to the annual
business meeting of the society; to ratify the election of all other officers of the societies; and to review and pass upon their actions (1227:7; 1228:6).

(24) To organize and elect such boards and committees it deems necessary to the proper organization of the church, such as the committee on witness and membership (342-343), committee on finance and stewardship (355-356), music committee (358-359), ushering committee (359), communion committee (359), board of Christian education (361-363), and committee on evangelism (395-396); and to receive and evaluate their recommendations, including their appointment of subcommittees.

(25) To recommend to the local church conference the removal from office of any church officer, trustee, or delegate (160:5; 274:4,6), and to remove by majority vote of the local church board all who fill other positions (334:4), and officers of societies (1227:7).

(26) To fill all vacancies occurring in those offices elected by the local church conference, in the interim of its annual sessions, and all vacancies occurring in offices elected by the local church board; and to provide for the filling of vacancies in the societies as it deems best (1227:7).

Property and Finance

(27) To direct the local board of trustees in the maintenance of church property and the attending to all legal matters connected with the church, in keeping with the requirements of local laws (1403), and The Discipline (348-351; 1401-1408).

(28) To direct the local board of trustees to secure sufficient property and liability insurance to cover all buildings, and vehicles owned and operated by the local church (350:5).

(29) To recommend to the local church conference financial policies, and to administer such as are adopted (cf. 274:10). The local church board shall review all plans of support annually, adjusting salaries as advisable, recommending changes in the financial policies as necessary.

(30) To recommend an annual budget to the local church conference, to assist the pastor in securing the money necessary to fund the adopted budget, and to authorize expenditures within the limits of the adopted budget (274:12; cf. 355-356).

(31) To recommend to the local church conference: all major expenditures or investments; the purchase or sale of property, the erection or remodeling of buildings, all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, and major items of equipment (274:13; 1401-1408); and other expenditures not provided for in the annual budget (274:12).

(32) To implement all general church and district plans which apply to the local church, and to see that the local church raises its assigned portion of the Regional Budget, supports all other regional church financial campaigns and offerings, and raises the amount assigned to it by the district conference for the Support of the District work.

(33) To open the doors of the local church to properly authorized representatives of the regional church, the regional educational institutions of the area, and the district, for the presentation of their interests, and for the receiving of offerings in keeping with the approved financial plan.

F. Pastor's Advisory Committee

318. In larger congregations, when the local church board has more than ten members, the local church conference may establish a pastor's advisory committee consisting of the lay leader, the vice-chairman of the board, the church secretary, the church treasurer, the chairman of the board of trustees, and the Sunday school superintendent. This committee shall have no authority for final action in any matter except to render opinions on such questions as the pastor shall refer to them.
Chapter VI

LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of Local Church Officers, Boards, and Committees

321. The following summarizes for quick reference the various officers, boards, and committees of the local church.

1. The church shall have:
   - auditing committee (353)
   - church board (301-316)
   - church secretary (337)
   - church treasurer (345)
   - delegate to district conference (398; 437-446)
   - educational secretary (386)
   - offering teller (346:2)
   - pastor (276-294)
   - Sunday school superintendent, staff, and committee (368-375)
   - trustees (348-351)
   - vice-chairmen of local church board (310)

2. The church may have:
   - advisory committee (318)
   - assistant treasurer (346:1)
   - associate or assistant pastor (296-299)
   - building committee (350:4)
   - Christian education board (361-363)
   - communion committee (359)
   - fellowship committee (363:16)
   - finance and stewardship committee (355-356)
   - judicial committee (399, 1517)
   - Junior Youth director, staff, and committee (383)
   - lay leader (339)
   - literature secretary (388)
   - evangelism secretary and committee (390, 395-396)
   - Musicians and music committee (358-359)
   - nominating committee (331-332)
   - office staff (294:29; 316:16)
   - ushering committee (359)
   - witness and membership committee (342-343)

3. The church may have the following society officers and committees:
   - Wesleyan Men officers and committees (1227:1, 2)
   - Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization officers and committees (1227:1, 2)
   - Wesleyan Youth officers and committees (1227:1, 2)
   - Young Missionary Workers' Band director (1227:1, 2)

B. General Regulations

1. Minimum Organization

324. Preaching Point. A preaching point (203) shall have no local boards, officers, or committees except such as are appointed by the pastor, are amenable to him, and can be replaced at his discretion.

325. Pioneer Church. A pioneer church may also operate without any regularly constituted officers other than the pastor, but will ordinarily have a secretary-treasurer and Sunday school superintendent appointed by the district superintendent in cooperation with the pastor. The pastor and these two offi-
LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

334. Persons holding positions of service within the local church, other than those specifically designated as church officers in 330, and including membership on committees, shall be governed by the following regulations:

(1) They shall be full members of the local Wesleyan church electing them in those instances in which The Discipline requires it.

(2) They shall be elected annually by the local church board (316:22,24), or as otherwise provided (cf. 363:7).

(3) They shall carry out their duties as given in The Discipline and as further defined by the local church conference and local church board.

(4) They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor, shall be
amenable to the local church board, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, by a majority vote of the local church board.

(5) Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (334:4), and shall be filled for the unexpired term by the local church board.

5. Installation Service

335. Those elected to church offices and to other positions of service within the local church should be installed in office at an annual installation service following the ritual given in 1768.

C. Witness and Membership

1. Church Secretary

337. The local church conference, at its annual session, shall elect by ballot, from among its full members, a church secretary (cf. 331-332), to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. He shall be an ex officio member of the local church board (303). General regulations covering this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the local church secretary shall be:

(1) To record correctly and to preserve faithfully the minutes of all sessions of the local church conference and the local church board.

(2) To maintain the local church's book of records, containing the membershchip roll, record of baptisms, marriages, and pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent record of the life and ministry of the church (256).

(3) To issue, in conjunction with the pastor, all letters of transfer, recommendation, and withdrawal (243; 249-250; 1804-1805); and to sign, in conjunction with the pastor (294:28), licenses for local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, granted by the local church conference (274:7; 316:19).

(4) To send to the district secretary a certified list of lay delegates to the district conference duly elected by the local church conference, immediately upon their election, and subsequently to certify an alternate delegate (cf. 396; 443-445).

(5) To have custody of all record books of all departments of the church, including auxiliary organizations, after such books are full or in disuse, and to take whatever steps are necessary to preserve them and other historical records and materials, as directed by the pastor and the local church board.

2. Lay Leader

339. The local church conference, at its annual session, may elect by ballot, from among its full members a lay leader (cf. 331-332), who shall serve for one year or until his successor is elected, and whose function shall be to assist the pastor in such manner as the pastor shall recommend and the local church conference shall approve. General regulations concerning this office are given in 330. The duties of the lay leader may include any or all of the following: member ex officio of the local church board (303), leader under the pastor's direction of church prayer meetings or of small groups, classes, or neighborhood prayer cells for the deepening of spiritual life and home evangelism.

3. Committee on Witness and Membership

342. The local church board may establish a committee on witness and membership, composed of the pastor, the local church secretary, the lay leader (if any), the president of Wesleyan Men, and such other members as the local church board shall elect. The local church board shall name a board member
as chairman of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-
chairman and secretary. General regulations governing membership on this
committee are given in 334.

346. The local church board shall assign such duties to the committee on
witness and membership as it deems best, including any or all of the follow-
ing:
(1) To conduct the examination of candidates for membership; to have ini-
tial responsibility in the annual revision of the membership roll; to assist
the pastor in his attempts to restore members who have ceased to attend or
support the church; and to make recommendations concerning all these matters
to the local church board (316:7-12).
(2) To organize the calling and visitation program of the local church.
(3) To make recommendations to the local church board concerning revivals
and other evangelistic efforts.
(4) To alert the local church to its responsibilities in the area of com-
munity, social, and political reform, recommending courses of action it deems
necessary to the local church board (cf. 317:1-9).
(5) To nominate, for election by the local church board, such standing or
special subcommittees as the local church board shall approve, with a member
of the committee as chairman of each.

D. Finance and Stewardship

1. Church Treasurer

345. The local church conference, at its annual election, shall elect by
ballet from among its full members, a church treasurer (cf. 331-332), to
serve for one year or until his successor is elected. He shall be an ex offi-
cio member of the local church board (322). General regulations covering
this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the local church
treasurer shall be:
(1) To receive, hold, and disburse, as ordered by the local church confer-
ence or the local church board, and in harmony with the financial plans of
the regional church and of the district, all moneys of the local church, in-
cluding such of the departments and auxiliary organizations as the local
church board shall order. All funds raised by the local departments, either
than the societies, for regional church or district work, or for purposes
other than local church work, and all moneys or pledges raised by representa-
tives of the regional church or district in deputational work, shall be trans-
ferred to or placed in the local church treasury and shall be disbursed for
their designated purpose by the local church treasurer.
(2) To keep complete and accurate records of all moneys raised and of the
manner in which they are disbursed, and to provide the pastor with informa-
tion concerning the same as the pastor shall require.
(3) To make monthly reports to the local church board, which may be dupli-
cated and distributed to the members of the church, and to make reports to
all regular sessions of the local church conference.
(4) To make monthly remittance of all regional and district funds to the
district treasurer.
(5) To issue receipts annually to all regular contributors showing their
total gifts and offerings and the various gifts and the various items of giving, and to issue
other receipts as requested or by order of the local church board.
(6) To submit his books for audit by the auditing committee annually (353),
or more frequently if so ordered by the local church board, and to submit to
the local church board the complete treasurer's records at such time as he
shall cease to hold the office of treasurer.

346. Assistants for the local church treasurer shall be provided for as
follows:
(1) An assistant treasurer may be elected by the local church conference,
with authority to sign checks when the treasurer is unable to do so.
(2) One or more tellers shall be elected by the local church board to assist the treasurer in the counting of all tithes and offerings, all moneys being counted by two or more persons and recorded as to date of reception, purpose of the offering, and amount. These records shall be preserved and made available to the auditing committee.

2. Board of Trustees

348. Election. The local church conference shall elect by ballot from among its members a board of trustees (cf. 331-332), three to seven in number, one or more being elected at a given annual session for a term of three years, so that the terms of all shall not expire at the same time, or they may be elected to serve until their successors are elected; provided that the manner and conditions of election may be altered to conform to the local laws. At least one of the trustees shall be designated annually by the local church conference as a member of the local church board (303). General regulations covering this office are given in 336.

349. Organization and Procedure. The board of trustees shall meet following the annual session of the local church conference to elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, and shall meet at such other times as ordered by the local church board or as made necessary by their duties.

350. Duties and Powers. The local board of trustees shall carry out their duties as required by The Discipline (cf. 1401-1408) and shall be responsible:

(1) To carry out the instructions of the local church conference and the local church board in supervising, controlling, maintaining, and improving all church property (274:13; 316:27).

(2) To supervise such expenditures as have been approved by the local church conference or the local church board for repairs, improvements, and alterations.

(3) To attend to all legal matters pertaining to the local church, as authorized and directed by the local church conference or the local church board, including renting property, borrowing money, and receiving and administering bequests and trusts.

(4) To serve, unless the local church conference shall order a larger separate committee, as a building committee for the planning and erection of a new sanctuary, educational unit, or parsonage, or a major remodeling program, and to assist the pastor in preparing and submitting all building plans to the district building committee for their approval (523).

(5) To make recommendations to the local church board concerning sufficient property and liability insurance on the property and for any vehicles owned and operated by the local church, and to carry out the instructions of the local church board in securing such insurance (316:28).

(6) To make such reports as are requested by the local church conference or the local church board.

351. Restrictions. The local board of trustees shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(1) The local board of trustees must carry out the instructions of the local church board, the local church conference, and the district board of administration. If a local trustee refuses to carry out such instructions when the instructions meet all the requirements of local laws and of The Discipline, he may be removed from office as given in 330:4 (cf. 1406).

(2) The local board of trustees cannot deny the use of the parsonage, church building, or other local church buildings, to the pastor who has been duly appointed by the district conference or district board of administration, nor the use of the church building to the membership of the local church and duly elected officials of The Wesleyan Church.

(3) The local board of trustees cannot divert church property from The Wesleyan Church (1408).

(4) When a church is reclassified as a pioneer church (cf. 208:1; 486:25), the office and power of the local board of trustees shall cease, and all prop-
3. Auditing Committee

353. The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election for positions other than church officers (316:22; 334), elect an auditing committee of one to three persons, who shall audit the books of the local church treasurer and of all departmental and society treasurers, certify the results to the local church board, sign approval on the records, make any necessary recommendations to the pastor and the local church board, and make a report to the local church conference at its annual session prior to the election of the local church treasurer (272; 274:4). General regulations covering committee members are given in 334. The local church board may choose to employ an auditor in lieu of electing an auditing committee.

4. Committee on Finance and Stewardship

354. The local church board may establish a committee on finance and stewardship, composed of the pastor, the local church treasurer, the chairman of the board of trustees, and such other members as the local church board shall elect. The local church board shall name a board member as chairman of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-chairman and secretary. General regulations governing membership on this committee are given in 334.

355. The local church board shall assign such duties to the committee on finance and stewardship as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

1. To study the financial needs and programs of the church and of its various departments and societies, and to make recommendations to the local church board concerning all financial matters, including financial policies and salary schedules, the annual budget, the erection of buildings, the purchase of major items of equipment, remodeling programs, and the handling of bequests and trusts (198).

2. To promote the understanding and practice of total stewardship and the storehouse tithing plan (195-197).

3. To promote the raising of the regional budget, other regional church offerings, and such support as the district shall require.

4. To serve as a committee on benevolence, to aid those in need within the church constituency and in the community (cf. 130:1; 131:12), and to direct the raising of all special gifts for the pastor.

5. To nominate, for election by the local church board, such standing or special subcommittees as the local church board shall approve, with a member of the committee as chairman of each.

E. Worship

357. All musicians, including song leaders, choir directors, organists, and pianists shall be nominated by the pastor and appointed by the local church board unless the local church board shall delegate responsibility for nominations to a music committee. The local church board may appoint or, if authorized by the local church conference, may employ a minister or director of music nominated by the pastor (297-299). The duties of the minister or director of music shall be defined by the pastor and the local church board. General regulations covering these offices are given in 334.

358. The local church board may establish committees on music, ushering, and communion services, electing their members and defining their duties. General regulations governing membership on such committees are given in 334.
1. Local Board of Christian Education

361. Membership. The local church board may establish a local board of Christian education, consisting of the pastor as chairman, and of such of the following officers as are available: the associate or assistant pastor or other employed assistant, the Sunday school superintendent, the president of Wesleyan Men, the president of Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization, the president of Wesleyan Youth, the director of Junior Youth, the director of the Young Missionary Workers’ Band, the music director, the literature secretary, the local educational secretary, and others as designated by the local church board. General regulations governing the elected membership of this board are given in 334. The local board of Christian education shall elect its own secretary. Whenever a church does not have a local board of Christian education, the local church board shall serve in that capacity.

362. Age-level Divisions. Whenever the local board of Christian education shall so recommend, and the local church board shall so authorize, the local board of Christian education may organize its members and such other educational leaders and workers as it shall choose into three age-level committees: the children’s committee (for those up through standard four), the youth committee (for those from standard five through thirty years of age), and the adult committee (for those thirty-one years of age and older). Each committee shall be organized with a chairman and a secretary, and shall serve to coordinate all educational and fellowship activities conducted by the local church or any of its branches for the age level assigned.

363. Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the local board of Christian education shall be:

1. To study, organize, promote, and conduct, under the leadership of the pastor, and subject to the direction of the local church board, the total program of Christian education for the local church, in keeping with the denominational objectives for Christian education (808), and the standards established by the Regional Board of Administration and promoted through the Regional Department of Sunday Schools, Youth, and Educational Institutions.

2. To establish, structure, and supervise, in keeping with The Discipline and the standards adopted by the Regional Board of Administration, such educational agencies as are authorized by the local church board, including the Sunday school, Wesleyan Youth, Junior Youth, and Young Missionary Workers’ Band.

3. To coordinate all educational agencies (cf. 363:2), activities, and functions of the local church, setting goals, evaluating procedures, exploring new areas of need, and assigning responsibilities to the various departments and societies.

4. To determine, in keeping with The Discipline and the standards adopted by the Regional Board of Administration, the curricula of the various agencies, always using curriculum materials approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

5. To recommend to the local church board for consideration of the local church conference the employment of a minister or director of Christian education, and to advise the pastor and the local church board in defining his duties (cf. 297-299).*

6. To enlist and train administrators and teachers for all phases of the local church’s educational task, in keeping with the leadership training program adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

7. To submit nominations to the local church board for all Sunday school officers other than the superintendent, all Sunday school departmental supervisors and teachers, Junior Youth director, and vacation Bible school superintendent, and to elect all other officers and teachers except the officers of Wesleyan Youth and YMWB.

8. To appoint administrative committees for each educational agency other than the Sunday school (373), WY (1228:6), or YMWB (1228:6), including in each

*See 363:5 in the Appendix.
committee the executive officer involved and other workers or advisors as shall be deemed best.

(9) To remove from office by majority vote any worker elected by the local board of Christian education when such is in the best interest of the work, and to recommend to the local church board the removal of any officer or teacher in local Christian education (361-388) elected by the local church board.

(10) To organize a training hour, providing for all age levels, selecting the necessary leaders and instructors, and assigning responsibilities to the appropriate agencies (cf. 363:2-3; 889:2).

(11) To assist the pastor and the local church board in conducting classes in membership preparation (cf. 294:11; 316:7; 894:5).

(12) To conduct or assign responsibility for conducting worker’s conferences.

(13) To recommend to the local church board modifications or enlargement of educational facilities, and the purchase of educational equipment including audiovisuals; to allocate space for various schools and agencies, both for assemblies and classes; and to supervise the storage of all equipment.

(14) To observe such special days as shall be designated by the Regional Board of Administration and promoted by the Regional Board of Educational Institutions and the Regional Departments of Sunday Schools and Youth, and other special days as may be designated by district agencies.

(15) To be responsible for special programs, such as Christmas and vacation Bible school, assigning responsibilities as it deems best with all plans subject to the approval of the pastor and the local church board.

(16) To serve as a committee on fellowship, or to nominate a subcommittee on fellowship for election by the local church board.

(17) To nominate, for election by the local church board, such standing or special subcommittees as the local church board shall approve, with a member of the local board of Christian education as chairman of each.

2. Sunday School

a. Function

365. Each local church shall maintain a Sunday school as the basic agency for the study of the Bible on the local level (cf. 886:1).

b. Administration

367. General. The Sunday school shall be governed by the local church conference and the local church board through the local board of Christian education, under the general supervision of the pastor and the immediate administration of the superintendent and the Sunday school committee. They shall carry out their assignment in keeping with The Discipline and as approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

368. Sunday School Superintendent. The local church conference, at its annual session, shall elect by ballot, from among its members, a Sunday school superintendent (cf. 331-332), to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. He shall be an ex officio member of the local church board (303) and the board of Christian education (361). General regulations concerning this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the Sunday school superintendent shall be:

(1) To have executive supervision of the Sunday school, administering its affairs in keeping with the provisions of 367.

(2) To consult with the pastor and the Sunday school cabinet on all major decisions.

(3) To promote interest in and attendance at the school.

(4) To have immediate supervision of each session of the school, seeing that each department and class has the necessary leaders and that order is maintained.

(5) To counsel with the teachers about their work.

(6) To conduct the assembly periods, unless such are assigned to depart-
ment supervisors, and to maintain variety and interest in the assembly periods.

(7) To make a full report of statistics and general information to the local church board quarterly, to the local church conference at each regular session, and to the Regional Department of Sunday Schools and the district Sunday school secretary as required (cf. 370).

369. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election for positions other than church officers (316:22; 334), elect from among the full members of the local church and from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education (361; 363:7), an assistant Sunday school superintendent, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. It shall be his duty to assist the superintendent in the performance of his duties as the superintendent shall request or the local board of Christian education shall assign, and, in the absence of the superintendent, to perform the duties of the superintendent relative to the supervision of a session of the school (368:4).

370. Sunday School Secretary. The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education (361; 363:7), a Sunday school secretary, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. It shall keep complete and correct minutes of all sessions of the Sunday school cabinet, maintain complete records of enrollment, attendance, absentees, visitors, and such other items as shall be required, and assist the pastor and the Sunday school superintendent in the preparation of reports involving Sunday school statistics. The local board of Christian education shall appoint such assistants as the Sunday school secretary shall require.

371. Sunday School Treasurer. The local church board may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education (361; 363:7), a Sunday school treasurer, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. Or the local church board may recommend, and the local church conference order, that the Sunday school funds be received by the local church treasurer as part of a common treasury. If there is a separate Sunday school treasurer elected, he shall receive, hold, and disburse the Sunday school funds as ordered by the local church board, reporting concerning all receipts and expenditures to the local church board monthly, and to each regular session of the local church conference. All regional church and district funds raised by the Sunday school shall be transferred to the local church treasurer for forwarding to the proper destination (345:1).

372. Sunday School Departmental Supervisors. The local church board may at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education (361; 363:7), a supervisor for each department (cf. 377). The departmental supervisor shall assist the Sunday school superintendent, being responsible for the general operation of the department including the assembly period of the department, and the immediate supervision of each session of the department (cf. 368:4). The local board of Christian education shall appoint such other departmental officers as may be needed.

373. Sunday School Committee. The immediate administration of the Sunday school shall be vested in a Sunday school committee, subject to the approval of and correlated with the plans of the local board of Christian education. It shall be composed of the Sunday school superintendent as chairman, the pastor (or if the pastor prefers, the associate or assistant pastor), the assistant superintendent, the secretary (who shall serve as secretary of the committee), the treasurer, and the departmental supervisors.

374. Sunday School Teachers. The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local...
local board of Christian education (361; 363:7), such Sunday school teachers and assistants as are needed, to serve for one year or until their successors are elected.

375. Amenability. General regulations covering the amenability, removal, and filling of vacancies for Sunday school officers, departmental supervisors, and teachers elected by the local church board are found in 334. All others appointed by the local board of Christian education are amenable to the local board of Christian education, and can be replaced as it seems fit.

c. Organization

376. Membership. There shall be three classes of members in the Sunday school.
(1) Active members shall be persons enrolled in the regular school whose attendance at the Sunday session is expected.
(2) Cradle roll members shall be children under two years of age who are enrolled in the cradle roll department.
(3) Home department members shall be persons who are enrolled in the home department, but who are unable to attend the Sunday sessions.
(4) Total Sunday school enrollment shall include all active, cradle roll, and home department members.

377. Grading and Departmentalization. Each Wesleyan Sunday school shall be graded and departmentalized according to the standard adopted by the Regional Board of Administration and promoted by the Regional Department of Sunday Schools. Departments shall include special groups such as cradle roll department, home department, and extension department, and age level departments, and each shall be headed by a supervisor.

378. Extension Department. The local board of Christian education may recommend, and the local church board may establish an extension department of the Sunday school, for the operation of a class or classes in places other than at church, or at other times than the Sunday session, for groups who cannot attend the Sunday session.

379. Class Organization. The local board of Christian education shall supervise the formal organization of youth and adult classes. Such classes shall organize and conduct their business in harmony with The Discipline and the Sunday school standard adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

380. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Sunday school shall be the same as that of the church. Officers and teachers shall assume their duties at such time as the local church board shall designate, unless the district conference shall establish a uniform time.

3. Wesleyan Youth

382. Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local chapter of Wesleyan Youth, the denominational society organizing youth and young adults from ages 12 to 30 inclusive, for the development of Christian character, training, service, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of Wesleyan Youth are given in 1221-1229.

4. Junior Youth

383. Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local chapter of Junior Youth, the denominational program of training, activity, and fellowship for children and youth, ages 6 to 12. The local JY shall be conducted in keeping with The Discipline and the regulations adopted by the Regional Board of Administration and promoted through the Regional Youth Society.
5. Local Educational Secretary

386. The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect a local educational secretary, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The local educational secretary shall be an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361). He shall promote the interests of the regional educational institutions in keeping with the programs of the Regional Department of Educational Institutions, the officials of the schools, and the district educational secretary, and shall solicit students from the local church constituency for the schools.

6. The Literature Secretary

388. The local church board may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect a literature secretary, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The literature secretary shall be an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361). He shall be assigned such duties as the local church board shall determine, such as the handling and distribution of Sunday school literature, the management of a church and/or a Sunday school library, the conducting of subscription campaigns for the various regional and district periodicals, and the promoting of the interests of Christian literature distribution.

G. Missions and Evangelism

1. Local Secretary of Missions and Evangelism

390. The local church may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect a local secretary of missions and evangelism, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The local secretary of missions and evangelism shall assist the pastor in promoting the work of missions and evangelism, in keeping with the policies and programs of the Regional Department of Missions, the Regional Department of Evangelism, the district conference and board of administration, and the district secretaries of missions and evangelism.

2. Wesleyan Men

391. Each local church, whenever possible, shall maintain a chapter of Wesleyan Men, the denominational society organizing men for soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of Wesleyan Men are given in 1221-1229.

3. Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization

392. Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization, the denominational society organizing women for missionary promotion, education, support, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of the Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization are given in 1221-1229.

4. Young Missionary Workers’ Band

393. Each local church may maintain a local Young Missionary Workers’ Band, the denominational auxiliary of the Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization organizing children thirteen years of age and younger for missionary education and support.

5. Committee on Missions and Evangelism

395. The local church may establish a committee on missions and evangelism, composed of the pastor, the local secretary of missions and evangelism, the
president of Wesleyan Men, the president of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, the director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, and such other members as the local church board shall elect. General regulations governing the elected membership on this committee are given in 334. The local church board shall name a board member as chairman of the committee and the committee shall choose its own vice-chairman and secretary.

396. The local church board shall assign such duties to the committee on missions and evangelism as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

(1) To promote the interest of Wesleyan world missions, in keeping with the programs of the Regional Department of World Missions and the district secretary of world missions.
(2) To promote the interests of the Regional Department of Evangelism and the district program of extension and evangelism.
(3) To coordinate all missionary and extension promotion and fund raising of the local church and its various departments and societies.
(4) To carry out all programs of missionary education authorized and assigned by the local board of Christian education.
(5) To make recommendations to the local church board concerning missionary conventions and services.
(6) To nominate, for election by the local church board, such standing or special subcommittees as the local church board shall approve, with a member of the committee as chairman of each.

H. Lay Delegates to District Conference

398. The local church conference of a provisional or established church, at its annual session (263:1), shall elect by ballot (cf. 331-332), from among its full members, two delegates for every forty full members or less, and one additional delegate for each additional forty members or major fraction thereof. Each pioneer church shall be represented by one delegate who is a full member and who shall be appointed by the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor or local advisory council when constituted. A sufficient number of alternate delegates shall be chosen and the delegates shall serve for the regular annual session of the district conference and for any reconvened sessions. General regulations covering this office are given in 330 and 443-445.

I. Judicial Committees

399. The local church board shall elect, when it deems necessary and in accord with the regulations of the Judiciary, a committee of investigation (1516:1-4; 1551-1556) or a local judicial committee (1517). Complete regulations concerning the qualifications, procedures, and duties of such committees are given in 1515-1517 (cf. 1551-1574).
PART III
DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT
Chapter I
DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

A. Definition

401. A district is a specified geographical area created by the authority of the Regional Conference, within which the churches, ministers, and members of The Wesleyan Church are organized according to The Discipline and are under its governing authority.

B. Mission Area

402. Purpose. New work, or other work which does not meet the requirements for a pioneer district (404), shall be provided for by establishing a mission area.

C. Pioneer District

403. Authorization. The establishment of a pioneer district may be authorized by the Regional Conference (650:9; 691:36), upon recommendation of the Regional Board of Administration (863:8). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the pioneer district. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the bounds of a provisional or an established district in the interim of Regional Conference sessions must have the approval of such a district and shall be effected as required in 430-432 (cf. 691:26).

404. Requirements. The minimum requirements for a pioneer district are:

(1) A minimum of three provisional or established churches and seventy-five full members.
(2) At least two ordained elders.
(3) A recommendation by the Regional Secretary of Missions for recognition as a pioneer district (863:8).

405. Jurisdiction. A pioneer district shall be under the jurisdiction of the Regional Secretary of Missions, and shall be organized and administered by the Regional Secretary of Missions in accord with The Discipline and the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (691:36-37; 702:2; 860). The Regional Secretary of Missions shall be responsible for developing the work as rapidly as possible in harmony with the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church to the status of a provisional district (411).

406. Organization. The superintendent, other officers, and assigned workers shall be appointed by the Regional Board of Administration (691:36-37) or its Executive Committee for which recommendation shall be submitted by the Regional Secretary of Missions.

407. Regional Conference Representation. A pioneer district shall be represented at the Regional Conference by the district superintendent and a lay delegate appointed on his behalf, plus one ministerial and one lay delegate. They shall be appointed by the Regional Board of Administration (691:37) or its Executive Committee for which recommendation shall be submitted by the Regional Secretary of Missions (691:37).

D. Provisional District

1. Authorization

410. Authorization. A provisional district is created by the Regional Conference upon recommendation of the Regional Board of Administration (650:9),
or, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, by the Regional Board of Administration subject to the approval of the next Regional Conference. The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the provisional district and assign to it an official name. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the existing bounds of an established district in the interim of Regional Conference sessions must have the approval of such district and shall be effected as required in 430-432 (cf. 691:35).

411. Requirements. The minimum requirements for a provisional district are:
(1) A minimum of five churches and two hundred full members.
(2) At least two ordained elders.
(3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church, or steps taken to accomplish the same.
(4) A recommendation by the Regional Secretary of World Missions for recognition as a provisional district (691:29; 863:8).

2. Organization and Government

415. Jurisdiction. A provisional district shall be under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration, and shall be supervised by the Regional Superintendent in accord with The Discipline and any directives of the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (702:2). The Regional Superintendent shall be responsible for the developing of a provisional district to meet the requirements of an established district as soon as possible (421).

416. Organization. A provisional district shall be organized in the same manner as an established district as set forth in The Discipline, insofar as possible, but with the following restrictions on its duties and powers:
(1) District Superintendent. The district superintendent of a provisional district shall be elected by the district conference (cf. 473:28; 507). The Regional Board of Administration may, however, at its discretion, present two or more nominations, from which the district conference shall elect the district superintendent. The provisional district superintendent shall confer with the Regional Superintendent concerning the important plans of the district, including the location of property, the erection of buildings, and financial matters, involving sums above $1,000 U.S., or its equivalent.
(2) District Officers, Boards, and Committees. A provisional district shall first be concerned with the election of its district officials (491) and district board of administration (476). Other district departmental officers, boards, and committees shall be established as qualified personnel are available. It shall be the goal of the officials of a provisional district, in cooperation with the Regional Superintendent (415), to meet the requirements for a complete district organization as soon as possible (421).
(3) Appointments. The appointment of pastors, evangelists, and special workers for a provisional district shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration for which recommendations shall be received from the district superintendent.
(4) Amenity. The minutes of a provisional district conference and its district board of administration shall be reviewed by the Regional Superintendent and shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

3. Regional Conference Representation

417. Each provisional district shall be represented at the Regional Conference by the district superintendent and a lay delegate elected on his behalf plus one ministerial and one lay delegate for the first one hundred and fifty full members, and an additional ministerial and lay delegate for every additional one hundred and fifty full members or major fraction thereof (602:1a, b; 603).
4. Reclassification

418. Whenever a provisional district falls below the minimum requirements in 411, it may be reclassified as a pioneer district by the Regional Conference (650:9) or, in the interim of its sessions, by the Regional Board of Administration, subject to review and approval of the Regional Conference at its next session. (Cf. 1547.)

E. District

1. Authorization

420. An established district is created by the Regional Conference (161; 650:7), for which a recommendation shall be received from the Regional Board of Administration, or, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, may be created by the Regional Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the next Regional Conference (691:35). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the district and assign to it an official name.

421. The minimum requirements for an established district are:

(1) Twenty churches.
(2) Seven hundred fifty full members.
(3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1407).
(4) A reasonable degree of spiritual, organizational, and financial stability.
(5) A recommendation by the Regional Board of Administration in concurrence with the Regional Superintendent (740:15).

2. Organizing Conference

422. When an established district has been authorized (420), an organizing session of the district conference shall be convened by the Regional Superintendent. The presiding officer shall declare it to be an established district of The Wesleyan Church, vested with all the authority and power as properly belong to it according to The Discipline. After such has been declared, the district conference shall proceed to do business and elect its officials.

3. Reclassification

424. If a district no longer meets the requirements for an established district (421), it may be reclassified as a provisional district by the Regional Conference (650:9), or the Regional Board of Administration. (Cf. 1547.)

4. Amenability

425. An established district is amenable to the Regional Board of Administration. It may be placed under discipline for cause as set forth in the Judiciary (1543-1548).

F. Interdistrict Cooperation

428. Two or more contiguous districts may unite their resources and personnel in cooperative programs in such matters as church extension, camp meeting or camping programs, an exchange of ministers, or in the employment of specialists in such fields as Christian education. Such a cooperative program shall be administered by an interdistrict board or committee composed of members from each of the involved districts: The plan for such cooperative efforts shall be worked out under the supervision of the Regional Superintendent over the districts involved, and, after authorization has been voted by each of the district conferences, shall be implemented and the members of the interdistrict board appointed by the respective district boards of administration.
G. Merger or Realignment of Districts

430. The Regional Conference shall have the authority to approve the merger or division of districts, or the realignment of any district boundaries (161). Negotiations for such a merger, division, or realignment of districts shall be under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration (cf. 691:35).

431. Whenever each district conference involved in a merger, division, or other realignment of districts shall approve the proposed plan, the Regional Board of Administration shall have the authority to grant approval in the interim of Regional Conference sessions (cf. 691:35).

432. All actions regarding the merger or realignment of districts shall be subject to final approval by the Regional Board of Administration as stated in paragraph 100.
Chapter II

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. Function

436. A district conference is the chief governing body of a district, exercising such powers as are delegated to it in the Constitution and by the Regional Conference as set forth in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa.

B. Membership

1. Plan of Representation

437. The district conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay voting members and other nonvoting members as listed herewith.

a. Voting Members

(1) All elders and licensed ministers appointed to station, reserve; or superannuated relations.
(2) Lay delegates elected by provisional and established churches at the rate of two delegates for the first forty full members or less and one additional delegate for each additional forty full members or major fraction thereof (398).
(3) One lay delegate for each pioneer church, appointed by the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor, or local advisory council when constituted (398).
(4) The district presidents of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth; the district directors of Junior Youth and Young Missionary Workers' Band.
(5) District departmental officers (499).
(6) All members of the district board of administration who are not voting members by some other right.

b. Nonvoting Members

440. The honorary members of the district conference, with a voice but without a vote, are (161):
(1) Elders appointed to the unstationed relation (539:I:0; 1174); elders in process of transfer (539:1:E).
(2) Licensed ministers who are under appointment on the district.
(3) Commissioned and licensed deaconesses (539:IV:A,B,C; 1185).
(4) Commissioned and licensed special workers (539:V:A,B,C; 1190).
(5) Supply pastors (539:V:0; 1159:4).

2. Forfeiture of Representation

441. A local church or circuit which is under discipline as provided for in the Judiciary, shall forfeit all rights to representation by a lay delegate in the district conference (160:6; 161; 1530-1532).

3. The Election of Lay Delegates

443. Election. The delegates to the district conference shall be elected at the annual session of the local church conference, by ballot, and by a majority vote of those full members present and voting. A person accepting election as a delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire district conference session unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances. The local church secretary shall promptly forward a certified list of the elected delegates to the district secretary.

444. Alternate Delegates. A sufficient number of alternate delegates having the same qualifications (445) shall be elected in the same manner and at
D. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

450. The Chairman (173:3). The Area General Superintendent shall preside over the district conference, assisted by the Regional and district superintendent in the manner provided for in the Constitution (173:3). When no General Superintendent is present, the General Secretary of World Missions or his representative, the Regional Superintendent, or the district superintendent shall preside, in the order listed, unless the district conference invites an appointed regional representative to do so. If none of the foregoing is present, the district conference shall elect from among its elders a chairman pro tem.

451. The Secretary. The district secretary shall be the secretary of the district conference ex officio. He shall accurately record the proceedings and preserve them in permanent form as prescribed by The Discipline (cf. 412), and perform any other such duties as shall be required of him by the district conference.

2. Procedure

452. Rights. The rights of the district conference are declared in the Constitution (161:1-10; 165; 166; 173:3; 176:5b; 181:2,4,6; 185).

454. Quorum. A majority of all the ministerial voting members and dele-
gates of the district conference (437) shall constitute a quorum for the trans-
action of business.

457. Rules of Order. District conference business shall be conducted ac-
cording to the parliamentary procedure in Robert's Rules of Order except when
otherwise ordered by The Discipline.

458. Suspension of Rules. The district conference may by two-thirds vote
suspend any rules of order for a certain item of business, provided such a
suspension does not contravene The Discipline or other Regional Conference
legislation.

459. Appeals on 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 chair on the basis that it is unconstitutional or
in violation of The Discipline, the decision of the chair may be appealed by
any member of the district conference. If the appeal is seconded, the chair
shall clearly state the question and the reasons for his decision, and the one
moving the appeal shall state his reasons for the appeal. The vote shall then
be taken without debate. A two-thirds vote of the district conference present
and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chair. If the
chair is overruled, the action of the district conference shall be suspended
until a ruling shall be given by the Board of General Superintendents.

460. Legislation. Rules and resolutions adopted by a district conference
shall continue in force until amended or rescinded, unless such actions are
by nature temporary or unless an action of the district conference is declared
unconstitutional or contrary to The Discipline as set forth in 1593:3 (cf. 163:6).

3. Resolutions

462. Resolutions. Resolutions may be submitted to the district conference
by a local church conference, the district board of administration, the annual
district convention of Wesleyan Men, the Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organiza-
tion, or Wesleyan Youth, a district board or committee concerning the work assigned
to it, or any three voting members of the district conference with their signa-
ture.

463. Memorials. All resolutions intended for eventual recommendation by the
district conference to the Regional Conference, including changes in The Disci-
pline and any other proposals, shall be designated as "memorials" (636-837).
Anyone authorized to submit a resolution may also submit a memorial to be
passed upon by the district conference.

464. Procedure. All resolutions shall be submitted as directed by the dis-
trict conference and within a time limit as set by the district conference.
The appropriate district conference committee (cf. 466:1) shall be responsi-
bile to review each resolution or memorial as to its origin (462), clarity,
relationship to The Discipline, and other existing legislation of the Regional
Conference or district conference, and shall report them out to the district
conference together with their recommendations. A properly submitted resolu-
tion cannot be withheld from the conference by a committee unless with-
drawn by its authors or declared out of order by the chairman of the district
conference as contravening The Discipline. The committee chairman shall pre-
sent any resolutions in question to the district conference chairman for a
ruling before presenting them on the conference floor.

4. Committees

466. The district conference shall have such committees as are required by
The Discipline, and may create and define the duties of such other committees
as are deemed necessary.
a. District Conference Action Committee

467. A district conference may establish a district conference action committee (473:6) that shall combine the functions of a resolution committee and a ways and means committee. It shall consist of the district superintendent, the district treasurer, and from three to nine other members elected by the conference with due consideration for lay representation (cf. 471:2). The district conference may delegate the election of the committee members to the district board of administration. The district superintendent shall be the chairman or shall appoint another to serve in his place, and the committee shall elect a secretary and other officers as deemed necessary. The chairman shall convene the committee at least fifteen days before the scheduled opening of the district conference and at other times as deemed necessary.

468. The duties of the district conference action committee are:

1. To receive all resolutions and memorials for the district conference, to review them, and to report them to the district conference with the committee's recommendations and in such order as the committee shall determine (462-464).

2. To conduct and report on any research or investigation regarding the merits of proposed district legislation as requested by the district conference or district board of administration, or as deemed necessary by the committee.

3. To assign members of the committee to study, prepare, and plan any phase of the committee's work and report back to the committee.

4. To review the standing rules of the district in order to make recommendations to the district conference concerning the alignment of such rules with Regional Conference legislation, and concerning any other necessary amendments (473:4).

5. To provide, if possible, all delegates to the district conference with mimeographed copies of resolutions or memorials, properly classified, at the opening of the district conference.

b. District Conference Nominating Committee

470. Each district may have a district conference nominating committee consisting of the district superintendent as chairman, and four additional members (473:7). The elected members of the nominating committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be reelected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall organize itself and elect a vice-chairman and a secretary. It shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chairman at such a time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the district conference session. The district conference shall also have the right to make nominations from the floor.

471. The duties of this committee are:

1. To present nominations for the district secretary, district treasurer, and each elected delegate to the Regional Conference.

2. To present nominations for each of the following in accord with the requirements and regulations for each as set forth in The Discipline, and in keeping with the provisions of The Discipline for various options in combining responsibilities or referring the power of nomination or election to other bodies; the district conference action committee (467), the district auditing committee (521), the district building committee (523), the district statistical committee (525), the district board of ministerial standing (532), the district secretary of evangelism (539), the district secretary of missions (560), the district board of Christian education (572), the district director of Christian education (578), the district secretary of Sunday schools (588), the district director of leadership training (580), the district director of junior youth (594), the district YWCA director, the district educational secretary (596), and the district board of review (1524).

3. To present any other nominations as shall be requested by the district conference.
5. The District Conference Journal

472. The district conference journal shall contain the complete and accurate record of the proceedings of the district conference, prepared by the district secretary who shall have the duty:

(1) To have it certified by an editing committee or by the district superintendent.
(2) To arrange the journal as far as possible according to the table of contents and general format prepared by the Regional Secretary and approved by the Regional Board of Administration.
(3) To see that it contains a complete directory for the district as set forth in 517:8.
(4) To have two copies of the journal translated into English and forwarded to the Regional Superintendent, one of which will be directed by him to the General Secretary of World Missions. One copy of the journal written in the local language should also be sent to the Regional Superintendent.

E. Duties and Powers

473. The duties and powers of the district conference, as set forth in the Constitution (cf. 451) and as authorized by the Regional Conference are:

Relating to the Constitution

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, to be submitted to the Regional Conference as a memorial (185; 637; 650:1).

Relating to the Regional Conference

(2) To adopt memorials to the Regional Conference for proposed changes in The Discipline or for other legislation (463; 636-637; 641).
(3) To elect delegates to the Regional Conference as set forth in 602-616 (cf. 471:1).
(4) To review all standing rules of the district and bring them into harmony with the Constitution, other provisions of The Discipline as currently revised and amended, and with other Regional Conference legislation (163:6; 468:4).

Relating to the District Conference

(5) To receive a report concerning the interests and progress of the denomination from the Regional Superintendent presiding over the district conference, or if a Regional Superintendent is not present, from the regional representative.
(6) To authorize, if desired, a district conference action committee, designate its number of members, and provide for the election of the members as set forth in 467.
(7) To authorize, if desired, a district conference nominating committee, designate its number of members, and elect such members as set forth in 470.
(8) To determine the place of the next annual session of the district conference or to delegate this authority to the district board of administration (447).

Relating to District Administration

(9) To take charge over all ministers, commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned and licensed special workers, preaching points, pioneer churches, local churches, societies (486:20; 1216), and other district work within its bounds, except when the district is under discipline (176:5b,e), and except for those members of the district who are elected as regional officials (711), missionaries appointed under the General Department of World Missions or the Regional Department of Missions, and others who are amenable only to the Regional Board of Administration for their official duties (163:1; 176:4; 1521; 1537).
To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: the district superintendent (511:26), the assistant district superintendent (514:6), the district missionary (520), and the district treasurer (519:4); the district presidents and treasurers of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth (1235:2,5); the district departmental officers, including the district secretary of evangelism (559:7), the district Sunday school secretary (588:5), the district director of Junior Youth (594:5), the district director of Young Missionary Workers' Band, and any others as desired by the district conference.

To hear, consider, and pass on the oral report of each stationed elder and licensed minister, unless the district conference, by vote, shall accept the written annual service report (541) in lieu of an oral report (537:9).

To consider the numerical and financial progress of the district by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as compiled and submitted by the district statistical committee (526:13), for which reports shall be submitted to the committee on the approved forms as set forth in 526:1.

To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interests and prosperity of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district, and to amend or rescind the same, provided that it shall not add to or take from any provisions of the Constitution or other provisions of The Discipline, and provided that any three members may appeal an action of the district conference as set forth in 183:6.

To adopt financial plans which will provide for the support of the district work, and for the payment of the district obligation to the Regional treasury, assigning to each church its share of these obligations.

To set the salaries, allowances, and other related matters for district officials and other workers paid by the district through the district board of administration, which shall appoint a suitable committee for the study and recommendation for approval and implementation by the district board of administration.

To employ the assistant district superintendent as a full-time official if desired, and further to define his duties in addition to those required by The Discipline (513-515).

To create, if so desired, a camp meeting board and define its duties, or to delegate this to the district board of administration.

To authorize the incorporation or similar registration of the district as provided for in 1831-1813. After such incorporation the district board of administration shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district and local church property, and shall have power, on its own resolution, to acquire, purchase, 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.

To elect, in states where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the law requires the property to be held by trustees, a district board of trustees from among the members of the district board of administration, which shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district or local church properties (1831-1813) and which shall carry out its duties as set forth in 527.

To delegate any of its duties not restricted to the district conference by the Constitution.

Relating to Churches, Ministers, and Christian Workers

To authorize the establishing of a preaching point (203), a pioneer church (205), a provisional church (208), an established church (209), the reclassification of a church as a pioneer church (208:1) (cf. 486:26), to declare a church discontinued or abandoned, and to hear a report from the district superintendent of the organization of new churches (210:6; 511:14).

To determine the boundaries of each local church within the district (1635:5; 406:5e).

To receive and pass upon the recommendations of the district board of
administration concerning the pastoral agreements, appointments, and district conference relations as follows (486:8):

a) To approve the pastoral agreement entered into between the established churches and the ministers, or to alter such agreement, or to veto the action of the established church and appoint another pastor, provided that any such alteration or veto shall be for reasons as set forth in the Constitution, and shall be voted on as a separate action by the district conference (183:1-2; 281).

b) To appoint a pastor to those provisional and pioneer churches not yet supplied at the time of the district conference or whenever requested to do so by a local church (285) or to delegate such appointment to the district board of administration, and to employ a licensed preacher or other qualified person as a supply pastor when deemed necessary (1159).

c) To appoint each elder and licensed minister to the proper category of service (1156-1175), appointing each elder not included on the stationed list (539:1:A) to the proper district conference relation as reserve, superannuated, unstationed, or elder in the process of transfer (539:1:B-E); to list as unlicensed ministerial students, those persons qualified to study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (539:111; 1170:3); and to appoint as commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned and licensed special workers (designating their particular ministry), such as have been granted the proper commissions and licenses (539:19-21).

(24) To fix the date for pastoral changes within the district (282).

(25) To elect to elder's orders, a candidate the district conference deems qualified (1119), after receiving a report from the district board of ministerial standing (537:5) which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(26) To grant a license, commission, recognition, or restoration, in keeping with the requirements of The Discipline, after receiving the report and recommendations from the district board of ministerial standing (537:5), as follows:

a) A recognition as elder in process of transfer to an ordained minister being received from another denomination (1120:1-3), and a recognition as an elder of The Wesleyan Church in full standing when all requirements have been met (1120:4-5).

b) A district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective when the candidate shall receive his appointment as set forth in 1111:6 and 1112:5 (cf. 473:23c; 486:8).

c) A recognition as unlicensed ministerial student for those so qualified (1170:3).

d) A license or commission as deaconess (1183-1184), or a recognition of a commissioned deaconess or the equivalent thereof in process of transfer from another denomination, and subsequent recognition as a commissioned deaconess in full standing when all requirements have been met (1184).

e) A license or commission as special worker, designating the particular ministry (1187-1189), or a recognition of a commissioned special worker or the equivalent thereof in process of transfer from another denomination, and subsequent recognition as a commissioned special worker in full standing when all requirements have been met (1189).

f) Any other license or commission as shall be authorized by The Discipline.

g) The restoration of orders, commission, or license as set forth in 1138-1140; 1185; 1190 (cf. 537:4).

(27) To receive and pass on a written annual service report, through the district board of ministerial standing as set forth in 537:7-9, from each elder, licensed minister, licensed preacher, commissioned and licensed deaconess, and commissioned and licensed 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 of confidence for approval (537:9).
DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Relating to the Election of Officials and Committees

(28) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an elder to the office of district superintendent for a term of one year. Whenever a district superintendent is reelected, it shall be for a term of two years (507:2).

(29) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an elder as assistant district superintendent (513).

(30) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, a district secretary (516; cf. 471:1), a district treasurer (518; cf. 471:1), and members-at-large of the district board of administration (476-477).

(31) To elect, for a term of four years, the members required to fill vacancies on the district board of ministerial standing (532; cf. 471:2); and to designate, if it so desires, the elders of said board as the council of ordination (546; cf. 486:31).

(32) To elect (cf. 471:2) two or more members for the district auditing committee, or to direct the district board of administration to employ an auditor (521-522); to elect (cf. 471:2) one or more members of the district building committee, or to delegate the election of this committee to the district board of administration (523); to elect (471:2) members, in such number as desired, for the district statistical committee (525).

(33) To elect (471:2) a district secretary of evangelism and a district secretary of missions (559; 560), and at least two members at large for the district board of missions and evangelism (552).

(34) To elect, if desired, a district director of Christian education (cf. 471:2), or to authorize the district board of administration to employ such a director for full-time service (578); and to assign the duties of the various district secretaries or directors of Christian education agencies to him as desired (579:2; 580; 590; 596).

(35) To elect (cf. 471:2), whenever such duties have not been assigned to a district director of Christian education (cf. 473:34), a district Sunday school secretary (588), a district director of leadership training, if desired (590), a district director of junior youth organization (594), a district educational secretary (596), and members-at-large for the district board of Christian education (572).
Chapter II
DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

475. The district board of administration carries out the will of the dis­trict conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Church within the district, and serves as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions.

B. Membership

476. Composition. The district board of administration is composed of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, the district treasurer, the district missionary, and members-at-large according to the size of the district:

1. When a district has thirty established churches or less, the district conference shall elect at least three members-at-large to the district board of administration, making a total board of not less than seven members.

2. When a district has more than thirty established churches, but less than fifty, the district conference shall elect at least five members-at-large to the district board of administration, making a total board of not less than nine members.

3. When a district has more than fifty established churches, the district conference shall elect at least seven members-at-large to the district board of administration, making a total of not less than eleven members.

477. Regulations for a Member-at-Large. Each member-at-large of a district board of administration shall be a full member of a local Wesleyan church within the district which he serves, both at the time of election and throughout his tenure of membership. A ministerial member-at-large shall be chosen from among the elders of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church. The term of office shall be for one year, and he shall serve from the close of the district conference at which he is elected until the close of the next regular session of the district conference or until his successor is elected and qualified. Regulations governing the amenability of a member-at-large of the district board of administration and the declaring and filling of a vacancy in such office are the same as those for district officials set forth in 494 and 496 (cf. 486:23a).

C. Sessions

478. Organizing Session. The district board of administration shall meet immediately after the close of the district conference for an organizing session:

1. To care for any business delegated to it by the district conference which requires immediate attention.

2. To elect those departmental officers and members of boards or committees, and to elect or ratify the election of those officers of societies, whose terms expire at the time of the district board's organizing session (cf. 486:16; 1227:5).

3. To determine the boundaries of the zones as given in 486:10.

4. To make plans for the year and to care for any other business as deemed necessary.

479. Regular Sessions. The district board of administration shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine, provided that it shall meet at least once each quarter.

480. Special Sessions. The district board of administration may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the district superintendent, or in the event of an emergency when the district superintendent is unable to act, by the assistant district superintendent. A special session shall also be called when requested by the Regional
DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

486:8

Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (691:38). All members shall be notified at least one week in advance of a special session, except when all are able to meet on shorter notice.

D. Organization and Procedure

482. Chairman. The district superintendent shall preside as chairman over the district board of administration. The assistant district superintendent shall preside in the absence of the district superintendent, or when requested to do so by the district superintendent. If neither is present, the board shall elect from among its members a chairman pro tem.

483. Secretary. The district secretary is the secretary of the district board of administration by virtue of his office.

484. Quorum. A majority of all members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

485. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline or by legal or corporate requirements.

E. Duties and Powers

486. The duties and powers of the district board of administration are:

General Duties

1. To serve as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions, caring for all the interests of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district in accord with The Discipline.

2. To promote the interests of the regional departments and educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church in the manner and to the extent authorized by the Regional Conference and the Regional Board of Administration, to encourage their support, and to receive their representatives.

3. To take a special interest and responsibility for developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of district church extension and evangelism, and to cooperate in such endeavor with the Regional Superintendent (740:25) and the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (836:5).

Related to the District Conference

4. To carry out the plans and objectives of the district conference.

5. To cooperate with the Regional Board of Administration in fixing the date for the annual session of the district conference so that the Regional Superintendent may preside (447).

6. To call for a reconvened session of the district conference by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration (702:3), and to call for a reconvened session when requested to do so by the Regional Board of Administration (448; 691:38).

7. To submit resolutions to the district conference that will provide for a more efficient administration, better correlation, and advancement of the district work, and to submit proposed memorials for the Regional Conference to the district conference for adoption (462-463).

8. To serve the district conference as a committee on pastoral relations and ministerial appointments, being responsible:
   a) To review all pastoral arrangements between churches and ministers of the district (cf. 278-292).
   b) To receive a report from the district board of ministerial standing concerning matters related to district conference appointments and relations as set forth in 537:10.
   c) To submit to the district conference a comprehensive report covering
all the churches and ministers of the district; recommending any necessary changes in the boundaries of local churches, or in the classification of churches (473:21-22); recommending the appointment of pastors for all churches for the coming year (cf. 205:1), including the approval, alteration, or veto of pastoral agreements already made by the churches and ministers (163:2), and the appointment of pastors or the delegation of responsibility for such appointment for churches without pastors (473:23), and recommending the appointment of all other elders (1121:5); licensed ministers, licensed preachers, deaconesses, and special workers, and the listing of unlicensed ministerial students as set forth in 473:23 and 539.

Duties Relating to District Officers, Committees, and Societies

(9) To have the general oversight of all district officials (491), district departmental officers (499), boards, committees, employees, societies of the district, to approve their plans and to coordinate their work; and to see that the work is administered according to The Discipline and the directives of the district conference. (cf. 494-496; 502-504; 519:3; 534; 1232; 1233:4; 1234:4; 1235:2-6.)

(10) To divide the district into zones and determine the boundaries thereof, which shall be the same for all district organizations (478:3).

(11) To serve in whatever capacity provided for in the Church Corporation, and to cooperate fully with the legal officers of the Corporation in the management of all property and in the legal affairs of the district.

(12) To cooperate with and execute faithfully the instructions of the General Board of Administration, the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration, and the Regional Superintendent in all matters pertaining to the legal, organizational, and spiritual life of the Church.

(13) To provide for the preservation and security of all district records and archives, directing the district superintendent (511:11), the district secretary (517:6-7), the secretary of the district board of ministerial standing (535), and any others, concerning the care of the records placed in their custody.

(14) To have the district treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the district.

(15) To employ an auditor when so authorized by the district conference and to assign his duties (521-522); to direct an audit of the records and funds in the custody of the district treasurer, the district treasurers of the societies, or any other treasurers of the district, whenever such is deemed necessary (519:3; 1235:5).

(16) To elect such district departmental officers and members of district boards or committees as required by The Discipline or delegated to it by the district conference (cf. 467; 473:17; 477; 519:3; 521; 523; 529; 553; 573; 582; 1234).

(17) To elect (478:2) from among its members, one to serve as chairman of the district board of missions and evangelism (553), and to elect, from among its members, one to serve as chairman of the district board of Christian education (573).

(18) To approve and coordinate all plans of the district board of missions and evangelism (555) and the district board of Christian education (575).

(19) To approve, alter, or add to the nominations submitted by the nominating committee of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth, and to ratify the election of all officers and committees (1234:4).

(20) To approve the time and place of the district conventions of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth, and to approve the plans of the respective societies for the district conventions, to approve all plans of the respective societies, and to fill all vacancies (1233:4; 1234:6).

(21) To employ, when so authorized by the district conference (473:34), a district director of Christian education (579), who shall be nominated by the district board of Christian education (575:7); and to assign duties to such a director (579:1-6).

(22) To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of
The Discipline from the Regional Board of Administration, and to appeal the same to the Board of Review; and to request assistance from the General Board of Administration or its Executive Committee, through the Regional Superintendent, when deemed necessary.

23. To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church and the district so require:
   a) Any of its own members, with the exception of the district superintendent (cf. 509) and the district missionary, by a two-thirds majority vote of all members, and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (477; 494; 496).
   b) Any departmental officer (499), member of a board, committee, or other agency of the district, or the district officers of an auxiliary organization, by a majority vote and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (504).

Related to Churches and Ministers

24. To organize and supervise all the churches of the district in accord with The Discipline and other district directives so that each one may be an effective unit of The Wesleyan Church; to guard carefully the spiritual life and general welfare of all the churches.

25. To authorize the establishment of a preaching point (203; 274:14), a pioneer church (205), a provisional church (208), and an established church (209), and to receive a report from the district superintendent on the effecting of such organizations (210:6); to reclassify a provisional church as a pioneer church when its number of full members drops to ten or fewer (208:1); and to recommend that the district conference declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (473:21).

26. To review the actions of the local advisory council of each pioneer church (205:3).

27. To approve all pastoral agreements and make all ministerial appointments in the interim of district conference sessions, subject to the final approval of the district conference (288; 292:3).

28. To approve in writing the proposal of a church conference for the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposal of real property, after first receiving a written report and recommendation from the district building committee when such is required as set forth in 523.

29. To take charge of any complaints or accusations against a local church or circuit within the district and to carry out disciplinary proceedings as deemed necessary in accord with the Judiciary (1530; cf. 1525:2-4); to intervene and protect the property rights of The Wesleyan Church and the district; and to authorize the district superintendent to call for an affirmation of loyalty and to reorganize a local church as set forth in 1451.

30. To grant temporary recognition (cf. 537:3) to elders, commissioned deaconesses, and commissioned special workers, or persons with equivalent standing, from other denominations, as being in process of transfer, subject to the action of the next district conference (437:26a,d,e; 511:25; 1120; 1184; 1189).

31. To appoint the desired number of elders as a council of ordination (546), except when the district conference shall designate the elders on the district board of ministerial standing as the council of ordination (473:31; 537:6); and, in case of emergency, in the interim of district conference sessions, to elect to elder’s orders a candidate recommended by the district board of ministerial standing (1119:5).

32. To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by, or a proposed vote of confidence on, a pastor serving under renewal of call, when such is considered before his term of service expires or in the interim of biennial reviews (292:1-2); or to remove a pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration in keeping with the provisions of 287; 511:19; and to appoint a supply pastor, if necessary, until another pastor has been obtained (288); or to remove a supply pastor by a majority vote if deemed necessary (1120:3; 1156:5).

33. To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation
(1558) or trial, for any elder, licensed minister, commissioned or licensed deaconess, commissioned or licensed special worker, or other worker under the jurisdiction of the district (1521), in accord with the provisions of the Judiciary (1527-1529).

(34) To represent the district, in the interim of district conference sessions, in judicial proceedings over matters of controversy between the district and other local, district, or regional units or agencies (163:10; cf. 1593:5b).

F. District Superintendent's Advisory Committee

488. A district board of administration with nine or more members may establish a district superintendent's advisory committee which shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. The committee shall not have authority to take official action but shall advise the district superintendent on such matters as he shall refer to it.
Chapter IV

DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of District Officers, Boards, and Committees

490. The following summarizes for quick reference the various officers, boards, and committees of the district.

(1) The district shall have:

- administration, board of (475-486)
- assistant superintendent (513-515)
- auditing committee or auditor (521-522)
- building committee (523)
- delegates to Regional Conference (417; 473:3; 602-616)
- evangelism secretary (559)
- ministerial standing, board of (531-537)
- missions secretary (560)
- ordination council (546)
- review, board of (1524-1526)
- secretary (516-517)
- statistical committee (525-526)
- Sunday school committee (581-585)
- Sunday school secretary (588)
- superintendent (506-511)
- treasurer (518-519)

(2) The district may have:

- advisory committee of district superintendent (488)
- camp meeting board (473:17)
- Christian education, board of (571-576)
- Christian education director (579-579)
- conference action committee (467-468)
- conference journal editing committee (472:1)
- conference nominating committee (470-471)
- educational secretary (596)
- judicial committee (1528)
- junior youth director (594)
- leadership training director (590)
- missionary, district (520)
- missions and evangelism, board of (551-556)
- trustees, board of (527; 528; 1401-1408)

(3) The district may have the following society officers and committees:

- Wesleyan Men officers and committees (1234-1235)
- Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization officers and committees (1234-1235)
- Wesleyan Youth officers and committees (1234-1235)
- Young Missionary Workers' Band director (1212; cf. 393)

B. District Officials

491. Identification. The district officials include the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. They are elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, and are ex officio members of the district board of administration (473:28-30; cf. 476).

492. Qualifications. A district official other than the district superintendent (cf. 507:1) must be, at the time of election and throughout his term of service, a full member of the local Wesleyan church within the district.
492

DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT

and, if a minister, a ministerial member of the district he serves and in active service for The Wesleyan Church (cf. 496).

493. Term of Office. District officials other than the district superintendent (cf. 507:2) shall be elected for a term of one year. All district officials shall assume office at the close of the district conference session at which they are elected, and shall serve until the close of the district conference marking the end of their term or until their successors are elected and qualified.

494. Amenity. A district official shall administer his office according to The Discipline, and as directed by the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the district conference, and the district board of administration. District officials other than the district superintendent shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent, shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration (486:23a). The amenability of the district superintendent is set forth in 509 (cf. 163:1; 176:4).

495. Reports. A district official shall report to each session of the district conference concerning his official duties (473:10), and to the district board of administration as may be required of him.

496. Vacancies. The office of a district official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district, by resignation, by removal (494), or in the case of a minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial member of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church. In all cases other than that of the district superintendent (507:4), the filling of a vacancy in the office of a district official until the next session of the district conference shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration (486:23a).

C. District Departmental Officers and Committees

499. Identification. District departmental officers include the district secretary of evangelism (559), the district secretary of missions (560), the district director of Christian education (578), the district Sunday school secretary (588), the district director of leadership training (590), the district director of Junior Youth (594), and the district educational secretary (596). All district departmental officers and members of district boards (other than the district board of administration, cf. 477) and committees are subject to the regulations as set forth herewith in 499-504. (Regulations governing the societies are set forth in their respective constitutions.)

500. Qualifications. A district departmental officer or member of a district board or committee (499) must be a full member of a local Wesleyan church within the district at the time of his election, and if a minister, a ministerial member of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church (cf. 504).

501. Term of Office. A district departmental officer or member of a district board or committee (499) shall be elected to serve for a term of one year, unless otherwise stated in The Discipline. He shall assume office at the close of the district conference session at which he is elected, or, whenever elected by a district board, at the time of his election, and shall serve until the close of the next regular session of the district conference.

502. Amenity. Each district departmental officer and member of a district board or committee (499) shall carry out his duties according to The Discipline and other directives of the regional church or district. He shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent and shall
be amenable to the district board of administration. He may be removed by the
district board of administration by a majority vote, for cause or when the best
interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require (486:23b).

503. Reports. A district departmental officer shall report to the district
conference as required by The Discipline or by the district conference (473:10),
and shall make other reports to the board or committee which he serves, the
district board of administration, or the district superintendent as may be re­
quested.

504. Vacancies. The office of a district departmental officer or membership
on a district board or committee (499) may become vacant by death, by cessation
of membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district, by resignation,
by removal (502), or in the case of a minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial
member of the district. A vacancy may be declared and filled for the unexpired
term by the district board of administration, by a majority vote.
Chapter V
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

A. District Superintendent

506. Function. The district superintendent is to be the spiritual and administrative leader of the district.

507. Qualifications and Tenure. The regulations for a district superintendent are (cf. 491-496):

1. Election. The district superintendent shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the elders in active service for The Wesleyan Church (473:28). If the district superintendent is elected from outside the membership of the district he is to serve, he shall immediately arrange for the transfer of his local and district membership.

2. Term of Office. The initial election of a district superintendent shall be for a term of one year, and reelection thereafter shall be for a term of two years (cf. 493). The salary of a district superintendent shall continue for one month beyond the date for the termination of his service.

3. Ex Officio Duties. The district superintendent is a member of the Regional Conference (165:602:1a) and the Regional Board of Administration (678:2), vice-chairman of the district conference (173:3; 450), chairman of the district board of administration (474; 482), chairman of the district building committee (523), member (and chairman, unless he chooses to appoint another in his place) of the district conference action committee when such is authorized (467), chairman of the district conference nominating committee when such is authorized (470), and an ex officio member of the district conventions and the district executive committees of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth (1234:1).

4. Vacancy. Whenever the office of a superintendent is vacated (496), 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 (514:7). Whenever a vacancy occurs in both the offices of the district superintendent and the assistant district superintendent, the Regional Superintendent over the district shall appoint an acting district superintendent to serve until the Regional Superintendent is able to convene the district board of administration to fill the vacancies as set forth in 496.

508. Amenability. The district superintendent is amenable, as provided in the Constitution, to the Regional Board of Administration for his official duties and moral character (163:1; 176:4). He may be removed from office by the Regional Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, for cause or whenever the Regional Board of Administration deems it necessary for the best interests of the Church and the preservation of the district (501:4a).

In the interim of Regional Board of Administration sessions, he may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration pending further action by the Regional Board of Administration.

511. Duties. The district superintendent shall administer his office in accord with The Discipline and any other official directives from the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the district conference, and the district board of administration. His duties are (cf. 506; 507:3):

Regional

1. To have the oversight of the Church within the district, endeavoring to lead the district forward in the fulfillment of the mission of The Wesleyan Church (75-76).

2. To give special attention to the initiation and promotion of an aggressive program of evangelism and church extension, as approved by the district conference or the district board of administration (cf. 203; 208; 209; 486:3).
(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programs of The Wesleyan Church, and promoting the interests of all the regional departments and the district.

(4) To cooperate with the Regional Superintendent and the Regional Board of Administration and its Executive Committee in the oversight of the district work, and in matters of district church extension and evangelism (740:25).

(5) To assist the Regional Superintendent in presiding over the district conference, and to preside over the district conference or take responsibility for the same, whenever a General Superintendent or an official World Missions representative or Regional Superintendent is not present, except when the appointed regional representative is requested by the district conference to preside (173:3; 450).

**District Administration**

(6) To be the chairman of the district board of administration (476; 482), and to submit recommendations to the district board of administration that will provide for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of the district work.

(7) To be the chairman of the district building committee (523), to be the chairman of the district conference action committee, when such a committee has been authorized, or to appoint the chairman (467), and to be the chairman of the district conference nominating committee when such has been authorized (470).

(8) To exercise administrative supervision over all district officials, departmental officers, boards (cf. 555; 575), committees, societies (cf. 1232), preaching points, pioneer churches, provisional churches, established churches, and ministers and other workers (cf. 1159:2) of the district with the exception of those who are amenable only to the Regional Board of Administration for their official duties (563:1; 473:9); and to see that the plans and policies of the regional church are carried out.

(9) To meet with any district board, committee, society, or other district agency at his discretion, and make such recommendations as he deems advisable; and to counsel with the various officers, directors, employees, and others serving the district concerning their work.

(10) To serve as an ex officio member of the district executive committees of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth (1234:1). (Cf. 1515:3.)

(11) To examine all written instruments and legal papers for the conveyance of property acquired by local churches or the district and to approve them as to their conformity with the requirements of The Discipline, the inclusion of the proper trust clause, and conformity to local laws (1403); to forward on the approved forms (691:33) a record of important facts concerning such property to the Regional Superintendent; and 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. (Cf. 1781; 1791.)

**Local Churches**

(12) To visit, or to appoint the assistant district superintendent or other representative to visit, each church in the district at least once a year, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church and seeking to advance its spiritual life and to preserve a written report of such visits in his office for future reference and for his successor. (Cf. 1515:3.)

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

(14) To recommend that the district board of administration authorize the establishment of a preaching point (203), a pioneer church (205), a provisional church (208), an established church (209), the reclassification of a provisional church (208:1); and to preside over the organization of a church or appoint a representative to do so (210), and to report the organization of new churches to the district board of administration and to the district conference (210:6).

(15) To supervise and promote the development of a pioneer church, approving the reception of members (205:2; cf. 1515:2), appointing the secretary-treasurer and Sunday school superintendent in cooperation with the pastor (205:3).
and approving the plans of the pastor and the local advisory council in the interim of sessions of the district board of administration (205:3).

(16) To arrange the date for the regular session of a local church conference (263:1-2), to preside over a local church conference whenever present (267), to convene a local church board or a local church conference in times of emergency and preside over the same (265:1; 287; 292:2-3; 310), and carry out any other provisions for a local church board or conference as prescribed in The Discipline.

(17) To counsel with a local church board for the securing of a pastor (284:1-2), providing it with a list of names of those ministers available for a call, and to carry out the provisions of The Discipline concerning the renewal of call, the review and termination of an extended call, the resignation and release of a pastor from the pastoral agreement, and other matters pertaining to pastoral relations for the pastoral charges under his care (266; 273:2; 284:1-2; 286; 287; 290-292; 310).

(18) To approve the transfer of any elder or licensed minister from another district, in concurrence with the Regional Superintendent (157:6; 284:2; 740:29; 1128:1), and, when objecting to such a transfer, to state his reasons if requested to do so.

(19) To recommend the removal of a pastor to the district board of administration, whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it, and to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply pastor until the local church obtains a pastor (486:27; 32).

(20) To perform all the functions of a pastor for a local church within the district when such church is without a pastor, or to recommend the district board of administration the appointment of a supply pastor until the local church obtains a pastor (486:27; 32).

(21) To approve the employment of an evangelist or workers of another denomination for revivals or other meetings by a local church or any district organization, and, when objecting to such employment, to state his reasons if requested to do so (cf. 316:17).

Ministers

(22) To counsel with the pastors, ministers, and special workers under his care, giving special attention to the encouragement and guidance of candidates for the ministry.

(23) To cooperate with the Regional Superintendent in, or in his absence to be responsible for, leading the council of ordination (546) in conducting the ritual of ordination (1119:6; 1701-1711), and the ritual of commissioning a deaconess (1184; 1721), a special worker, and a lay missionary (1189; 1741); to sign with the district secretary such certificates, licenses, or other official forms as are required of his office and issued to such persons as are authorized by the district conference; to have charge of services for the installation of pastors (1764).

(24) To request any special reports from the pastors, ministers, and churches that will facilitate his oversight of the district; to receive a quarterly statistical report from each pastoral charge as required by the regional church.

(25) To approve in writing the temporary service of an elder in a district other than the one of which he is a member (1128:2); to grant a letter of transfer or standing to any ordained, licensed, or commissioned worker in good standing of the district (1854; 1856); to instruct the district secretary to enroll as a member of the district a minister who transfers from another district in the manner prescribed by The Discipline (157:6; 1128:1; 1854-1855), and to order the enrollment of a deaconess or special worker so transferring (1185; 1190; 1854-1855); and to guide a minister, deaconess, or special worker from another denomination seeking recognition and membership in The Wesleyan Church (1116:3; 1120; 1184; 1109). (cf. 1133.)

Reports

(26) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties.
duties and personal ministry (473:10), and to submit other reports to the Regional Board of Administration, or its Executive Committee, and the district board of administration as required.

Judicial

(27) To receive any complaint or accusation against any person or local unit under the jurisdiction of the district (1517:4; 1521:1-5; 1527:1,3; 1530:1), and to give such his prompt and careful attention as required in the Judiciary (1527:1; 1530:1-2), and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the district board of administration for disposition (486:29,33). (Cf. 1529:2; 1531.)

B. Assistant District Superintendent

513. The assistant district superintendent shall be elected, by ballot and by majority vote, by the district conference from among the elders of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church (473:29). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as set forth in 491-496.

514. The duties of the assistant district superintendent are:
(1) To serve as member and vice-chairman of the district board of administration, presiding over the board whenever the district superintendent is not present or appoints him to do so (482).
(2) To convene the district board of administration in times of emergency when the district superintendent is not able to act (480).
(3) To serve as member and chairman of the district board of ministerial standing (533).
(4) To assist the district superintendent and to serve as his representative to local churches or district organizations as the superintendent may request; and to serve as the representative of his district on the Regional Board of Administration if the district superintendent is a member of the board by virtue of another office (678:2).
(5) To perform such other duties as may be required of him by the district conference or the district board of administration.
(6) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties (473:10), and to the district board of administration as required.
(7) To become district superintendent in the event of a vacancy in that office (cf. 496; 507:4).

515. A district conference may choose to have the assistant district superintendent as a full-time district official, and shall further define his duties in addition to those set forth in The Discipline.

C. District Secretary

516. The district secretary shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote (473:30; cf. 421:1). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 491-496.

517. The duties of the district secretary are:
(1) To be the secretary of the district conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form (cf. 472), and forwarding sufficient copies to the Regional Superintendent as directed in 472:4.
(2) To serve as a member and as the secretary of the district board of administration (476; 483), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each member of the board and to the Regional Superintendent.
(3) To issue official notices and communications from the district confer-
ence including financial obligations to the regional treasury or other, and from the district board of administration, and to keep permanent file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.

(4) To issue and sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by the district and as prescribed for a district secretary by the Regional Conference or Regional Superintendent.

(5) To forward promptly to the Regional Superintendent statistical and financial reports of the district conference as may be required by the regional and general church, a copy of each memorial adopted for presentation to the Regional Board of Administration; and to cooperate in forwarding other information to the General Secretary of World Missions as he may request.

(6) To be the custodian of the official district records and archives, except as otherwise provided for in the Discipline (535), including the records of the district statistical committee (526:3) and all district judicial committees (1524; 1528), and to be instructed by the district board of administration as to the exercise of such custody (486:13).

(7) To receive an official copy of the minutes of each board, committee, auxiliary organization, or other district agency, and to preserve them in the district archives.

(8) To maintain a complete and current district directory, listing the district officials, each district board or committee with the names of its members and officers, the district departmental officers (499), the names and addresses of each elder, licensed minister, unlicensed ministerial student, commissioned and licensed deaconess, commissioned and licensed preacher, commissioned and licensed special worker, and commissioned lay missionary, the address of each preaching point, pioneer church, church, and parsonage within the bounds of the district, and other information as desired (cf. 539).

(9) To aid in collecting books, documents, photographs, or other historical materials for the historical archives of the denomination in cooperation with the Regional Secretary.

(10) To notify all churches and ministerial members of the district of the time and place of the next regular session of the district conference at least thirty days in advance (447), and to notify them of any reconvened sessions as requested by the district board of administration (448).

(11) To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration and as pertain to his office.

D. District Treasurer

518. The district treasurer shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote (473:30; cf. 471:1). 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. His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 491-496.

519. The duties of a district treasurer are:

(1) To serve as a member of the district board of administration (476), and, when such has been authorized, as a member of the district conference action committee (467).

(2) To have custody of all district funds, unless otherwise provided for by The Discipline, to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plans of the Regional Conference and the district conference, and as directed by the district board of administration.

(3) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, as provided for in 521-522, and at any other time as may be requested by the district board of administration (486:15).

(4) To receive, record, and hold all funds specified for the regional church from the several churches, district organizations, and from any other sources within the district, and to remit such funds monthly to the Regional Treasurer on the approved forms and as instructed by him; to cooperate with the district treasurers of the societies in securing and compiling statistics necessary to maintaining a record of their work (1235:5).
To serve as district director of stewardship, promoting stewardship and rehouse tithing on the district level, in cooperation with the regional director of stewardship (761:6).

(6) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in his care, certified by the auditor or the auditing committee, to each regular session of the district conference (473:10), to submit reports to the district board of administration (486:9), the district superintendent, and the Regional Superintendent as they may require.

(7) To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration and as pertain to his office.

E. The District Missionary

520. A missionary designated by the missionary council to serve on a district within the region may be designated as district missionary. As such he shall be an ex officio member of the district board of administration (476).

He shall seek to assist the district officers in the promotion of the work, and shall perform such specific duties as assigned to him by the district conference or the district board of administration.

F. District Auditing Committee

521. The district conference shall provide for the auditing of all financial records and funds by the election of a district auditing committee, or by directing the district board of administration to employ an accountant for that purpose (552; cf. 486:10). The district auditing committee shall be a standing committee and shall consist of two or more persons elected for a term of one year by the district conference (473:32; cf. 471:2). General regulations for the membership of this committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the auditing committee are:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the district fiscal year, and before the financial reports are presented to a district conference or convention, the records and funds of the district treasurer (519:6), the district treasurers of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth (1225:5), and any other treasurer of a district board or agency having custody of district funds (cf. 583); 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 and to each of the district conventions of the societies concerning the results of the audit. A financial report may not be accepted as approved by any official body until certified as correct by the auditing committee or employed auditor.

(3) To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration.

522. The district conference may direct the district board of administration to employ an accountant to perform any part or all of the duties assigned to the district auditing committee in which case the auditor's report shall be submitted to the district conference by the district secretary.

G. District Building Committee

523. There shall be a district building committee elected by the district conference (473:32; cf. 471:2), unless the district conference shall delegate the election to the district board of administration. The committee shall consist of the district superintendent as chairman, and six other members. The elected members should be persons who are capable and experienced in property transactions and the construction of buildings. General regulations governing the membership of this committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the district building committee are:

(1) To investigate the proposed sites for local church buildings, parsonages, or other units, in order to ascertain that such properties are properly located in the community to be served and adequate in size for future expansion and parking facilities; to consider also the plans and requirements of
any metropolitan or urban planning commission, if such an agency exists; to consider also the financial plans and the liabilities to be incurred; to act upon the proposal of the local church and to report its findings and recommendations in writing both to the district board of administration and the local church.

(2) To consider the proposal of a local church (274:13) for the construction of a local church building, parsonage, educational unit, or the remodeling of such buildings when it amounts to ten percent or more of the value of the building; to advise them in detail concerning the architectural plans; to consider carefully the financial liability and the plans of the local church for meeting such liabilities; and to report its findings and recommendations in writing to the local church and the district board of administration (486:28).

H. District Statistical Committee

525. Each district conference shall elect a district statistical committee of the desired number (473:32; cf. 471:2), or the district conference may delegate this responsibility to the district board of administration. General regulations for the membership of this committee are given in 499-504.

526. The duties of the district statistical committee are:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, complete annual statistical and financial reports from such persons, units, and agencies as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate, on forms approved by the Regional Board of Administration and made available by the Regional Secretary; and to compile and submit to the district conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the district as a whole.

(2) To report to the district board of administration the name of each person who fails to submit his report in the proper manner and at the appointed time.

(3) To submit, after the committee has finished its work, all reports and records to the district secretary for filing.

I. District Board of Trustees

527. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in 1311-1313. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by trustees, the district conference may elect from among the members of the district board of administration the members of the district board of trustees in such number as desired (473:16). The district trustees shall hold office until their term expires as members of the district board of administration and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district board of trustees shall be amenable to the district board of administration. A district trustee may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration whenever it is deemed necessary for the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district or whenever a trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the district board of administration, except when such directions are contrary to local laws or to The Discipline (477; 486:23a; 494; 1406). The office of a district trustee may also become vacant by death, cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, or cessation of membership on the district board of administration. A vacancy on the district board of trustees shall be filled for the expired term by a two-thirds majority vote of the district board of administration (477; 486:23a; 496).

528. The district board of trustees shall administer its duties in accord with The Discipline, and as directed by the district board of administration. Its duties are:

(1) To hold all district and local property in trust for The Wesleyan Church (cf. 160:7).
(2) To attend to all legal matters pertaining to the district transactions for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposal of property, as ordered by the district board of administration.

(3) To fulfill such other duties as pertain to their office as trustees and as may be assigned to them by the district board of administration.

J. District Board of Review

529. Each established district shall have a district board of review, which shall consist of four elders and three laymen elected annually by the district conference (cf. 471:2). Two elders and two laymen shall also be elected at the same time to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies in the order of their election (1524). The district board of review serves as an appellate body for lay members and local churches and has original jurisdiction over charges or complaints preferred against local churches. The duties and powers of the district board of review are set forth in the Judiciary (1524-1525). General regulations governing the members of the district board of review are set forth in 499-504.
Chapter VI

DISTRICT MINISTERIAL SUPERVISION

A. District Board of Ministerial Standing

531. Function. There shall be a district board of ministerial standing which shall be responsible for the examination and recommendation to the district conference of all candidates for ordination, license, commission, ministerial study, restoration, or transfer from another denomination.

532. Membership. The board shall consist of the assistant district superintendent as chairman, and from five to nine members elected by the district conference, one or more of whom shall be laymen (473:31; cf. 47:2). The ministerial members shall be elders in active service for The Wesleyan Church. The term of office for the elected members shall be for four years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-fourth shall be elected each year. General regulations for the members of this board are defined in 499-504.

533. Organization. The assistant district superintendent shall be the chairman, and the board shall annually elect a vice-chairman and a secretary from among its members. The board may divide into smaller groups and apportion the work among them as deemed necessary, provided that all recommendations of the board to the district conference shall be adopted at a meeting of the full board.

534. Sessions. The board shall be convened by the chairman in sufficient time before the opening of the district conference to enable the board to complete its work in a careful and thorough manner, and shall meet at other times as deemed necessary upon the call of the chairman. The district board of ministerial standing, as early as possible after the date of the district conference has been fixed, shall appoint the time for all candidates to meet with the board, subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:9).

535. Records. The secretary of the district board of ministerial standing shall keep suitable and permanent records which shall be the property of the district and shall be preserved as directed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration. The secretary of the board shall keep:

(1) A correct and complete journal of the proceedings of the board meetings, an official copy of which shall be submitted to the district secretary for permanent filing (517:7).

(2) A record of the ministerial studies and training of each licentiate and ministerial student, including the work done in a college, theological school, or by correspondence with the Ministerial Study Course Agency. A record of all credits earned shall be recorded at least once each year in cooperation with the Ministerial Study Course Agency as set forth in 941:1, and shall be available to the board in considering its recommendations to the district conference.

(3) A personnel record of each ordained, licensed, or commissioned member of the district, on forms as authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, including: important personal and family information; educational qualifications; ministerial service including pastoral and other district appointments, offices held, and credentials issued by the district. Whenever a letter of transfer is granted, a transcript of the personnel record shall be provided, if requested, but the record shall remain in the permanent files of the district.

537. Duties. The duties of the district board of ministerial standing shall be:

Related to Ordination, Commissions, Licenses, and Ministerial Students

(1) To examine carefully each candidate for election by the district con-
ference to elder's orders, the granting of a district ministerial license, a commission or license as deaconess, a commission or license as special worker, a commission as a lay missionary, and any other commission or license as may be authorized by The Discipline; to interview each candidate, and to make any other investigation deemed necessary, in regard to his personal experience of salvation and entire sanctification, his full commitment to the Articles of Religion, General Rules, Elementary Principles, and polity of The Wesleyan Church and acceptance of its authority, his evidence of having the qualifications for the ministry to which he feels called as set forth in The Discipline, and to recommend to the district conference those who are qualified in the judgment of said board (cf. 533; 537:5).

(2) To consider each person recommended by his local church conference (274:8) to study for the ministry under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing, and to recommend to the district conference for listing as unlicensed ministerial students (539:111) those who are deemed worthy (473:26c; cf. 1170:3); to encourage all such ministerial students to enroll for ministerial training in an approved school of The Wesleyan Church; to supervise and counsel them, keeping a record of their ministerial studies (535:2), and cooperating with the director of the Ministerial Study Course Agency in supervising those enrolled in courses under the Agency (cf. 1150-1151).

(3) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received into the district from another denomination, and to be recognized as an elder, commissioned deaconess, or commissioned special worker, and to recommend to the district conference for reception as in process of transfer, and subsequently for recognition as in full standing, only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to The Discipline (cf. 1115:3; 1120; 1183-1184; 1188-1189); and, in the interim of district conference sessions, to make such recommendation to the district board of administration (486:30).

(4) To consider and examine any person applying for restoration of orders, commission, or license, and to recommend to the district conference only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to The Discipline (cf. 1136-1140; 1185; 1190).

(5) To present to the district conference, as a separate report, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination as an elder (473:25; cf. 1119:5); and to present to the district conference a combined report of all other recommendations concerning the commissioning, licensing, recognition, or restoration of ministers, deaconesses, and special workers, and the listing of ministerial students (473:26).

(6) To serve, with the exception of the lay members, and when so designated by the district conference (473:31; cf. 486:31), as a council of ordination (546); and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the district conference.

Related to the Annual Service Reports

(7) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, a written annual service report (541) from each elder, licensed minister, commissioned and licensed deaconess, and commissioned and licensed special worker; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows (cf. 473:27):

a) A report which shows that the work has been done according to The Discipline and that the annual statistical report (526:1) has been properly submitted shall be marked as approved and returned to the person submitting it (cf. 537:9).

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 (526:1) has not been properly submitted, shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the district board of ministerial standing, the report shall be marked unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it (cf. 537:9).

(8) To investigate the reason for failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (541), and to take appropriate action as set forth in 1121:1; 1123:3; 1183; 1184; 1188; and 1189.
(9) To present a report (cf. 533) 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 (537:7b) shall report to the district conference wherein he has failed, and it shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the district conference to approve such a person for continued appointment.

Related to Appointments and District Conference Elections

(10) To submit reports to the district board of administration concerning the following matters related to district conference appointments and relations: the results of the examination of the annual service reports (537:8-9); the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment or district conference relations, as recorded on the annual service reports; those persons qualified for a district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective upon their appointment (473:23,26b; 466:8; cf. 1111:6; 1112:3); those persons qualified for a license, commission, listing as unlicensed ministerial student, or reception from another district or denomination, or restoration (473:23,26; 466:8).

B. The Listing of District Conference Relations and Appointments

539. The elders, licensed ministers, unlicensed ministerial students, commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned and licensed special workers, commissioned lay missionaries, and other workers of the district shall be listed in the following order as appointed by the district conference (473:23; cf. 466:8). This listing shall be included in the district conference journal (472) as an official district directory and shall be used for the district conference roll call.

I. Elders

A. STATIONED ELDERS (1156-1167).

1. District Service.
   The district superintendent and other elders in full-time district service (1166; cf. 515; 578).

2. Pastoral Service.
   a. Elders appointed as pastors, associate pastors, assistant pastors within the district (1168).
   b. Elders on loan to other districts of The Wesleyan Church for service as supply pastors (1128:2; 1159:1).

3. Evangelistic Service.
   a. Regional Evangelists. Elders appointed to evangelistic service and recommended for certification as regional evangelists by the district conference, and certified as regional evangelists by the Regional Board of Administration (1160; 1162).
   b. District Evangelists. Elders appointed to evangelistic service as district evangelists (1160-1161).

4. Denominational Service.
   a. Elders elected by the Regional Conference as-regional officials (711; cf. 1166).
   b. Elders elected or employed by the Regional Board of Administration for full-time regional church service as set forth in 1166 (cf. 691:21).
   c. Elders employed on the administrative staff or faculty of a regional
ed. Elders serving as military chaplains (1167).

5. Interchurch Service (1168).
Elders employed in interchurch service, serving as institutional chaplains, or with an educational, evangelistic, or missionary organization not directly related to The Wesleyan Church, provided such service is approved by the district conference.

B. SUPERANNUATED ELDERS (1173).

Elders retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, provided they were either on the stationed or reserve list at the time of such incapacitation or retirement.

C. RESERVE ELDERS (1172).

Elders available for appointment but without employment. An elder who remains on reserve for two consecutive years shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list, unless continued on reserve by a vote of the district conference (473:23c).

D. UNSTATIONED ELDERS (1174).

1. Elders enrolled in a seminary or other graduate school (1170:1).
2. Elders not available for appointment.
3. Elders who are not otherwise listed.

E. ELDERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (1120; 1175).

Ordained ministers from another denomination who have been granted recognition as elders in process of transfer (473:26a; cf. 537:3).

II. Licensed Ministers

A. PASTORS (1158).

B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS (including district evangelists, and those in district, denominational, and interchurch service, 1156; 1160-1168).

C. LICENSED MINISTERIAL STUDENTS (1170:2).

III. Unlicensed Ministerial Students

Local preachers (who are not eligible for a district ministerial license, 539:II:A-C), but who have been approved by the district conference for listing as ministerial students to study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (473:26c; cf. 537:2), whether enrolled in a correspondence course or as a part-time student in an educational institution (1170:3). They are neither voting nor nonvoting members of the district conference.

IV. Deaconesses

A. COMMISSIONED DEACONESES (1184).

B. COMMISSIONED DEACONESES IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (1184; cf. 473:26d).

C. LICENSED DEACONESES (1183).
Deaconesses listed by the district conference (473:26d; cf. 537:1).
V. Other Workers

A. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS (1189, list by specific category—cf. 1187).

B. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (1189, list by specific category—cf. 1187).

C. LICENSED SPECIAL WORKERS (1188, list by specific category—cf. 1187).

D. SUPPLY PASTORS (1159).

C. Annual Service Reports

541. Annual Service Reports. The district conference shall receive an annual service report from each elder, licensed minister, commissioned or licensed deaconess, and commissioned or licensed special worker on forms authorized by the Regional Board of Administration and made available by the Regional Secretary. Pastors shall submit the “Pastor’s Annual Service Report,” other elders and licensed ministers shall submit the “Minister’s Annual Service Report,” and all others shall submit the “Lay Worker’s Annual Service Report.” All such reports shall be submitted to the district board of ministerial standing, serving on behalf of the district conference, as directed by the district board of administration or the district superintendent (537:7-9).

D. Council of Ordination

546. Each district shall provide for a council of ordination to assist the General Superintendent or General Secretary of World Missions (740:28), Regional Superintendent, and district superintendent (511:23) in carrying out the will of the district conference in the ordination of those elected to elder’s orders (1119:6; 1701-1711), and the commissioning of those elected thereto as deaconesses (1184; 1721), and special workers (1189; 1741). The council of ordination may consist of the desired number of elders appointed by the district board of administration (486:31), or the district conference may designate the elders of the district board of ministerial standing as the council of ordination (473:31; 537:6).
Chapter VII

DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

A. District Board of Missions and Evangelism

551. Function. The district board of missions and evangelism shall be responsible within the district for the promotion of world missions, regional and district church extension and evangelism, and the coordination of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization on the district level as set forth in The Discipline.

552. Membership. The district board of missions and evangelism shall consist of a member elected by the district board of administration from among its own members who shall serve as chairman (486:17), the district secretary of evangelism (559), the district president of Wesleyan Men (562), the district president of Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization (563), the district president of Wesleyan Youth or a representative of the district WM executive committee, and at least two members-at-large elected by the district conference with due regard for lay representation (473:33; cf. 471:1). General regulations governing the members of this board are set forth in 499-504.

553. Organization. The district board of administration shall elect one from among its own members to serve as chairman of the district board of missions and evangelism. The board shall otherwise organize itself, elect its own officers, and may elect an executive committee for ad interim business. (Cf. 517:7.)

554. Sessions. The district board of missions and evangelism shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall decide, provided that not less than two sessions shall be held each year. Special sessions may be called by the chairman as needed.

555. Amenity. The district board of missions and evangelism shall serve as an advisory and coordinating body and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. All plans shall be approved by the district board of administration (486:18), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district superintendent (511:8), before their implementation.

556. Duties. The duties of the district board of missions and evangelism shall be:

(1) To stimulate interest in soul-winning, personal work, regional and district church extension and evangelism, and world missions outreach throughout the district, and to direct the activities of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization to these ends.

(2) To make recommendations to the district board of administration as to ways in which Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth can promote and support district church extension and pioneer projects.

(3) To review and coordinate the plans of the district secretary of evangelism (559:2) and the district secretary of missions (560:2), and the plans of the district WM executive committee (562) and the district WGO executive committee (563), all of which shall be subsequently submitted to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 555).

(4) To coordinate the plans of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization for district or zone conventions, institutes, and other activities.

(5) To recommend to the district board of administration financial goals for the district, the churches, and the auxiliary organizations for special offerings for the support of world missions and district evangelism.

(6) To perform other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration in the interest of world missions and regional or district church extension and evangelism.
B. District Secretary of Evangelism

559. A district secretary of evangelism shall be elected by the district conference (473:3; cf. 471:2), and is an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements for him as a district departmental officer are set forth in 449-504. His duties are:

1. To report his election promptly to the Regional Superintendent and to cooperate with him in promoting the interests of regional church extension and evangelism; and likewise to promote the interests of the district program of extension and evangelism.

2. To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of missions and evangelism for review and coordination (556:3), and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 555).

3. To assist the district superintendent in arranging for deputational work within the district by representatives of the Regional Department of Extension and Evangelism.

4. To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of regional or district church extension and evangelism at the district conference or camp meeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

5. To assist pastors in promoting evangelism and church extension.

6. To keep a record of activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit it to his successor.

7. To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:10), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished in the district for regional and district church extension and evangelism, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Secretary of Evangelism; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

8. To perform other duties in the interest of regional and district church extension and evangelism, as may be required by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of missions and evangelism.

C. District Secretary of Missions

560. A district secretary of missions shall be elected by the district conference (473:33; cf. 471:2), and is an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements for him as a district departmental officer are set forth in 449-504. His duties are:

1. To report his election promptly to the Regional Secretary of Missions and to cooperate with him in promoting an interest in and a burden for world missions outreach within the district.

2. To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of missions and evangelism for review and coordination (556:3), and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 555).

3. To assist the district superintendent in arranging for deputational work within the district by representatives of the Regional Department of Missions.

4. To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of world missions at the district conference or camp meeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

5. To assist pastors in planning for world missions conventions and in promoting world missions in the local church.

6. To keep a record of all activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit this to his successor.

7. To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:10), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for world missions, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Secretary of Missions; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).
(8) To perform other duties in the interest of world missions outreach as may be requested by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of missions and evangelism.

D. District President of Wesleyan Men

563. The district president of Wesleyan Men (1212), whenever such an officer has been elected, shall serve as an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552), and as a nonvoting member of the district conference (1235:2). He shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Men to the district board of missions and evangelism for review and coordination (556:3), and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (486:20). In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. He shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Men toward soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.

E. District President of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization

563. The district president of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization shall serve as an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552), and as a nonvoting member of the district conference (1235:2). She shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization to the district board of missions and evangelism for review and coordination (556:3), and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (486:22). In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. She shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization into soul-winning, evangelism, pioneer work, and concern for world outreach in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.
Chapter VII

DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. District Board of Christian Education

571. Function. The district board of Christian education shall endeavor to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a comprehensive district program of Christian education. The board shall view Christian education as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully coordinated educational program.

572. Membership. The board shall consist of a member elected by the district board of administration from among its own members who shall serve as chairman (486:17), the district director of Christian education, if any, (578), the district secretary of Sunday schools (588), the district director of leadership training, if any, (590), the district president of Wesleyan Youth (592), the district director of Junior Youth (594), the district director of Young Missionary Worker's Band (1212), the district educational secretary (596), and other members-at-large elected by the district conference (473:35; cf. 471:2). The general regulations for the members of the district board of Christian education are set forth in 499-504.

573. Organization. The district board of administration shall elect one from among its own members to serve as chairman of the district board of Christian education. The board shall otherwise organize itself, elect its own officers, and may elect an executive committee for ad interim business. (Cf. 517:7.)

574. Sessions. The district board of Christian education shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall determine, provided that not less than two sessions shall be held each year. Special sessions may be called by the chairman as deemed necessary.

575. Amenity. The district board of Christian education shall be an advisory and coordinating body, and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. All plans of the board shall be approved by the district board of administration (486:18), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district superintendent (511:8), before their implementation.

576. Duties. The duties and powers of the district board of Christian education are:

1. To develop, supervise, and coordinate the work of Christian education within the district; to review and coordinate plans of each director and agency, including the district director of Christian education, the district Sunday school committee, the district Sunday school secretary, the district director of leadership training, the district youth president, the district director of Junior Youth Organization, the district educational secretary, and others that may be appointed for Christian education activities in the district, which shall subsequently be submitted to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

2. To receive reports from the various district directors and secretaries of the board and to advise them concerning their work, assisting each district agency to maintain an effective program for its particular phase of Christian education.

3. To advise and assist the district directors and secretaries in implementing the plans and programs of the general departments which they represent within the district.

4. To be responsible for the planning and supervision of the summer camps for children and youth; to submit detailed plans for such camps to the district board of administration for their approval; and to carry out the approved plans.

5. To promote the interests of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, particularly the general educational institutions in the area.
of which the district is a part, and to see that they are represented in the various youth camps and conventions as deemed appropriate.

(6) To present recommendations to the district board of administration and to the district conference for the growth of the work through the various ministries of Christian education, and for the financial plans and other interests of the work under their care.

(7) To recommend to the district board of administration the employment of a full-time district director of Christian education and to nominate such a director as set forth in 578; to define his duties in addition to what is set forth in The Discipline and to supervise his activities.

(8) To nominate to the district board of administration the members-at-large for the district Sunday school committee (582; cf. 486:16).

(9) To perform such other duties related to Christian education as are assigned by the district conference or the district board of administration.

B. District Director of Christian Education

578. The district conference may employ a director of Christian education (473:34; cf. 471:2), or it may authorize the district board of administration to employ such a director who shall in that case be nominated by the district board of Christian education (486:21; 676:7). He shall be a member ex officio of the district board of Christian education (572; cf. 582). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504, except that when he is employed, the district board of administration shall have authority to determine his term of office.

579. The duties of a district director of Christian education shall be (cf. 578):

(1) To serve as the executive secretary of the district board of Christian education, helping to coordinate the total program of Christian education within the district, and serving as a resource person in advising and assisting the various educational leaders in their particular phase of the work.

(2) To assume, as assigned by the district conference (473:34), the duties of the district director of leadership training, the district Sunday school secretary, the district Junior Youth Organization director, the district educational secretary, and the promotional duties of the district WY president.

(3) To visit the churches of the district in such order and manner as the district superintendent shall approve, assisting pastors, Sunday school superintendents, Junior Youth Organization directors, WY presidents, and other educational leaders.

(4) To serve as director of camping programs to the extent recommended by the district board of Christian education and approved by the district board of administration (cf. 576:4).

(5) To promote the interests of the regional educational institutions within the area, helping to recruit students and to promote the raising of funds.

(6) To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:10), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for Christian education.

(7) To keep a file of correspondence and other records and to submit the same to his successor.

(8) To perform other duties in the interests of Christian education as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

C. District Sunday School Committee

581. Function. The district Sunday school committee is responsible for those phases of Christian education within the bounds of the district as assigned to the Regional Department of Sunday Schools (591), with particular emphasis on the Sunday school work and leadership training.

582. Membership. Each district shall have a district Sunday school committee which shall be composed of the district Sunday school secretary as chair-
582. Organization. The district Sunday school secretary shall be the chairman, and the committee shall elect a recording secretary who shall record the proceedings of the committee meetings (cf. 517:7) and keep a permanent file of records and reports. The committee may also elect a vice-chairman and a treasurer, if deemed necessary.

584. Amenability. The district Sunday school committee shall be amenable to the district board of Christian education and through that board to the district board of administration, in all matters of district organization and program. All committee plans shall be submitted to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575). In matters pertaining to Sunday school organization, philosophy, curriculum, and objectives the committee shall carry out its work in accord with The Discipline and the directives of the Regional Board of Administration.

585. Duties. The duties of the district Sunday school committee are:
1. To promote and encourage the Sunday school work of the district, seeking to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Church for Christian education as set forth in 896:1-7 (cf. 581).
2. To emphasize evangelism and soul-winning in the Sunday schools, seeking the conversion of every scholar and his enrollment in the church, and promoting outreach through the establishing of branch Sunday schools.
3. To implement the plans and policies of the region for Sunday schools and to assist pastors and Sunday school superintendents in doing the same.
4. To make recommendations to the district board of Christian education for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of Sunday school work (cf. 581).
5. To see that a Sunday school has been organized in each church, and to assist each Sunday school to meet the approved standard of achievement.
6. To plan for Sunday school and leadership training rallies, conventions, institutes, or workshops on a district, zone, or local level; to arrange for special services or promotional displays at zone or district meetings; submitting any such plans to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).
7. To assist pastors and local Sunday school officers in the organization of leadership training classes and programs.
8. To submit recommendations for Sunday school work, including the financial plans for Sunday school promotion, to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).
9. To encourage the use of The Wesleyan Church curriculum materials.
10. To perform other duties in harmony with its responsibility as may be assigned to it by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

D. District Secretary of Sunday Schools

586. A district secretary of Sunday schools shall be elected by the district conference (473:35; cf. 471:2), or his duties shall be assigned to the district director of Christian education (473:34; 579:2). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education and chairman of the district Sunday school committee. His term of office, amenability, and...
other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools, and to cooperate with him in implementing and promoting the regional plans and policies for Sunday schools within the district.

(2) To serve as chairman of the district Sunday school committee, providing leadership to the committee for the Sunday school work of the district; to present all plans and recommendations of the committee to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination (576:1), and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(3) To cooperate with and assist the pastors and local Sunday school superintendents in the organization and advancement of their Sunday schools according to the approved standard and in reaching the goals set by the regional church and the district conference.

(4) To keep a file of correspondence and other records and to submit it to his successor.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:10), concerning his official activities, the work of the district Sunday school committee, and a complete statistical report for the Sunday schools; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(6) To increase his qualifications and capacity for Sunday school and Christian education work by attending denominational and other approved Sunday school conventions, conferences, and seminars, and through correspondence courses, and periodicals as time permits and opportunity affords.

(7) To conduct any special Sunday school services or programs, or to arrange for promotional displays at the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings.

(8) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education (cf. 590).

E. District Director of Leadership Training

590. A district conference may elect a district director of leadership training (473:34; cf. 471:2), or the district conference may assign his duties to the district director of Christian education (473:34; 579:2). If the district does not have a district director of Christian education and also chooses not to have a district director of leadership training, the duties of the district director of leadership training shall be assigned by the district conference to the district Sunday school secretary (588:8). The district director of leadership training shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572) and the district Sunday school committee (582). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To be responsible for the district program of leadership training.

(2) To be certified as a director of leadership training.

(3) To formulate plans with the district Sunday school committee for leadership training rallies, institutes, conventions, or seminars, on a district, zone, or local church level; and to submit such plans to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination (576:1) and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(4) To assist pastors and local church directors of Christian education in conducting classes or setting up effective programs of leadership training in the local church.

(5) To keep a permanent record of correspondence and other plans and to submit them to his successor.

(6) To conduct any special services or to arrange for promotional displays on leadership training at the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings.

(7) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:10) regarding his official activities and the progress of leadership training within the district, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).
(8) To perform such other duties in harmony with his responsibility as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

F. District President of Wesleyan Youth

592. There shall be a district president of Wesleyan Youth who shall be a member of the district board of Christian education (572) and a nonvoting member of the district conference (437:5; cf. 1235:2). He shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Youth to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval. In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. He shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Youth in accord with the purpose for Wesleyan Youth (1231), and in a coordinated effort to forward the district program for Christian education.

G. District Director of Junior Youth

594. There may be a district director of Junior Youth elected by the district conference (cf. 471:2; 473:35; 579:2). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572) and a nonvoting member of the district conference (437:5). His term of service, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the Regional Secretary of Youth and to cooperate with him in developing and promoting the program for children and youth under the Junior Youth program within the district.

(2) To serve as a member of the district board of Christian education and work with the board for a coordinated program of all the various phases of Christian education throughout the district (cf. 575; 576:1).

(3) To work with pastors and local JY directors in establishing and maintaining effective Junior Youth organizations; and to help pastors and local workers to become certified as JY directors.

(4) To be responsible for JY district rallies and JY activities or events, and to arrange for promotional displays, at the district conference, camps, and other district gatherings.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:10) regarding his official activities and the progress of JY in the district, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(6) To perform such other duties related to JY as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

H. District Educational Secretary

596. There may be a district educational secretary elected by the district conference (473:35; cf. 471:2), or his duties shall be assigned to the district director of Christian education (472:34; 579:2). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions and to cooperate with him in promoting the interests of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To assist the district superintendent and to cooperate with the regional educational institutions within the area to which the district is assigned in formulating plans for deputational work within the district (cf. 773:2), submitting all plans to the district superintendent for his approval.

(3) To represent the educational institutions, or to arrange for such representation, at camps, conventions, and other appropriate occasions, including promotional displays and the distribution of literature, as directed by
the district board of Christian education and approved by the officers in charge of the meetings.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services for promoting the interests of the regional educational institutions during the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings, arranging for promotional displays and the distribution of literature if desired, and cooperating with representatives of the educational institutions in such plans.

(5) To encourage young people to attend the schools of The Wesleyan Church, notifying such institutions of any prospective students, and encouraging all pastors to do the same.

(6) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:10) concerning his official activities and the support given by the district for the regional educational institutions, including the number of students enrolled in the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(7) To perform such other duties in harmony with his responsibility as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.
PART IV
REGIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT
Chapter I
REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A. Function

601. The Regional Conference is the supreme governing body of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa (96; 100). The basic provisions, powers, and restrictions of this body are set forth in the Constitution (165-176).

B. Membership

1. Plan of Representation

602. The Regional Conference shall be composed of voting members and non-voting members as follows:

Voting Members

(1) The voting members of the Regional Conference shall be:

a) The district superintendent of each established, provisional, and pioneer district, and a lay delegate elected or appointed on his behalf at the same time and in the same manner as the other delegates (406; 608-616).

b) One ministerial and one lay delegate for each pioneer district, and for the first one hundred and fifty full members or less of a provisional or established district and a further one ministerial and one lay delegate for every extra one hundred and fifty full members or major fraction thereof (417).

c) The district missionary of each established, provisional, or pioneer district.

d) The regional officers: the Regional Superintendent, the Assistant Regional Superintendent, the Regional Secretary, the Regional Treasurer, the Regional Editor, the Regional Secretary of Missions, the Regional Secretary of Evangelism, the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions, the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools, and members of the Regional Board of Administration who are not voting members by some other right.

e) The regional society directors: the Regional Director of Wesleyan Men, the Regional Director of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and the Regional Director of Youth.

Nonvoting Members

(2) The following when they are not voting members by some other right shall be seated as nonvoting members when present at the Regional Conference session: former Regional Superintendents, Bible college presidents, ordained and licensed ministers, commissioned deaconesses, missionaries under appointment to the Southern Africa Regional Conference, and other delegates as provided for by the Regional Board of Administration.

2. Forfeiture of Representation

603. A district or provisional district which has been placed under discipline as provided for in the Judiciary (1543-1546), shall forfeit all rights to any representation in the Regional Conference (1605). The delegates, including the district superintendent and any delegate-at-large from that district, shall not be recognized or seated until the district or provisional district they represent is officially reinstated (1546).
3. Election of Delegates

a. Delegates

608. The delegates to the Regional Conference shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, at its last annual session preceding the Regional Conference. The statistical report for the annual session of the district conference at which the delegates are elected shall be used for determining the number of full members, and, consequently, the number of Regional Conference delegates (602:3). A certified list of all delegates to the Regional Conference shall be promptly forwarded by the district secretary to the Regional Secretary.

609. A person accepting election as a delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire Regional Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances. (Cf. 629.)

b. Alternate Delegates

610. Each district conference shall also at the same session (608) elect by ballot and by majority vote a sufficient number of alternate ministerial and lay delegates, not to exceed the number of delegates. Such alternates shall meet the same qualifications as the delegates (613-616) and shall fill vacancies in the order of their election.

611. Whenever the district superintendent, who is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:1a), is unable to attend, his place shall be filled by the assistant district superintendent. If the assistant district superintendent is an elected delegate to the Regional Conference, his place shall then be filled like any other vacancy by an alternate ministerial delegate.

4. Qualifications of Delegates

a. Ministerial Delegates

613. A ministerial delegate must be an ordained elder, or a licensed minister serving in an active capacity who is a member of the district he represents, both at the time of the election and at the time of the Regional Conference (166:2).

614. Whenever a ministerial delegate-elect shall transfer his membership to another district, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate ministerial delegate certified in his place (610).

b. Lay Delegates

615. A lay delegate must be a layman who is a full member of a local church in the district he represents, both at the time of election and at the time of the Regional Conference (166:3).

616. Whenever a lay delegate-elect shall cease to meet the requirements in 615, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate lay delegate certified in his place (610).

C. Sessions

1. Regular Sessions

620. The Regional Conference shall meet quadrennially on the first Wednesday of January at a time and place selected by the Regional Board of Administration.
Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans of the Regional Conference for the time and place of the next regular session, the Regional Board of Administration may, by a two-thirds vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes (cf. 167:1; 691:2).

2. Special Sessions

A special session of the Regional Conference shall be called by the Regional Superintendent (740:6) whenever authorized to do so by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Board of Administration. The time and place for the special session shall be decided by the Regional Board of Administration, or by its Executive Committee. The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference.

A special session of the Regional Conference may also be called by the General Board of Administration through the General Secretary of World Missions. The time and place shall be indicated in the call which shall be communicated through the Regional Superintendent. The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference.

Any duly called special session of the Regional Conference shall have full authority to transact any item of business which may be transacted at a regular session.

D. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

The Presidency (169). The General Superintendent over the region shall preside over the Regional Conference if present. In his absence the General Secretary of World Missions (or his representative) shall preside. When neither the General Superintendent nor the General Secretary of World Missions or his representative is present, the Regional Superintendent shall preside. The Regional Superintendent shall also be seated at the presiding table to assist in presiding over the conference when the General Superintendent or the General Secretary of World Missions or his representative is serving as president. In the absence of any presiding officer, the Regional Conference shall elect by ballot an elder as president pro tem.

The Secretary (169). The Regional Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Regional Conference (755:1). He shall accurately record the proceedings, preserve them in permanent form, and perform any other such duties as shall be required of him by the Regional Conference.

2. Procedure

Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the Regional Conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in his place (cf. 609).

Quorum (170). A majority of all the ex officio and elected delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number shall have the authority to adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

Rules of Order. Regional Conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when formally suspended by the Regional Conference or when other procedures are required by The Discipline (176:3).

Appeals on Questions of Order. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Regional Conference. In case of such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate, except that the chair-
634. Suspension of Rules. The Regional Conference may suspend for a particular session any statutory law set forth in The Discipline governing the procedures of the Regional Conference by a two-thirds majority vote.

3. Memorials

636. Memorials to the Regional Conference, including proposed changes in The Discipline other than the Constitution, may be submitted by a district conference, a district board of administration, the executive committee of a pioneer area, the Regional Board of Administration, a Regional Conference committee, the governing board of an educational or benevolent institution, the regional executive committee of an auxiliary organization, or any ten members of the Regional Conference.

637. Memorials proposing an amendment to the Constitution may be submitted to the Regional Conference only by a district conference (473:1) or the Regional Board of Administration (691:5), the Wesleyan World Fellowship, or the General Board of Administration through the General Department of World Missions.

4. Committees

640. The Regional Conference shall have such committees as it may deem necessary. The committees shall be nominated by the Regional Board of Administration, unless ordered otherwise in The Discipline or by the Regional Conference, and elected by the Regional Conference.

a. Committee on Memorials

641. The Regional Board of Administration shall serve as the committee on memorials. It shall be the duty of the committee on memorials to receive all memorials for the Regional Conference, classify them, take action on each of them, and submit such memorials to the Regional Conference, together with the committee’s recommendation, and in such order as the committee shall determine.

b. Regional Conference Planning Committee

645. The Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration shall serve as the Regional Conference Planning Committee. It shall work under the supervision of the Regional Superintendent, and shall be responsible to arrange all necessary matters for the Regional Conference such as the lodging, meals, exhibits, space allotments, and whatever else may be necessary for the convenience and efficiency of the Regional Conference. They shall have the authority to carry out this responsibility and to enter into any necessary contracts, subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration.

646. The Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration shall also serve as the Program Committee for the Regional Conference, including any worship services, and other special features, all of which shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration.

c. Committee on Special Nominations

648. The committee on special nominations shall be the Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Administration (694). The duties of this committee shall be:

(1) To present to the Regional Conference two or more nominations for each regional official to be elected. Nominations for the office of Regional Superintendent may also be presented by the General Department of World Missions through its official representative.
(2) To present nominations for the members of the Board of Review (650:15; 1381:3).
(3) To present such other nominations or fulfill such duties as may be assigned to them by the Regional Conference.

E. Duties and Powers

650. The duties, powers, and restrictions of the Regional Conference are set forth in the Constitution and as hereinafter provided (cf. 165-176):

Related to the Constitution

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution by a two-thirds vote, said amendment to be presented to the General Department of World Missions for approval by the General Board of Administration, or by the Wesleyan World Fellowship as applicable.

Related to Regional Legislation

(2) To have power, in keeping with the Constitution, and by majority vote, and subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration, to enact statutory law and to adopt ritual for The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa (cf. 94-100), and to adopt other rules and regulations for the Church, all of which shall be the chief authority for The Wesleyan Church and any or all of its component parts, including members, ministers, churches, districts, regional offices and departments, official bodies, institutions, agencies, societies, and corporate bodies.

(3) To authorize a corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Church in any country under its jurisdiction when directed to do so by the General Board of Administration, to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs (1301); and to approve its articles of incorporation and by-laws and any or all amendments thereto, by a two-thirds vote.

(4) To receive reports of the spiritual, numerical, and financial condition of The Wesleyan Church, including reports concerning their official duties from the regional officials and others designated by the Regional Conference (cf. 711; 715; 740:9; 755:8; 761:10).

(5) To adopt plans for the advancement of the Church in all phases of its ministry, including the financial plans for the regional church.

(6) To define in a general way the duties of the regional officials, subject to the additional definition of their duties by the Regional Board of Administration in the interim of Regional Conference sessions.

(7) To organize the work in Southern Africa into districts and to determine their boundaries.

(8) To determine the dates for the fiscal year for the districts which shall be binding on all churches, boards, committees, and organizations within the region for the keeping of records and reports, and to delegate this duty to the Regional Board of Administration if it so desires.

(9) To authorize the establishing of a pioneer district (401) or a provisional district (410); to reclassify a provisional district (418) or an established district (424).

(10) To authorize the establishment, merger, or dissolution of any educational or benevolent institution within the region; to define the purpose and adopt any regulations deemed necessary for the government of such institutions (cf. 928).

(11) To designate a criterion of parliamentary procedure for itself and other representative or official bodies of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa as desired (176:3).

Related to Elections

(12) To elect by ballot and by majority vote from nominations presented by the nominating committee and the General Department of World Missions, a Regional Superintendent.
(13) To elect the regional officials by ballot and by majority vote, from two or more nominees for each office presented by the nominating committee.

(14) To elect by majority vote from nominations presented by the nominating committee, three lay members to serve as members-at-large on the Regional Board of Administration.

(15) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote from nominations submitted by the nominating committee, four elders and three laymen as members of the Board of Review and three elders and two laymen as alternate members (648:2; 1581-1582).

(16) To elect such further officials, committees, and boards as may be required by the Regional Conference.

Related to the Judiciary

(17) To place an established district under discipline for cause, as set forth in the Judiciary, and to authorize the Regional Board of Administration to appoint a regional official to take charge of the district as provided for in the Constitution (176:5b; 1543-1548).

(18) To hear and determine appeals from decisions of the Board of Review, and to appeal such decisions to the General Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote (182; 1594).

(19) To exercise authority in matters of judicial discipline as set forth in the Judiciary (1535; 1593:5c).
REGIONAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

676. The Regional Board of Administration carries out the will of the Regional Conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Church, and serves as its chief governing body in the interim of Regional Conference sessions (172).

B. Membership

678. The Regional Board of Administration is composed of the following:

1. Regional Officials. The Regional Superintendent, the Assistant Regional Superintendent, the Regional Secretary, the Regional Treasurer, the Regional Editor, the Regional Secretary of Missions, the Regional Secretary of Evangelism, the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions, and the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools are members of the Regional Board of Administration by virtue of their office (172:1; 650:12-13; 711).

2. District Representatives. Each established and provisional district shall be represented by the district superintendent, or if he is already a member for some other reason, by the assistant district superintendent.

3. Members-at-Large. Three lay members-at-large shall be elected by the Regional Conference to serve as members of the Regional Board of Administration. They shall be full members of The Wesleyan Church and shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the succeeding Regional Conference. Whenever a vacancy occurs the Regional Board of Administration shall fill the vacancy by election on majority vote. A member-at-large of the Regional Board of Administration is a voting member of the Regional Conference.

C. Sessions

680. Organizing Session. The Regional Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the Regional Conference for an organizing session:

1. To organize by electing officers and committees, as required by The Discipline, the Regional Conference, the articles and bylaws of the corporations, or the policies and bylaws of the Regional Board of Administration.

2. To care for any business assigned to it by the Regional Conference which requires immediate attention.

3. To elect members of the Executive Committee as required.

4. To care for any other necessary business.

681. Regular Session. The Regional Board of Administration shall meet annually at a time and place designated by the Regional Board of Administration or fixed in its bylaws. The Executive Committee may change the time and place by a two-thirds vote if circumstances so require (cf. 702:1). Notice of all sessions shall be sent in writing to all members at least four weeks in advance (cf. 755:2).

682. Special Session. A special session may be ordered by the Regional Board of Administration or the Executive Committee (702:1). All members shall be notified at least ten days before the convening of a special session (cf. 755:2).

D. Organization and Procedure

684. The chairman shall be the Regional Superintendent unless a General Superintendent or General Secretary of World Missions or his representative is present.

685. Secretary. The Regional Secretary is secretary of the Regional Board
of Administration by the virtue of his office (753).

686. Quorum. A majority of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

687. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline (621; 623; 691:2,4; 1540:1; 1545), by legal or corporate requirements, or by policies and regulations of the Regional Board of Administration.

688. Standing Resolutions. The Regional Board of Administration shall adopt its own bylaws and perfect all plans necessary for the performance of its own duties, in harmony with The Discipline and the instructions of the Regional Conference.

E. Duties and Powers

691. The Regional Board of Administration shall serve as the chief governing body of The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, caring for and promoting the general interests of the Church, with these specific duties and powers:

Related to Regional Conference

(1) To set the place at which the Regional Conference is to be held, and to set the hours for the sessions (620).

(2) To declare by a two-thirds vote that an emergency exists requiring a change in the time and place of the Regional conference, and subsequently to alter the same (167:1; 621).

(3) To authorize by a two-thirds vote a special session of the Regional Conference, and to set by majority vote the time and place of such special session (167:2; 623).

(4) To serve as the Regional Conference committee on memorials (641).

(5) To originate recommendations and memorials to the Regional Conference, including proposed amendments to the Constitution (636-637).

(6) To nominate the members of all Regional Conference committees not otherwise provided for (640), and to make recommendations concerning the committees.

(7) To care for any business delegated to the Regional Board of Administration by the Regional Conference, or the General Board of Administration through the General Department of World Missions.

Related to the Regional Board of Administration

(8) To fill for the unexpired term vacancies occurring among the regional officials (711; 716) or the members of the Regional Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Regional Board of Administration, in such a manner as to fulfill all the requirements for such offices and positions (678:2-3; 711-712; 727).

(9) To elect by majority vote, from among its own membership, a member of the Executive Committee (cf. 680:3; 694).

(10) To refer such matters to the Executive Committee as shall be deemed wise (702:1); to review such actions of the Executive Committee as are not final (702:2; 703); and to receive and act upon its recommendations.

(11) To organize itself into commissions, to direct their work, and to hear and act upon their recommendations, in keeping with 705-710.

(12) To prepare an annual budget of expense for submission to the Commission on Administration for coordination with the other administrative offices as set forth in 786:1.

Related to the Church in General

(13) To recommend to the Regional Conference all matters related to inter-
denominational relationships and cooperation; and, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, to care for all such matters, appointing fraternal delegates and other representatives (cf. 740:11), and approving all interchurch or interagency relationships of the various regional departments, offices, societies, and agencies.

Related to Corporations

(14) To serve as, or elect, the board of trustees of any corporation or legal entity if so provided for in the corporations and the laws of the countries.

(15) To give instructions to any board of trustees in regard to buying, owning, holding, managing, mortgaging, selling, conveying, donating, or otherwise acquiring, encumbering, and disposing of any regional church property, whether real, personal, or mixed, in keeping with the trust provisions given in 1407, except that property for which other provision is made in the articles and by-laws of subsidiary corporations, and to provide for the proper care and maintenance of such property.

(16) To direct an annual audit, and at other times as deemed necessary, of the accounts of all corporations, regional departments, offices, agencies, societies, and institutions of the Church, and to take any action required by the findings of such audit.

Related to Regional Officials and Departments

(17) To direct the regional officials and those elected or employed by the Regional Board of Administration in their work, in keeping with the provisions of The Discipline (cf. 714), and assigning to them such special duties as shall be deemed necessary (cf. 650:6); to receive reports annually and as needed from the regional officials and such others as The Discipline or the Regional Board of Administration shall require (cf. 715; 740:9; 755:8; 761:10), and to review their work.

(18) To set the salaries and allowances of all regional officials (711), of those elected by the Regional Board of Administration, and of those employed by the Regional Board of Administration, and to approve personnel policies and salary and wage scales for all those employed by the regional church.

(19) To adopt an annual budget for each of the regional offices, departments, agencies, and societies, and to correlate all budgets and financial plans for the regional church.

(20) To adopt official policies for the regional departments, agencies, societies, and institutions of the Church, in keeping with the provisions of The Discipline, giving further definition of the duties of the various executive officers, regulating the administration of the work, and correlating each part with the whole.

(21) To elect, at its option, one or more assistants for any or all of the regional officials, from nominations to be submitted by the regional official involved and approved by the commission to which he is assigned, and to define the duties of such assistants.

(22) To receive, hold, and appropriate all regional church funds, in accordance with the financial plans adopted by the Regional Conference and through the Regional Treasurer, and to borrow for and loan from the same, in the execution of its lawful purpose, subject to the limitations imposed by The Discipline, the articles and by-laws of the several corporations, and the specific provisions of trust agreements.

(23) To oversee the publishing operations of the Church, with sole authority to authorize publications and to establish the policies which govern them and the subscription rates to be charged.

(24) To assign, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, fields of responsibility for the Regional Department of Missions, authorizing the entering of new fields and the closing of old ones and to direct the department in the supervision of such fields, in keeping with the provisions of The Discipline (666).

(25) To take proper action upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary
of Missions in the creation or reclassification of a pioneer district (863:8).

(26) To elect the superintendents, other officers, and assigned workers in pioneer districts, nominees to provisional district conferences for district superintendent when the Regional Board of Administration deems it advisable (416:1), the pastors, evangelists, and other workers in a provisional district, and to certify regional evangelists as provided for in 1162.

(27) To pass upon the appointment of candidates for missionary service recommended by the Regional Secretary of Missions, and to pass upon the termination of contracts and appointments (867:1; 863:5).

(28) To elect all the members of the Council of Societies, other than the ex officio members, designating the Assistant Regional Superintendent as member and chairman (1202; 1204); to receive an annual report from the Council (1208:7); and to assign, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, organizations to the supervision of the council (1201).

(29) To authorize, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, the establishment, merger, or dissolution of societies (1208:2); to adopt financial policies governing societies, including the setting of membership dues (1208:3; 1224:3); and to authorize handbooks.

(30) To approve the time and place of the Regional WM, WMO, and MY conventions (1208:3) and to approve all plans of the executive committees of the respective societies.

(31) To coordinate the total program of ministerial training; to approve such theological seminaries for the use of Wesleyan ministerial students as it judges to be sound doctrinally and academically; to adopt courses of study which will serve as the basis for the ministerial and lay worker training programs, and which will also be available through correspondence courses.

(32) To adopt policies governing the establishment of elementary and secondary schools (cf. 916:5).

(33) To approve official forms for reports to district statistical committees (526:1), for the annual service reports (541), and for personnel records (525:3); to approve the format for district conference journals (472:2); and to approve all certificates and credentials not provided for by the Regional Conference.

(34) To elect the Executive Editor of Curriculum from one or more nominations submitted by the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools (889:1; 896) when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration (894:14).

Related to Districts

(35) To make recommendation to the Regional Conference for the establishment or alteration of district boundaries (650:7); and, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, to approve the merger, division, or other realignment of districts when each district conference involved has approved the plan (431).

(36) To authorize the beginning of work in a pioneer district (403), and to appoint the district superintendent of the same (406).

(37) To appoint ministerial and lay delegates to Regional Conference on behalf of a pioneer district (406).

(38) To request, as it deems necessary, the reconvening of a district conference (448; 486:6), or a special session of a district board of administration (450); and to assist a district board of administration when it shall request such assistance through the Regional Superintendent (456:22).

(39) To review annually the district budget allocations to the regional treasury and to adjust the allocations as necessary, advising the districts accordingly prior to the beginning of the regional fiscal year (772).

Related to the Judiciary

(40) To exercise administrative and judicial discipline in accordance with the Constitution and as set forth in the Judiciary.

(41) To remove from office any person under its jurisdiction whenever the best interests and preservation of the Church require it, subject to the fol-
lowing conditions:

a) To remove from office a regional official (711; 714), or to remove from Regional Board membership any elected member on the Regional Board of Administration, or to remove from office a district superintendent shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration (1540:1).

b) To remove from office a person elected or employed by the Regional Board of Administration shall require a majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration (1540:2).

42. To file charges against a district for an offense as set forth in the Judiciary (1522), and to administer discipline if found guilty (1543-1548).

43. To take whatever steps are necessary to preserve the interests of the Church within the bounds of a district under discipline.

44. To end the state of discipline for a district, by a majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration, when the offense has been removed to the satisfaction of said majority (cf. 1545); or to authorize the reorganization of a district (1547-1548).

45. To adopt additional rules of judicial procedure for such matters as evidence, testimony, and other technicalities as set forth in 1551.

F. The Executive Committee

1. Function

693. The Executive Committee carries out the will of the Regional Board of Administration, serving as the chief governing and coordinating body of the Church in the interim Regional Board of Administration sessions.

2. Membership

694. The Executive Committee is composed of the Regional Officials (711) plus one lay member elected by the Regional Board of Administration.

3. Sessions

695. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman.

4. Organization

698. Chairman. The chairman and vice-chairman of the Regional Board of Administration shall serve as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Executive Committee.

699. Secretary. The Regional Secretary is secretary of the Executive Committee by virtue of his office (755:2).

700. Quorum. A majority of all the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

701. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline (681).

5. Duties, Powers, and Restrictions

702. In the interim of Regional Board of Administration sessions, the Executive Committee has charge of all regional church matters. It has power:

(1) To transact all business referred to it by the Regional Board of Administration; and to order a special session of the Regional Board of Administration if deemed necessary (682). (Cf. 681.)

(2) To transact any and all other business the Regional Board of Administration may transact, except that the Executive Committee shall not make recommendations directly to the Regional Conference, nor take final action on the
adoption of annual budgets (691:19) nor official policies (691:20), nor transact any business which requires more than a simple majority vote of the Regional Board of Administration (cf. 621; 622; 691:2,3,4; 1540:1; 1548).

(3) To approve a reconvened session of a district conference (446).

703. Minutes of all Executive Committee actions shall be forwarded promptly by the Regional Secretary to all members of the Regional Board of Administration for their information and review, and to the General Secretary of World Missions. At its next session, the Regional Board of Administration may rescind any action of the Executive Committee which has not already been effected.

G. The Commissions

705. Identification. The Regional Board of Administration shall organize itself into Commissions on Administration (766-767), Publications (793-794), Evangelism (828-829), Missions (856-857), Christian Education (888-889), Educational Institutions (915-916), and such others as the Regional Board of Administration deems necessary, and, insofar as is not provided for in The Discipline, shall assign each of its members a place on one of the commissions, and each regional department, office, board, institution, or other agency of the regional church to the proper commission.

706. Function. Each commission shall serve as an advisory body to the Regional Board of Administration, or in the interim of its sessions, to the Executive Committee for the work assigned to it. Each commission shall consider all recommendations of the regional officials and officers assigned to it, formulate such recommendations as it approves, including all matters relating to policies and budgets (cf. 786:2), for presentation to the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee, advise the various regional officials and officers, and coordinate all programs carried on within its sphere. A commission may request a ruling from the Board of General Superintendents. The special duties of each commission shall be as outlined in The Discipline, and as further defined by the Regional Board of Administration.

707. Membership. Each commission shall be composed of the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent, each regional official whose work is part of the commission’s assignment, and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign. Each commission may also have such honorary members as The Discipline or the Regional Board of Administration may assign, such as departmental executives below the rank of regional officials, and qualified advisors from the Church at large.

708. Sessions. The commissions shall meet as many days prior to the convening of the Regional Board of Administration as may be necessary to transact their business. Each commission may hold special sessions when called by its chairman or by any two regional officials who are members of the commission.


(1) Each commission shall be chaired by the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent and shall elect a vice-chairman and a secretary.

(2) Each commission may appoint study or functional committees, either standing or special, composed of commission members and/or other qualified persons, subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration.

(3) Each regional official and other executive officer shall be responsible for presenting those approved by the commission to the Regional Board of Administration and the commission.

710. Amenity. Each commission shall report all business transacted to the Regional Board of Administration, filing complete minutes of each meeting with the Regional Secretary, and the work of each commission shall be subject to the direction and approval of the Regional Board of Administration.
Chapter III
REGIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH

711. Identification. The regional officials of the Church are those officers elected by the Regional Conference whom it designates as ex officio members of the Regional Conference (165: 602:1d), the Regional Board of Administration (172:11 678), and the Executive Committee (694). They are: the Regional Superintendent, the Assistant Regional Superintendent, the Regional Secretary, the Regional Treasurer, the Regional Secretary of Missions, the Regional Secretary of Evangelism, the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions, the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the Regional Editor.

712. Qualifications. A regional official must be a member of The Wesleyan Church at the time of his election, and if at any time he ceases to be a member, his office shall be declared vacant as provided for in 716.

713. Term of Office. The regional officials shall be elected by the Regional Conference (648:1; 650:12-13) for a term of four years, and shall serve from the close of that session until the close of the next regular session of the Regional Conference, and until their successors are elected and qualified. A special session of the Regional Conference may, however, declare that the term is ended and order a new election. The salary of a retiring regional official shall continue one month beyond the date of his termination of service.

714. Amenity. The regional officials are amenable to the Regional Board of Administration for their official conduct, and to their districts for their moral character (163:1; 176:4). They are subject to direction for the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the General Secretary of World Missions. They may be removed from office for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require (691:4la; 1540:1) by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration.

715. Reports. The regional officials shall report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning their official duties, annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning their official duties and personal ministry, and at other times as required by the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, or the General Secretary of World Missions.

716. Vacancies. The office of a regional official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (714). In all cases, the vacancy shall be filled by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration (691:6).

717. Church and District Membership. An elder who serves as a regional official may hold his ministerial membership in any district he may choose, and his church membership in any local church. His responsibilities to the regional church shall take precedence over his responsibilities to his district and local church (163:1; 176:14).
Chapter IV
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

A. Regional Superintendent

1. Function

726. The Regional Superintendent is to be considered as the regional spiritual and administrative leader of the Church in Southern Africa.

2. General Regulations

727. The Regional Superintendent is elected by the Regional Conference from nominations submitted by the nominating committee (648) and the General Department of World Missions, and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, and the Executive Committee.

729. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for a Regional Superintendent are those set forth for a regional official in 711-717.

Duties of the Regional Superintendent

740. The Regional Superintendent shall devote his full time to supervising, coordinating, and promoting the work of The Wesleyan Church throughout Southern Africa in all its various branches. His duties are:

(1) To provide spiritual and administrative leadership for The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To encourage soul-winning and evangelism in all of its phases.

(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, both verbal and written, teaching the doctrines and furthering the spiritual purposes of the Church, as the need demands and the opportunity affords.

(4) To exercise general administrative supervision over The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa in harmony with The Discipline, and to see that the plans and policies of the Church are carried out.

(5) To preside over the Regional Conference in the absence of a General Superintendent or the General Secretary of World Missions or his representative.

(6) To issue the call for a special session of the Regional Conference (623), a special session of the Regional Board of Administration, or a special session of the Executive Committee (682).

(7) To make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration and its Executive Committee concerning any part of the Church in order to provide for a more efficient administration, a proper correlation, or the advancement of the work.

(8) To arrange, in cooperation with the General Secretary of World Missions, for a visit of the General Superintendent over the region during the quadrennium, and for additional visits as authorized by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

(9) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4); to report annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17); and to make such other reports as may be required.

(10) To prepare an annual budget of expense for submission to the Regional Board of Administration.

(11) To appoint fraternal delegates and representatives for The Wesleyan Church to other denominations of religious organizations unless otherwise provided for by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration (cf. 691:13).

(12) To carry out such special assignments as the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, and the Executive Committee may assign from time to time.

(13) To direct the Regional Secretary in his responsibilities, defining his duties as desired.

(14) To arrange the dates for the district conferences, in consultation with each district board of administration (486:5).
(15) To recommend a provisional district for the status of an established district to the Regional Board of Administration, in concurrence with the General Secretary of World Missions.

(16) To counsel with district leaders and make recommendations for the advancement of the district work.

(17) To preside over the Regional Board of Administration and the Executive Committee.

(18) To perform such duties as may be properly assigned to him by the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee, or the General Secretary of World Missions.

(19) To travel throughout the region, giving such spiritual leadership and inspirational ministry as the need demands and the opportunity affords.

(20) To counsel with the regional officials, and to see that such officials administer their work in harmony with the Discipline, and any other directives from the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, or the General Department of World Missions.

(21) To visit annually and conduct an administrative survey of each educational and benevolent institution, or any other agency or organization of The Wesleyan Church in the region. When any such institution or organization is under the General Department of World Missions, he shall consult with and arrange for the visit with the general official having jurisdiction over it.

(22) To meet with any governing board, district board of administration, committee, or other official body at his discretion and make such recommendations as he deems necessary to uphold the Discipline and carry out the directives of the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, or the General Secretary of World Missions.

(23) To attend as a voting member, or delegate a representative to attend, the quadrennial meeting of each regional society convention (Wesleyan Youth, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Men) (1243:1, 3).

(24) To exercise general supervision within his region, over each district, provisional district, and pioneer district and the work of its superintendent, and to counsel with the Regional Secretary of Missions whenever a mission area is concerned.

(25) To work closely with the district officials in promoting evangelism and formulating plans for pioneer work and church extension (486:3; 511:4).

(26) To encourage and promote special efforts in each district to support the financial plans of the region.

(27) To cooperate with each district board of administration in planning and conducting conventions, institutes, or seminars for pastors and other workers in the district, for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, greater administrative efficiency, and a more united effort within the district and regional church.

(28) To preside, in the absence of the General Superintendent or the General Secretary of World Missions (or his representative), over the ordination of elders and the commissioning of deaconesses, special workers, or lay missionaries when present (511:23; 546), and to deliver the ordination address if so requested; and to sign all credentials, certificates, and other forms incidental to his office.

(29) To approve the transfer of any elder or licensed minister into a district under his jurisdiction, in concurrence with the district superintendent of that district (157:6; 284:2; 511:18; cf. 1128:1).

(30) To consult with a district board of administration concerning the purchase, location, encumbrance, sale, transfer, or other disposition of real property used for district purposes, such as a district parsonage, headquarters, or campground.

(31) To carry out judicial responsibilities as set forth in 1527:3; 1528:1-2; 1540:1-2; 1543; 1547.

B. The Assistant Regional Superintendent

748. The function of the Assistant Regional Superintendent is to assist the Regional Superintendent in the fulfillment of his duties as the administrative leader of the region. The regulations concerning his election and service are:
(1) The Assistant Regional Superintendent is elected by the Regional Conference from among the elders of The Wesleyan Church, and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, and the Executive Committee, and is chairman of the Council of Auxiliaries (1202; 1204).

(2) In case the office of Regional Superintendent is suddenly vacated by an emergency situation the Assistant Regional Superintendent shall serve temporarily as the Regional Superintendent. He shall cooperate with the General Secretary of World Missions in calling a special meeting of the Regional Board of Administration at which a new Regional Superintendent shall be elected from nominations presented by the General Board of Administration through the General Secretary of World Missions. If the Assistant Regional Superintendent is elected as the Regional Superintendent, the Regional Board of Administration shall then proceed to fill by election the vacancy in the office of Assistant Regional Superintendent.

1479. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for an Assistant Regional Superintendent are those set forth for a regional official in 711-717.

14750. The specific duties of the Assistant Regional Superintendent shall be those assigned to him by the Regional Superintendent, the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, or the Executive Committee.

C. The Regional Secretary

14751. Function. The Regional Secretary has custody of the official records and archives and is responsible for legal work, statistics, directory, public relations, and stewardship promotion for the regional church.

14753. Office. The Regional Secretary is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official (169; 628; 650:13; 711), and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (678:1), the Regional Board of Administration (684:1), and the Executive Committee (694). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are provided for in 712-717.

14755. Duties. The Regional Secretary shall administer his office as set forth in The Discipline, and other instructions as may be given by the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, or the Executive Committee. His duties are:

1. To serve as secretary of the Regional Conference (628), the Regional Board of Administration (684), and the Executive Committee (694); to record accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and to preserve them in permanent form, to see that one copy of the minutes is prepared in English, and to issue the official notices and communications on behalf of these governing bodies unless otherwise directed.

2. To notify all members of each regular and special session of the Regional Board of Administration (681-682) and of the Executive Committee (695), and to issue the call for a special session of the Regional Conference (623).

3. To be the custodian of official records and archives, and to collect documents, books, photographs, and other historical materials related to The Wesleyan Church in the region.

4. To receive and to be the custodian of records and archives as follows:

   a) The minutes of each regional church board, commission, committee, and society organization, including the trustee boards of regional educational and benevolent institutions.

   b) The minutes and other records for regional church judicial bodies, including the Board of Review and a Regional Conference Judicial committee (1122:3-4; 1137; 1529:1-4; 1535; 1585; cf. 1581); and the credentials of a minister when such have been surrendered or removed by judicial process (517:6; 1128:4; 1137).

   c) All legal documents and property records for The Wesleyan Church and its corporations in the region.

   d) A certified and true copy of the articles of incorporation and bylaws
and any amendments thereto, for each corporation related to The Wesleyan
Church in the region.
e) All legal documents and property records of such corporations unless
otherwise provided for by the bylaws of such corporations or other direc-
tives from the Regional Board of Administration.
f) The minutes of each district conference.
(5) To issue each official policy adopted by the Regional Board of Adminis-
tration.
(6) To maintain the official directory of district and regional officials,
ministers, churches, parsonages, and institutions, and to publish a regional
church directory.
(7) To collect and compile accurately all statistics for the Regional Church
and to report the same to the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Ad-
ministration, and the Executive Committee as required; to coordinate the vari-
ous statistical forms of the departments and societies with the approved re-
port for the local churches and districts (1208:3).
(8) To report to the Regional Conference concerning his official duties
(650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his offi-
cial duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.
(9) To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration
or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Administration (709:3).
(10) To prepare the annual budget for the Regional Secretary's office for
submission to the Commission on Administration to be coordinated with the bud-
gets of the other administrative offices.

D. The Regional Treasurer

756. The Regional Treasurer shall be elected by the Regional Conference
upon recommendation of the nominating committee (648).

759. Function. The Regional Treasurer has custody of the regional church
funds and accounting records and is responsible for assigned fiscal management
(761).

759. Office. The Regional Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the
Regional Conference (602:10), Regional Board of Administration (678:1), and
Executive Committee (694). The Regional Treasurer must be a member of The
Wesleyan Church and if at any time he ceases to be a member, his office shall
be declared vacant by the Regional Board of Administration (712; cf. 1541).

761. Duties. The Regional Treasurer shall administer his office as set
forth in The Discipline and other directives as may be given by the Regional
Board of Administration. His duties are:
(1) To serve as treasurer of such funds as may be assigned to him by the
Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration; to receive, to
hold, to disburse, and to manage such funds; and to provide a centralized
accounting service for the same.
(2) To issue regular reports of all funds committed to his care as re-
quested by the Regional Board of Administration.
(3) To submit a complete financial report to the Regional Board of Adminis-
tration annually and to each session of the Regional Conference.
(4) To submit all records and funds in his custody for an annual audit to
be directed by the Regional Board of Administration and at any other time when
requested to do so (691:16).
(5) To become responsible for the fiscal management and accountability for
the funds received from bequests, devises, annuities, wills, or other special
gifts after such matters have been processed by the Regional Board of Adminis-
tration, and to perform this same duty for the corporations unless otherwise
provided for by their respective bylaws or other directives from the Regional
Board of Administration.
(6) To serve as regional director of stewardship under the direction of
the Commission on Administration (767:2) promoting total stewardship and
storehouse tithing on the regional level and through district officers and
local pastors (294:22; 519:5), and coordinating as directed the handling of all investments, bequests, trusts, annuities, and devises for the regional church and its several offices, departments, and subsidiary bodies (1469).

(7) To prepare an annual budget of expense for submission to the Commission on Administration for coordination with the other administrative offices as set forth in 766:1.

(8) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Administration to the Regional Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the Regional Treasurer.

(9) To serve as a member of the Regional Conference Planning Committee (645).

(10) To report annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry, to each session of the Regional Conference, and at other times as requested.

(11) To perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

E. Commission on Administration

766. The Commission on Administration shall consist of the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent as chairman, the Regional Secretary, the Regional Treasurer, and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign. The manager of Wesleyan Pension Plan and any other who may be designated by the Regional Board of Administration shall be honorary members, with a right to speak but not to vote. General regulations governing the commissions are found in 705-710.

767. The Commission on Administration shall fulfill the functions of a commission as given in 706 for the Regional Secretary, the Regional Treasurer, the Wesleyan Pension Plan, the Council of Societies, and such other subsidiary bodies as the Regional Board of Administration shall assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

1. To make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration in all matters of business management and in all financial matters such as bookkeeping, banking, and investments.

2. To serve as a board of stewardship, supervising the denominational program of stewardship promotion, and supervising and coordinating the handling of all investments, bequests, trusts, annuities, and devises for the regional church in its several offices, departments, and subsidiary bodies through the Regional Treasurer, all subject to the direction of the Regional Board of Administration.

3. To study the general financial plan of the Church and to make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration for its consideration and possible recommendation to the Regional Conference.

4. To process requests and recommendations concerning changes in the boundaries of districts and to make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration in the interim of Regional Conference.

5. To coordinate the budgets of expense for the various administrative offices (740:10; 795:10; 761:7).

6. To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, nominations presented by the Regional Treasurer for an assistant to the Regional Treasurer for election by the Regional Board of Administration (691:2; 761:8).

F. Regional Church Financial Plan

1. Budgets and Special Offerings

771. The financial plan for the Regional Church shall consist of district budgets and special offerings.

772. The Regional Board of Administration shall establish and administer a support fund to provide for the needs of regional church administration, min-
isterial training, and other regional church ministries. Each district and pioneer district shall be required to contribute to this fund prescribed annually by the Regional Board of Administration (691:39).

773. Special offerings shall provide for supplementary support of missions, evangelism, ministerial education, and such other purposes as may be authorized by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration. Such offerings shall be authorized and administered as follows:

1. All appeals for such special offerings must be approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

2. The Regional Department of Missions (860), the Regional Department of Evangelism (831-832), and the Regional Department of Educational Institutions (920-921) shall raise support for the work under their care by sending representatives to visit the districts, local churches, and members of the Church. District and local officials shall receive them and cooperate in their work. Offerings received shall be used as designated and shall be remitted promptly through the regular channels.

3. Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women’s Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Youth shall raise financial support for approved projects, subject to the general oversight of the Council of Societies (1208:6).

4. Other Contributions. Other offerings or gifts shall be used as specified by the donor and may be forwarded through the regular channels to the Regional Treasurer. Those individuals who prefer to contact the Regional Treasurer or a regional department or institution concerning contributions may do so.

2. Budgeting Procedure

786. The income and expense of all the regional departments, offices, and agencies of the Church shall be governed by the adoption by the Regional Board of Administration of annual budgets determined in the following manner:

1. The regional official or responsible officer shall prepare and submit a proposed annual budget of income and expense for the work under his care, to the commission to which he is assigned, and as approved by the commission to the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall review each proposed budget and correlate it with the overall budget for the regional church, and shall present its complete recommendation to the Regional Board of Administration for all proposed budgets.

3. The Regional Board of Administration shall make final decision concerning all budgets for the ensuing fiscal year, at the same time apportioning to each district the budget allocation.
Chapter V
REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

A. Objectives

791. The objective of the regional publications program of The Wesleyan Church shall be to facilitate the spread and advancement of scriptural holiness in a world becoming increasingly literate, by providing doctrinally sound and spiritually effective periodicals, curriculum materials, books, tracts, and other similar materials and promoting their distribution and use. All publications of the Church shall be in harmony with its Articles of Religion, General Rules, and Elementary Principles.

B. Commission on Publications

793. The Commission on Publications shall consist of the Regional Superintendent or Assistant Regional Superintendent as chairman (701:7041; 740:20), the Regional Editor (798), and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign (707). It shall also have, as honorary members, with a right to speak but not to vote, the various departmental and society editors, and any others the Regional Board of Administration shall designate (707).

794. The Commission on Publications shall fulfill the functions of a commission as given in 707 for the Regional Editor, those charged with editorial tasks in the various regional departments, societies, and any other body or officer assigned by the Regional Board of Administration. Its special duties shall be:

1. To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration a complete and coordinated regional publications program (691:23).
2. To coordinate the work of the Regional Editor and departmental and society editors.
3. To appoint, subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration, qualified persons to the Book and Tract Committee (709:2; 801-802).

C. Regional Editor

798. The Regional Editor is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official of the Church (711) and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:4), the Regional Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Committee (694), and the Commission on Publications (793). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-717.

799. The Regional Editor shall carry out his duties according to directives received from the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Publications. He shall be responsible:

1. To serve as publisher of The Ikwezi and any other publication assigned to him by the Regional Board of Administration until a publisher has been designated by the Regional Board of Administration.
2. To serve as editor of The Ikwezi and any other publication assigned to him by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration.
3. To serve as editorial consultant for all regional departments and offices of the Church.
4. To serve as regional book editor and tract editor, serving as chairman of the Book and Tract Committee (801-802), recommending to the Commission on Publications desirable publication projects, and approving or preparing manuscripts for publication for such projects when they have been recommended by the Commission on Publications and approved by the Regional Board of Administration.
5. To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Publications (cf. 709:3).
6. To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Publications for coordination with the Regional Publisher's budget (cf. 786; 794:3).
7. To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional
Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Publications to the Regional Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the Regional Editor (cf. 691:32; 794:4).

(8) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(9) To serve as business manager for such publications as are assigned to him by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration.

(10) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

D. Book and Tract Committee

801. The Book and Tract Committee shall consist of the Regional Editor as chairman (799:3), and of two to four qualified persons appointed by the Commission on Publications subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (799:3).

802. The Book and Tract Committee shall assist the Regional Editor in his work as regional book and tract editor as given in 799:4. No book or tract manuscript, other than curriculum materials or publications of the regional offices and departments, societies, institutions, or other agencies which have been cleared through the proper channels, shall be published without the approval of the Book and Tract Committee.

E. Curriculum Editing

804. The Editor of Curriculum shall be responsible for the literary content and form of all literature produced by the Regional Department of Sunday Schools, and of all other educational materials assigned to him by the Commission on Christian Education.

805. The Editor of Curriculum shall be an honorary member of the Commission on Publications (793), and shall follow its directives. The regulations concerning the election, amenability, and duties of the Editor of Curriculum are given in full in 896-897.

F. Departmental Editing

807. Each regional department, office, society, or other agency may produce such publications as the Regional Board of Administration shall approve (691:23; 794:3). If such a publication becomes competitive with other publications, the Commission on Publications shall make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration concerning its modification or its transfer to the supervision of the Regional Editor.

808. The persons responsible for editing such departmental or society publications shall be honorary members of the Commission on Publications (793), and shall follow the directives of the Commission on Publications in matters of editorial policy and in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility.
A. Objectives

826. 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, through its Department of Evangelism and Department of Missions, shall endeavor:

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 to facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, educational, 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.

B. Regional Evangelism

1. Commission on Evangelism

828. The Commission on Evangelism shall be composed of the Regional Superintendent or Assistant Regional Superintendent, as chairman (707; 709:1), the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (836-837), and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with a voice but without a vote, such other qualified advisors as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate (707). The general regulations concerning the commissions are given in 705-710.

829. The Commission on Evangelism shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the Regional Department of Evangelism (831-831), and such other agencies or officers as the Regional Board of Administration shall assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

1. To review the total program of evangelism on the regional, district, and local level, and to make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration for increasing the evangelistic outreach of The Wesleyan Church.
2. To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, nominations presented by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism for an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Evangelism, for election by the Regional Board of Administration (830:21; 837:16).
3. To approve when such an office is authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, a Director of Evangelism, presented by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism for election by the Regional Board of Administration (831).
4. To make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration concerning those whose names are to be presented by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism for certification as regional evangelists or special workers, and to interview them if desired.
5. To approve the employment of regional evangelists and special workers for evangelistic work under the direction of the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (837:12).

2. Regional Department of Evangelism

a. Function

831. The Regional Department of Evangelism is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (826) within the borders of
provisional and established districts, in cooperation with the district authorities, and in such other places as shall be assigned to it by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration. It is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration, the supervision of the Regional Superintendent as provided for in 691:20; 740:4,20; and shall be administered by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism.

b. Divisions

832. The ministries of the Regional Department of Evangelism are as follows:

(1) Regional church extension, involving the development, promotion, and supervision of an aggressive program of church extension through evangelistic efforts in undeveloped areas within existing district boundaries, in cooperation with the districts concerned.

(2) General evangelism, involving the promotion of soul-winning concern in all its phases and forms in its assigned territory (831) and the correlation of the ministries of the regional evangelists and commissioned special workers.

c. Regional Secretary of Evangelism

836. The Regional Secretary of Evangelism is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official (169; 650:16; 711), and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:14), the Regional Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Committee (694), and the Commission on Evangelism (828). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-717.

837. The Regional Secretary of Evangelism shall administer the Regional Department of Evangelism in accord with The Discipline, and other directives of the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, or the Commission on Evangelism. He shall be responsible:

(1) To present all recommendations concerning the work under his care for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Evangelism (cf. 709:3);

(2) To promote a concern for soul-winning, evangelistic outreach, and church extension throughout his assigned territory as set forth in 831; to provide promotional materials to other departments, publications, or society organizations; and to visit local churches and districts in order to represent the work.

(3) To raise the necessary finances for the Regional Department of Evangelism (cf. 773:2), and to manage the department’s financial affairs, all in keeping with the financial plans of the Church (771), the approved budget for the department (786), and other instructions from the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

(4) To enlist and recommend candidates approved by the Commission on Evangelism (829:5) to the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee for appointment in special ministries projects, unless otherwise provided for in The Discipline.

(5) To advise provisional and established districts in developing aggressive programs of church extension; and to carry on cooperative programs or projects with districts as approved by the Regional Board of Administration; cooperating in each case with the Regional Superintendent and the district board of administration over the involved district (486:3; 511:2; 740:25; 832:1,2).

(6) To promote spiritual and financial aid to pioneer churches by established churches.

(7) To make available promotional materials that will aid pastors and others in introducing The Wesleyan Church.

(8) To promote the witness and outreach of The Wesleyan Church through the various media of mass communication, special evangelistic crusades, urban or rural evangelization, and other evangelistic efforts as authorized by the Regional Board of Administration.

(9) To serve as Director of Evangelism until such time as the Regional Board of Administration deems a separate office necessary and elects a Director of Evangelism. Regulations governing the Director of Evangelism are laid out in 851.
(10) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Evangelism to the Regional Board of Administration for the office of Director of Evangelism, and to direct him in all phases of his work (829:3; 831).

(11) To present to the Commission on Evangelism the names of those persons recommended by the district conferences for certification as regional evangelists and commissioned special workers by the Regional Board of Administration.

(12) To employ, with the approval of the Commission on Evangelism, regional evangelists and special workers for the work of evangelism.

(13) To present to the Council of Societies approved projects for assignment to the societies under its jurisdiction (1208:6).

(14) To prepare a proposed annual budget for the Regional Department of Evangelism and submit it to the Commission on Evangelism (cf. 786).

(15) To receive from the pastors the names and addresses of those members moving away from their church, and to notify the nearest Wesleyan pastor or district officials accordingly (282; 294:13).

(16) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Evangelism (829:2) to the Regional Board of Administration for election of an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (691:21).

(17) To employ such personnel as are necessary for the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(18) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

d. Director of Evangelism

851. The Director of Evangelism shall be elected by the Regional Board of Administration from one or more nominations submitted by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism with the approval of the Commission on Evangelism (829:3; 837:10). He shall serve for a term designated by the Regional Board of Administration or until his successor is chosen. He shall be amenable to the Regional Secretary of Evangelism for the conduct of his office, and may be removed from office for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require by a majority vote of all the members of the Regional Board of Administration (691:40b).

(1) Duties. The Director of Evangelism shall administer his office in keeping with The Discipline, and as directed by the Regional Secretary of Evangelism (637:10). He shall be responsible:

a) To assist the Regional Secretary of Evangelism in promoting interest in soul-winning and evangelism in all of its forms and phases in the assigned territory (831), and in promoting the interests of general evangelism (832:2).

b) To act as consultant to all church organizations in evangelistic methods.

c) To create literature on evangelism including inspirational and promotional materials, and study guides and training programs.

d) To plan and coordinate conventions and united meetings on evangelism.

e) To correlate the work of the regional evangelists, providing through his office a service agency for regional evangelists and special workers (cf. 832:2).

f) To aid districts and local churches, as they may request and as time may permit, in initiating evangelistic ventures, and to provide standardized promotional materials for such ventures.

g) To carry out such other duties as may be recommended by the Commission on Evangelism and assigned by the Regional Board of Administration.

C. Regional Missions

1. Commission on Missions

856. The Commission on Missions shall be composed of the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent as chairman (707; 708:1), the
Regional Secretary of Missions (862-863), and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with a right to speak but without a vote, such other qualified advisors as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations concerning the commissions are given in 705-710.

857. The Commission on Missions shall perform the functions of a commission as given in 706 for the Regional Department of Missions (860-866) and such other agencies or officers as the Regional Board of Administration shall assign (705).

Its special duties are:

(1) To approve all candidates for missionary service to be presented by the Regional Secretary of Missions to the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee for appointment or reappointment, and to interview such candidates if desired; and to approve recommendations of the Regional Secretary of Missions concerning the termination of contracts and appointments, and the recall from the field of those under appointment (691:27; 863:5; cf. 863:8).

(2) To approve the location, building plans, and financial arrangements for churches, parsonages, and any other projects under the Regional Department of Missions within the limitations of the approved budget for the department and other available funds, and in harmony with the program of the Regional Board of Administration.

(3) To approve, when such assistants have been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, the nominations to be submitted by the Regional Secretary of Missions to the Regional Board of Administration for the election of one or more assistants to the Regional Secretary of Missions (891:21; 863:2).

(4) To review the minutes of the various councils, boards, and conferences under the Regional Department of Missions and to approve such actions as are in accord with The Discipline, and are advantageous for the work.

(5) To approve the transfer of missionaries or workers within a field or area and to approve the regular furloughs of missionaries.

2. Regional Department of Missions

a. Function

860. The Regional Department of Missions is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (826) in those fields and areas outside the borders of provisional and established districts as approved by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration (691:24). It is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration and the supervision of the Regional Superintendent and shall be administered by the Regional Secretary of Missions.

b. Regional Secretary of Missions

862. The Regional Secretary of Missions is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official of the Church (169; 650:13; 711), and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:1d), the Regional Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Committee (694), the Commission on Missions (856), and each council or organization under the Regional Department of Missions. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for the Regional Secretary of Missions as a regional official are set forth in 712-717.

863. The Regional Secretary of Missions shall administer the Regional Department of Missions in accord with The Discipline, and other directives from the Regional Conference, the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Missions. His duties and responsibilities shall be:

(1) To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Missions (cf. 709:3).

(2) To present nominations as approved by the Commission on Missions to the Regional Board of Administration for the election of one or more assistants to the Regional Secretary of Missions, whenever such assistants have been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration (691:21; 857:3).

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(3) To promote worldwide missionary interest, understanding, and zeal throughout the region; to direct the publicity and promotional work of the department; to provide information or reports on world missions to other departments, publications, or societies; and to visit local churches and districts in order to represent the work.

(4) To raise the necessary finances for the Regional Department of World Missions (773:1,2), and to manage the department's financial affairs, all in keeping with the financial plans of the Church (771), the approved budget for the department (785), and other instructions of the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

(5) To enlist missionary candidates and recommend them to the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee for appointment or reappointment; to recommend the termination of contracts and appointments, including the recall from the field of those under appointment (691:27; 857:1; cf., 863:8).

(6) To provide spiritual leadership and supervision for the fields under the Regional Department of Missions in harmony with the missionary objectives (826), visiting the fields and presiding when present over the various councils and conferences, except when the Regional Superintendent is also present.

(7) To take emergency action concerning the missionaries or the fields in the interim of Regional Board of Administration or Executive Committee sessions, with the approval of the Regional Superintendent and the chairman of the Commission on World Missions.

(8) To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration the entering of new fields or areas or the closing of old ones (691:24); to recommend the establishment of a pioneer district (403); to recommend the reclassification of a pioneer district as a provisional district (691:25).

(9) To present to the Council of Societies approved projects for assignment to the Societies under its jurisdiction (1208:6).

(10) To prepare an annual budget for the Regional Department of Missions and submit it to the Commission on Missions (cf., 786:11).

(11) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(12) To report to each Regional Conference session concerning his official duties (669), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

c. Missionaries

866. A missionary or other worker duly appointed to serve under the Regional Department of Missions may retain membership in his local church and district as of the time of his appointment by the Regional Board of Administration. He shall also relate himself to the church where assigned and shall hold membership as set forth in The Discipline or other regulations adopted for the particular field or area to which he is assigned. He shall be answerable for his conduct to the proper authorities on the field where he serves, the Regional Secretary of Missions, and the Regional Board of Administration.
Chapter VII
REGIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. Objectives

The ultimate objectives of the Christian education program of The Wesleyan Church is to declare the truth of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, and to guide sinful, fallen men to experience the crises of conversion and entire sanctification, dynamic service to God and man, and continuous growth unto the fullness of the stature of Christ. To accomplish this, Wesleyan Christian education will endeavor:

1. To help each person to recognize the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and to know, believe, and obey its teachings.
2. To help each person to recognize his need of salvation and of God's provision for it through Christ's death and resurrection, and to lead him to experience the new birth through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
3. To help each convert to recognize his need for cleansing from the carnal nature and for the sanctifying and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, and to experience the crises of entire sanctification through consecration and faith.
4. To help each believer to relate himself to the Church as the body of Christ, encouraging him to become a member of a local church and to find his place of service within it.
5. To instruct each person in the fundamentals of the faith, in the history of the Christian church, the importance of the Reformation and the Wesleyan movement, the history of The Wesleyan Church, its precedent bodies, and its missionary outreach, warning him against the false doctrines of the age and equipping him as a witness for his Lord.
6. To help each person to develop a Christian interpretation of life and of the universe, enabling him to see God's sovereign purpose at work, and training him to be a good steward of the talents, time, opportunities, and material goods with which God has entrusted him.
7. To encourage each person to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus, demonstrating Christian attitudes and actions in every relationship of life.

B. Educational Agencies

1. Commission on Christian Education

The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1), the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools (893-894), the Regional Director of Youth (905), the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions (920-921), and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with a right to speak but not to vote, such qualified advisors as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations concerning the commissions are given in 705-710.

The Commission on Christian Education shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the Regional Department of Sunday Schools (891-896), the Regional Youth Society (902-906), and such others as the Regional Board of Administration may assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

1. To view Christian education as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully coordinated educational program for the whole Church.
2. To coordinate all programs in which the Regional Department of Sunday Schools and the Regional Youth Society have overlapping interests, such as leadership training, camping, educational literature, and age level groups, assigning complimentary responsibilities as needed. Special attention shall be given to the organizing for local churches of a training hour which will utilize the total educational resources of the local church (cf. 363:10).
3. To provide a means of cooperation in all matters in which the interests of the Regional Department of Sunday Schools and the Regional Youth Society overlap with those of the Regional Department of Educational Institutions.

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(4) To approve nominations presented by the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools for Executive Editor of Curriculum, for election by the Regional Board of Administration (691:34; 894:9; 896).

(5) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, nominations presented by the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools for an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools for election by the Regional Board of Administration (691:21; 894:11).

(6) To appoint the members of the Committee on Sunday Schools subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (709:3; 899).

2. Regional Department of Sunday Schools

a. Function

891. The Regional Department of Sunday Schools is responsible, on the regional level, to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Church for Christian education (898) in such phases as Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, leadership training, junior church, weekday church school, and released time classes. The department is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration and the supervision of the Regional Superintendent (740:4.20; 888), and shall be administered by the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools.

b. Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools

893. The Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official (169; 650:13; 711), and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:1d), the Regional Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Committee (894), and the Commission on Christian Education (888). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-717.

894. The Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools shall administer the Regional Department of Sunday Schools in accordance with The Discipline, and other directives from the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Christian Education. His responsibilities shall be:

(1) To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 709:3).
(2) To initiate the development of Sunday school philosophy, organization, administration, curriculum planning, teaching techniques, and programming; to serve as chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, seeking its counsel on all phases of his work (889-900); and to carry out and promote the plan of Sunday school work as approved by the Regional Board of Administration, through a Sunday school standard approved by the Regional Board of Administration; and through conventions, seminars, exhibits, and other approved means.
(3) To initiate a complete program for vacation Bible schools, and to promote the program as it is approved by the Regional Board of Administration.
(4) To direct and promote a program of leadership training.
(5) To direct and promote a program of membership training to be administered by pastors and local church boards (cf. 288; 284:11; 316:7; 363:11).
(6) To direct and promote all other phases of Christian education carried on through local churches and districts not specifically assigned by The Discipline or the Regional Board of Administration to another regional department or agency.
(7) To cooperate with the Regional Director of Youth and the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions as directed by the Commission on Christian Education, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as given in 889:3-3.
(8) To serve as educational consultant for all regional departments, societies, and agencies of the Church which carry on educational activities through local churches and districts.
(9) To submit when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Christian Education to the Regional Board of Administration for the office of Editor.
of Curriculum, and to direct him in all the educational phases of his work (691:34; 889:4; 896).

(10) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 786).

(11) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Christian Education to the Regional Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools (691:21; 889:5).

(12) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(13) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

(14) To serve as Editor of Curriculum until such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration and an Executive Editor of Curriculum has been elected (691:34). Regulations governing the Editor of Curriculum are laid out in 896-897.

c. Editor of Curriculum

896. The Editor of Curriculum is elected by the Regional Board of Administration from one or more nominations submitted by the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools with the approval of the Commission on Christian Education (691:34; 889:4; 894:9). He shall serve for a term designated by the Regional Board of Administration or until his successor is chosen. He shall be an honorary member of the Commission on Publication (793). He shall be amenable to the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools for the general administration of his office and in all matters of educational policy (894:2), and to the Commission on Publications in all matters of editorial policy (794:2; 804-805). He may be removed from office for cause, or when the best interests of the Church so require, by a majority vote of all members of the Regional Board of Administration (691:40b).

897. The Editor of Curriculum shall administer his office in keeping with the Discipline and other directives of the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools and the Commission on Publications. His duties shall be:

(1) To submit recommendations concerning educational matters to the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools, and recommendations concerning editorial matters to the Commission on Publications with the approval of the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools.

(2) To serve as editor of all Sunday school curriculum materials, all leadership and training manuals produced by the Regional Department of Sunday Schools, and other educational materials assigned by the Commission on Christian Education.

(3) To serve as consultant on curriculum materials to any other regional department, society, or agency.

(4) To prepare, under the direction of the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools, an annual budget covering all editorial expense of the Regional Department of Sunday Schools, and submit it to the Commission on Publications for coordination with the Regional Publisher (786:799:1).

(5) To secure, under the direction of the Regional Secretary of Sunday School, the assistance of other personnel in the Regional Department of Sunday Schools, and the employment of other personnel as needed, subject to the limitations of the Regional Board of Administration.

(6) To report as required to the Commission on Christian Education and the Commission on Publications.

d. Committee on Sunday Schools

899. The Committee on Sunday Schools shall consist of the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools as chairman (694:2), the Editor of Curriculum (896), and such other personnel in the Regional Department of Sunday Schools as the Commission on Christian Education shall approve, and four to six qualified advisors ap-
pointed by the Commission on Christian Education subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (709:3; 889:6).

900. The Committee on Sunday Schools shall advise the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools in all phases of his work, especially in the practical implementation of the policy and programs adopted by the Regional Board of Administration (894:2).

3. Regional Youth Society

a. Function

902. The Regional Youth Society is responsible for carrying out The Wesleyan Church's objectives for Christian education (888) as they relate to the youth ministries of the Church, represents the interest of youth to the Church, and serves as the Church's resource agency for youth-related concerns. The society is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration and the supervision of the Regional Superintendent, and shall be administered by the Regional Director of Youth.

b. Divisions

903. The ministries of the Regional Youth Society are fourfold:

(1) The division of youth work on regional, district, and local levels, known organizationally as Wesleyan Youth (WY). Full details concerning the operation of WY are given in 1221-1246.

(2) The division of Junior Youth, a program of training, activity, and fellowship for children and youth, ages 6-12 (cf. 383; 594; 906:3).

(3) The division of servicemen's ministries, through which The Wesleyan Church maintains contact with its youth in the armed forces, seeks to win and hold them to Christ and the Church, and trains them for effective witness in their immediate environment and in their future service within the Church (cf. 906:4).

(4) The division of campus ministries, through which The Wesleyan Church maintains contact with its youth on college campuses, seeks to win and hold them to Christ and The Wesleyan Church, and trains them for effective witness on and off the campus (cf. 906:4).

c. Regional Director of Youth

905. The Regional Director of Youth is elected by the Regional Conference from nominations presented by the Regional Youth nominating committee (1244:4a) and appointed by the Regional Conference nominating committee, and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (602:1e), the Commission on Christian Education (888), and the Council of Societies (1202). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 1244.

906. The Regional Director of Youth shall administer the Regional Youth Society in accord with The Discipline, and other directives of the Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Christian Education. He shall be responsible:

(1) To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 709:3).

(2) To initiate the development of youth work philosophy, organization, administration, leadership training, and programming; to serve as chairman of the regional WY executive committee, seeking its counsel on all phases of his work (1245:6); and to carry out and promote the plan of youth work approved by the Regional Board of Administration through conventions, seminars, exhibits, and other approved means.

(3) To direct and promote the work of Junior Youth (cf. 383; 594; 903:3).

(4) To serve as contact person for those youth in the constituency of The Wesleyan Church who are serving in the armed forces or are studying on college campuses (cf. 903:3-4).

(5) To represent Wesleyan Youth to other denominational or interdenomina-
tional youth organizations, subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (691:13).

(6) To preside over district WY conventions when present (1245:2).

(7) To cooperate with the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools and the Regional Secretary of Educational institutions, as directed by the Commission on Christian Education, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as given in 889:2-3.

(8) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 766).

(9) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(10) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

C. Educational Institutions

1. Commission on Educational Institutions

915. The Commission on Educational Institutions shall consist of the Regional Superintendent or the Assistant Regional Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1), the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions (920-921), and such other members of the Regional Board of Administration as the Regional Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with a right to speak but not to vote, such representatives of educational institutions or other qualified advisors as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations concerning the commissions are given in 705-710.

916. The Commission on Educational Institutions shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the Regional Department of Educational Institutions (910-924), the educational institutions themselves, the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941), and such others as the Regional Board of Administration may assign (705). It shall be responsible:

(1) To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration the coordination of the institutional purposes and curricula of the educational institutions so as to provide a complete and adequate program of institutional education.

(2) To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration the coordination of the various types and levels of ministerial training so as to provide a complete and adequate program of ministerial training (cf. 1150); and to recommend to the Regional Board of Administration basic courses of study for the local preacher, the licensed preacher, the licensed minister, and special lay ministries (cf. 691:31; 921:12; 1150-1151).

(3) To recommend programs of financial aid for the Church's educational institutions (773; 921:11).

(4) To receive annual reports from each educational institution, to review its work in the light of the basic principles for the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (926), the charter of the institution, and to make such recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration and the administrators of the school as will maintain the proper relationship of the school to the Church and as will assist in fulfilling the purpose of the school.

(5) To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration policies covering the establishment and operation of elementary and secondary schools by a local church or group of churches (691:31).

(6) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, nominations presented by the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions for an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions, for election by the Regional Board of Administration (691:21; 921:17).

(7) To appoint the members of the Committee on Educational Institutions, subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (708:2).
2. Regional Department of Educational Institutions

a. Function

918. The Regional Department of Educational Institutions is responsible for coordinating the implementation of The Wesleyan Church's objectives for Christian education (886) as they relate to the training of Christian ministers, missionaries, and educators on the study course, college, and seminary levels, and the elementary, secondary, and collegiate schooling of the children and youth of The Wesleyan Church. The department is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Superintendent, and shall be administered by the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions.

b. Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions

920. The Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions is elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official (711), and is an ex officio member of the Regional Conference (662:1d), the Regional Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Committee (694), the Commission on Educational Institutions (915), and the Commission on Christian Education (888). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-717.

921. The Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions shall administer the Regional Department of Educational Institutions in accord with The Discipline, and other directives of the Regional Board of Administration, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Educational Institutions. His duties shall be:

1. To present all recommendations for the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee to the Commission on Educational Institutions (cf. 709:3).

2. To serve as liaison between the regional church and its educational institutions, representing the institutions on the Regional Board of Administration, informing the administrators of the schools concerning educational standards and programs adopted by the Regional Board, interpreting to the administrators of the schools the policies and function of the schools in the life of the Church, and promoting the best of spiritual climates and the highest degree of loyalty and service to the Church on the campuses of the institutions.

3. To interpret to the membership of the church the distinctive services rendered by the educational institutions and their function in the Church.

4. To assist in the preparation of the charters and bylaws of the educational institutions, and of amendments to the same (cf. 926-931).

5. To attend such meetings of the boards of trustees of the educational institutions as time will permit, and to receive a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the boards of trustees. We shall review the actions of the various boards in the light of the basic principles for the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (926), the charters of the institutions, and make any necessary recommendations to the institutions or to the Regional Board of Administration.

7. To receive annual reports from the educational institutions covering matters designated by the Commission on Educational Institutions, to prepare a digest of these reports for presentation to the Commission on Educational Institutions, the Regional Board of Administration, and the various institutions, and to carry on such other research and study projects as are ordered by the Commission or the Regional Board.

8. To serve as consultant to the institutional administrators, visiting the various campuses as needs require and time permits, holding workshops on individual campuses or leading conferences involving like institutions, providing for the sharing of educational resources and planning.

9. To develop a placement service which will facilitate the finding and employment of qualified faculty members.

10. To present to the Council of Societies approved projects for assignment to the societies under its jurisdiction (1208:6); to seek bequests, trusts, annuities, and other contributions from benevolent foundations and other donors for the financial support of the Church's educational institutions.

11. To administer all regional church financial aid programs for ministerial education (cf. 711; 773:2; 916:3).
921: Regional Church Government

(12) To promote the enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry; to develop basic courses of study for the local preacher, the licensed minister, and special lay ministries (cf. 691:31; 916:2; 1150-1151); to serve as director of the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941); to develop questionnaires for use by district boards of ministerial standing in examining candidates for licensing, ordaining, and commissioning (cf. 537:1; 691:33).

(13) To cooperate with the Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools and the Regional Director of Youth in keeping with the recommendations of the Commission on Christian Education.

(14) To maintain denominational relationships with appropriate educational agencies outside the Church, as approved by the Regional Board of Administration (691:31).

(15) To prepare an annual budget for his department for submission to the Commission on Educational Institutions (cf. 786).

(16) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the Regional Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Educational Institutions to the Regional Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions (691:21; 916:6).

(17) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the Regional Board of Administration.

(18) To report to each session of the Regional Conference concerning his official duties (650:4), annually to the Regional Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:17), and at other times as required.

3. Ownership and Control of Educational Institutions

a. Basic Principles

926. The educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be governed in harmony with these principles:

(1) All schools, in fulfilling the mission of The Wesleyan Church, shall seek to produce Christian workers and committed laymen for the church of Jesus Christ.

(2) The Church and its schools shall work in the closest harmony. To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church it shall be required that all schools maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, General Rules, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative staff or faculty of an educational institution of The Wesleyan Church must affirm his adherence to the doctrine of entire sanctification and other doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.

b. Lines of Authority

928. Ultimate authority over the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church rests with the Regional Conference (cf. 650:10). This authority shall in general be delegated to the Regional Board of Administration and shall consist in the following matters:

(1) Examination of the proposed charter and of any subsequent proposed revision thereto; with power to approve and effect the same if it finds them conformable to the provisions of The Discipline (691:16).

(2) The election of the trustees for each educational institution as set forth in 931 (cf. 691:14; 1541).

929. Each educational institution of the regional church shall be governed by a board of trustees elected by the Regional Board of Administration as hereinafter set forth. This board of trustees shall have full legal powers to govern, to manage, and to control the institution, subject to its charter and bylaws. The charter and bylaws under which the school is incorporated with all subsequent amendments, shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (691:15; cf. 921:5).

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930. The charter of each institution shall provide that title to the property of the institution shall be held by the trustees, in trust for the use and benefit of The Wesleyan Church, subject to the requirement that the trustees may not at any time sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the express approval of the Regional Board of Administration. Whenever the sale, transfer, encumbrance, or other disposal of real property held in trust by such an institution does not include all or substantially all of its assets, the authorization by the board of trustees of the institution for such a sale or conveyance shall constitute a release and discharge of such property so sold or conveyed from the trust clause, and the board of trustees of the institution shall be enabled to give a good and sufficient deed. Whenever such real property is mortgaged or otherwise encumbered, the authorization by the board of trustees of the institution shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such a mortgage lien and the subordination of the trust clause thereto.

931. The charter shall provide for the trusteeship of the institution in the following manner:
   (1) The board of trustees shall consist of three ministers, an equal number of laymen, and the president of the institution who shall be a member by virtue of his office.
   (2) Each trustee shall be a full member of some local Wesleyan church. No member of the institution's staff or faculty except the president may be a member of the board of trustees of the institution he serves, but he may serve as trustee of another educational institution supported by The Wesleyan Church.
   (3) The members of the board of trustees shall be elected by the Regional Board of Administration, with two members being elected from the membership of the Regional Board, three members at large, and two members being elected from nominations submitted by the board of trustees itself (691:14), as much as legal laws permit.

5. Financial Support of Educational Institutions

938. The financial support of the regional educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be provided for as follows:
   (1) The Regional Treasury shall include provision for the Regional Department of Educational Institutions (918), the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941), and the subsidizing of ministerial training.
   (2) Special Offerings. Each educational institution shall supplement its income through deputational work, solicitations, and special offerings (773).

7. Ministerial Study Course Agency

940. Ministerial training within The Wesleyan Church will ordinarily take place in one of the approved educational institutions. However, for those persons whose circumstances make such institutional education impossible in whole or in part, the Regional Board of Administration shall provide home study courses. These courses shall also be open to others who wish to prepare for Christian service. (Cf. 1150-1151.)

941. The Ministerial Study Course Agency shall be directed by the Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions (921:12). His duties in this connection shall be:
   (1) To maintain records on all students for the various ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church, whether enrolled in educational institutions or in home study courses (1150), and including students of the local preacher's course of study (1107; 1108:1; 1111:3; 1150), the licensed preacher's course of study, the licensed minister's course of study (1112:2; 1114:1; 1119:3; 1150), the courses of study for specialized ministries (1150), the deaconesses' course of study (1150; 1182-1184), and the special workers' courses of study (1150; 1188-1189). The records shall include transcripts, grades, courses finished, and current standing. The Agency shall exchange needed information with the educational institutions and the local and district boards directing the students.
issuing an annual report concerning progress for the year and current standing
to each student, a similar report on each student of the local preacher’s course
of study to his local church board (1107), and a similar report on each student
recognized by his district to his district board of ministerial standing prior
to the session of the district conference (cf. 535:2; 527:2; 1102:2; 1103; 1108).
(2) To provide a list of the books authorized from time to time by the Re­
gional Board of Administration for each of the home study courses (cf. 691:31).
(3) To charge a fee to each enrollee in the home study courses as set by the
Regional Board of Administration (cf. 691:46).
(4) To provide suitable transcripts and to issue certificates upon the satis­
factory completion of the work assigned (cf. 1351).
(5) To evaluate any training taken outside the institutions and agencies of
The Wesleyan Church by a student for one of the ministries recognized by The
Wesleyan Church, to judge the equivalence of such outside training to the ap­
propriate course of study, and to report its conclusions and recommendations to
the appropriate local church board or district board of ministerial standing
(1108:1; 1119:3; 1151; 1184; 1189).
PART V
WORLD ORGANIZATION

Chapter I
BASIC PRINCIPLES

1001. The Wesleyan Church, in fulfillment of its mission to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world (75-76), recognizes the following as basic principles for its worldwide organization:

1. The objective of Wesleyan world missions, as set forth in 826, is to establish an indigenous church wherever possible which shall be a fully responsible and effective body, functioning as a part of The Wesleyan Church worldwide.

2. The church in any certain field or area shall become a fully responsible unit of the world organization of The Wesleyan Church when authorization is granted for such a church to be governed by its own regional or national general conference as set forth in 1010-1011.

3. There shall be a basic constitution known as the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church which shall serve as a bond for all Wesleyan churches around the world (148).

4. The church in each field or area under the General Department of World Missions shall endeavor to establish its own indigenous pattern of government, since it is recognized that variations in local conditions, cultural patterns, governmental regulations, and other factors require local adaptations in the organizational structure of the church. Care shall be taken to avoid the establishment of an organization that is foreign or not readily understood.

5. The organization and government of the various units under the General Department of World Missions shall be set forth in the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions, and a discipline or similar document for the governing of each unit shall be approved by the General Board of Administration. The Policy, disciplines, and other such documents shall be in keeping with the North American Discipline but shall allow for adaptations as set forth in 1001:1-4.6.

6. It shall not be the purpose of The Wesleyan Church to keep national churches under the paternal care of the parent body, but to develop a commonwealth or fellowship of strong churches that are aggressive in working together for the evangelization of the world.
Chapter II
GENERAL CONFERENCES

1005. The North American General Conference shall be composed of all mission districts and established districts in the United States and Canada, and such other units as it shall receive from time to time, and shall have jurisdiction over The Wesleyan Church around the world as set forth in The Discipline.

A. Provisional General Conference

1007. A provisional general conference may be authorized by the North American General Conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by the General Board of Administration, when it meets the minimum requirements as provided for in 1008 and when it is deemed wise to do so. The authorizing act shall set forth the boundaries and official name of the provisional general conference.

1008. The minimum requirements for a provisional general conference are:
1. An effective church organization on the local, district, and/or general levels.
2. Effective programs for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.
3. An effective program for ministerial training.
4. Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, including the proper management of funds and the provision for the support of its own pastors, workers, and officers.
5. A definite program of evangelism, church extension, and missionary outreach on an indigenous basis.
7. A discipline as approved by the General Board of Administration.
8. A recommendation for such status from the General Secretary of World Missions.

1009. A provisional general conference shall have authority to elect its own officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations as are deemed necessary for the church within its bounds, provided that such are in harmony with the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and the discipline for that provisional general conference as approved by the General Board of Administration. The actions of a provisional general conference shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration except in the initial vote of acceptance of the Essentials and in any subsequent vote on any amendment thereto.

1010. A provisional general conference may be advanced to the status of a general conference by the authority of the North American General Conference when it meets the following requirements:
1. A satisfactory record as a provisional general conference for at least four years.
2. The existence of a property-holding body, or more than one such body; if required by local laws.
3. A recommendation from the General Board of Administration.

1011. A general conference shall have full power over The Wesleyan Church in its assigned territory, subject to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church adopted for The Wesleyan Church and other regulations for the world organization of The Wesleyan Church as shall be legislated and declared from time to time.

C. General Conference Interrelations

1013. The relationships between general conferences shall be supervised by the International Board of Review as set forth in the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and other regulations that shall be adopted for the world organization of The Wesleyan Church.
Chapter III

WESLEYAN WORLD FELLOWSHIP

1014. There shall be a Wesleyan World Fellowship for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church (75-76), the coordinating of the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, the promoting of a closer 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.

1015. The Wesleyan World Fellowship shall consist 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.

1016. The Wesleyan World Fellowship shall function 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.

1017. The Wesleyan World Fellowship shall be organized and governed in accord with its Charter.
PART VI
MINISTRY
Chapter I
MINISTERIAL ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

A. Qualifications and Call of the Minister

1101. While God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, assigns to each believer his part in dispensing the gospel message, He also calls some to the more official and public work of the ministry. As Christ called unto Him whom He would, and 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 forth His messengers. And as the Holy Spirit impresses this call upon the individual involved, He also confirms the call through the Church. It is the responsibility of the Church both to recognize and endorse God’s call, providing for the training and employment of those He selects, and to respect the sacred office of the ministry by refusing its exercise to those not called of God. The Church’s endorsement may be limited to a probationary period, taking the form of a license, or it may be granted on a more permanent basis, taking the form of ordination.

1102. The Wesleyan Church believes that four marks will concur in the man whom God has called: grace, gifts, fruit, and an abiding sense of a divine call. Each candidate for license to preach or for ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks.

(1) Does he know God as a pardoning God? Has he the love of God abiding in him? Does he desire nothing but God? Is he holy in life and conduct as well as in heart? Is he a worthy example to the Church and to the world?

(2) Does he have gifts as well as grace for the work? Does he have a clear, sound understanding? a right judgment in the things of God? a just conception of salvation by faith? Does he speak justly, readily, clearly?

(3) Has he any fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by his preaching?

(4) Has he an abiding sense of a divine call to the work?

1103. Any person sustaining a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures and the General Rules (131:7; cf. 1130) shall be ineligible for license or ordination in The Wesleyan Church.

B. Local Preacher

1105. Identification. A local preacher is a lay member of The Wesleyan Church whom the local church conference has licensed to preach (160:3; 274:7), under the pastor’s direction and as opportunity affords (294:27), thus providing for the demonstration, employment, and development of his ministerial gifts and usefulness.

1106. Granting a Local Preacher’s License. A full member of a local Wesleyan church, who applies for a license as a local preacher, or who is presented as a candidate for such license by the pastor, shall be examined as provided for by the local church board in keeping with 1101-1103. If the local church board is satisfied that the candidate shows promise of ministerial gifts and usefulness, it shall recommend to the local church conference the granting of a license (136:19). When the local church conference has approved such action (272:6; 274:7), the pastor and local church secretary shall issue the license on the approved form (1826; cf. 294:27; 337:3).

1107. Renewing a Local Preacher’s License. A local preacher’s license is effective for one year only, and authority to preach under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the local church conference, until such time as the holder of the license is granted a district minister’s license.
The local church conference may renew the license if its holder has served satisfactorily under the pastor's direction, if his gifts and graces give promise of continued usefulness, and if the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency shows that he has completed two units of study in the study course for local preachers (1150) during the year, or if he holds a certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing that the course has been completed.

1108. Duties of a Local Preacher. A person holding a local preacher's license shall be responsible:

1. To enroll in the course of study for local preachers (1150) under the Ministerial Course Study Agency, and to pursue it with all diligence until completed either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan educational institutions, or through correspondence courses from the Ministerial Study Course Agency, which shall have authority to determine to what extent it may be credited toward the prescribed course. Once the study course for local preachers has been completed, he shall either seek a recommendation from his local church conference to the district conference for listing as an unlicensed ministerial student (1170:3), or, whenever deemed appropriate, a recommendation for a district ministerial license (1170:2; cf. 1156-1168), or he shall continue his ministry on a local level as long as the local church conference shall renew his license (1107).

2. To assist the pastor as he shall direct (294:27), preaching as often as opportunity affords, including the holding of evangelistic services in neighboring churches with his pastor's approval.

3. To report the progress of his studies and the nature and extent of his labors to his pastor and the local church board as they shall require (316:4), and to the local church conference annually (272:5; 274:5).

4. To serve as a supply pastor (1159) as appointed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration (486:27,32; 511:20), and when so employed to make reports as required by the district superintendent and annually to the district conference.

1109. Regulations for a Local Preacher.

1. A local preacher has no authority to solemnize marriages or to administer the sacraments; neither has he any vote in the local church board nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

2. A local preacher is amenable to the local church conference (160:3), and his license may be revoked for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, upon recommendation of the local church board and a majority vote of the local church conference (274:7; 316:19).

3. A local preacher who transfers his membership may also ask for a letter of standing as a local preacher (1827), and present it to the pastor of the church to which he is transferring for consideration by the local church board there in issuing a new license.

C. Licensed Minister

1110. Identification. A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by a district conference, through the granting of a ministerial license, authorizing him for and appointing him to a larger sphere of service and greater rights and responsibilities than those pertaining to a local preacher, as a step toward ordination as an elder. A licensed minister may be:

1. A former local preacher who has qualified for and been appointed to regular service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1168 (cf. 1115:3).

2. A ministerial student engaged in full-time study in preparation for ordination, either in the four-year ministerial or preministerial course of a Wesleyan educational institution or in an approved theological seminary.

1111. Granting a District Ministerial License. A full member of The Wesleyan Church who believes that he is called of God to be a minister (cf. 1101-1103), may be granted a district ministerial license by meeting the following requirements in order:
MEMBERSHIP (1)

(1) Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting the license.

(2) Satisfactory service under a local preacher's license in The Wesleyan Church for at least one year.

(3) Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the local preacher's course of study or of its equivalent (1851; cf. 1161), or enrollment in full-time study in preparation for ordination, either in the four-year ministerial or preministerial course of a Wesleyan educational institution or in an approved theological seminary.

(4) Readiness to accept the district conference's appointment to active service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1168, or its appointment to full-time ministerial or preministerial study at a Wesleyan educational institution or approved seminary; to pursue his studies with all diligence until completed; to prepare for ordination; and to give himself wholly to the ministry.

(5) Examination by the district board of ministerial standing (537:1) relative to his qualifications for the ministry and for a district license (cf. 1102-1103; 1111:1-4), including his personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and subsequent recommendation by the district board of ministerial standing to the district conference for the granting of a ministerial license (537:5).

(6) Recommendation by the district board of administration for his immediate appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1168, or to pursue full-time ministerial or preministerial study at a Wesleyan educational institution or approved seminary.

(7) Adoption by the district conference of the separate recommendations of the district board of ministerial standing (1111:5) and of the district board of administration (1111:6).

(8) Issuance and signing of the license by the district superintendent and the district secretary (1833; cf. 511:23; 517:4).

1112. Renewing a Ministerial License. A district ministerial license obviates the necessity of a local preacher's license, but is effective for one year only, and authority to carry on the office and work of a minister under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the district conference until such time as the holder of the license is ordained to the ministry. A minister may be granted renewal of his ministerial license by meeting the following requirements:

(1) Satisfactory service under his previous appointment, including loyalty to and compliance with the rules of The Wesleyan Church and of the district, and including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed minister fails to file his annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, his license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:6).

(2) Confirmation through the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency that he has completed at least two units of study in the study course. The licensed minister's study course must be completed within ten years of service under a ministerial license, and the ministerial license shall not be renewed beyond the tenth year.

(3) Agreement to continue under district appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1168, or to full-time ministerial or preministerial study in a Wesleyan educational institution or approved seminary.

1113. Rights of a Licensed Minister. As long as a minister qualifies for and receives a district license, he shall have the right (cf. 157):

(1) To preach the gospel (157:1), and, when appointed as a pastor of a Wesleyan church, to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony wherever local laws shall permit.

(2) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the approval of the district conference and other regulations of The Discipline (157:3).

(3) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the local church to which he has been assigned.
signed by the district conference (157:4); and to serve his church without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (157:5; cf. 1132-1133).

(4) To be a voting member of the district conference if pastoring a Wesleyan Church, or a nonvoting member of the district conference if appointed to some other category of service (161; 497:2; 440:2).

(5) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Discipline from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the Regional Superintendent over the district to which he seeks to transfer (157:6; cf. 1128:1).

(6) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against his character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (157:7; 1521; 1527-1529).

1114. Duties of a Licensed Minister. A person holding a ministerial license shall be responsible:

(1) To enroll in the licensed minister’s study course under the Ministerial Study Course Agency and his district board of ministerial standing, and to pursue the study course with all diligence until completed, either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan educational institutions, or through a course of study approved by the Ministerial Study Course Agency and the district board of administration (1150).

(2) To serve his district faithfully under whatever appointment he may receive, seeking to complete the service requirements for ordination as quickly as possible.

(3) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1112:1), and to the district superintendent and the board of ministerial standing as required (cf. 294:30).

1115. Regulations for a Licensed Minister.

(1) A licensed minister is amenable to the district which grants his license, and his license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529.

(2) A licensed minister’s credentials shall consist of his license, signed annually by the district superintendent and the district secretary (1111:8; 1833), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district superintendent and secretary (1853).

(3) A minister from another denomination who has been licensed or authorized in some manner equivalent to the licensing of a Wesleyan minister by a district conference, may present his letter of standing, license, other credentials and transcripts, or other records of ministerial training, to the district superintendent for consideration of reception as a minister into The Wesleyan Church. He must join a local Wesleyan church and seek and qualify for a local preacher’s license, and shall serve under that license for one year before being recommended for district license. Such a minister may serve as a supply pastor during his first year of membership in The Wesleyan Church (1153).

(4) A licensed minister, when transferring his district membership (cf. 1128:1), in addition to a letter of transfer, shall be supplied by the district superintendent and the district board of ministerial standing with a properly attested statement of his standing in the ministerial study course and of his record of service under the appointment of the district conference.

(5) If a minister’s license is not renewed by the district conference, and he is neither under charges nor under discipline, he may be licensed by his local church as a local preacher subject to the rules and regulations pertaining thereto (1105-1109).

D. Elder

1118. Identification. An elder is a minister whose calling, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a district conference and by the solemn act of ordination (1701-1711), and thus has been fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.
1119. Qualifications for Ordination. A licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a minister (cf. 1101-1103) may be ordained as an elder by meeting the following requirements in order:

1. Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting ordination.

2. Satisfactory service for two years as a licensed minister under appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1168, at least one of which years must have been in The Wesleyan Church in the case of a minister transferring from another denomination (cf. 1115:3), and provided that in the case of a ministerial student who has completed his training at an approved seminary or Bible college there need be only one year of service.

3. Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the course of study for a licensed minister or of its equivalent (1851; cf. 1150-1151).

4. Examination by the district board of ministerial standing relative to his qualifications for the ministry and ordination (cf. 1102-1103; 1119:1-3), including his personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, particularly his personal commitment without reservation to each of the Articles of Religion and the General Rules and his loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and a subsequent report by the district board of ministerial standing to the district conference (537:1, 5).

5. Election by the district conference to elder's orders (473:25). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the district board of ministerial standing may be elected to elder's orders by the district board of administration in the interim of the sessions of the district conference (486:31).

6. Public service of ordination (1701-1711), in which he shall witness to his Christian experience, affirm his conviction of a divine call to the ministry, his commitment to the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Church, and his loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, after which he shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the Church through the laying on of hands in the person of the Regional Superintendent, if present, (cf. 740:28), the district superintendent (511:23), and a council of ordination (546).

7. Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the Regional Superintendent, district superintendent, and district secretary (1836).

1120. Reception of an Elder from Another Denomination. An elder or ordained minister from another denomination may present his letter of standing or other credentials, and transcripts or other records of ministerial standing, to the district superintendent, and seek reception as an elder into The Wesleyan Church (cf. 486:30), according to the following procedures:

1. He shall join a local Wesleyan church within the district.

2. He shall be examined by the district board of ministerial standing relative to his Christian experience, call, and qualifications for the ministry as given in 1102-1103 (cf. 1119:4), relative to the equivalence of his training to the Wesleyan course of study (cf. 1151), and relative to the nature of the ordination which he received.

3. If the district board of ministerial standing so recommends (537:3), the district conference may appoint him as an elder in process of transfer (473:20a; cf. 539:1:6; 1175), which relation shall continue for one year unless the district conference shall by vote extend it. While serving under this relation, he shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (440:1), may serve as a supply pastor (1159), and shall seek to correct any deficiencies in his ministerial training, particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity. If any time the district board of administration shall determine 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 assignment, and thus dismiss him from all ministerial relations to The Wesleyan Church.

4. If his year of service is satisfactory and all deficiencies in his ministerial training are corrected, the district board of ministerial standing may...
recommend to the district conference that he be recognized as an elder of The Wesleyan Church and received as a ministerial member of the district (537:3). (5) When he has been received, by a vote of the conference (473:26a), a certificate validating his certificate of ordination shall be issued (1837), and signed by the Regional Superintendent presiding over the district conference, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

1121. Rights of an Ordained Elder. As long as an elder maintains his spiritual life, moral character, and faithful ministry which first qualified him for ordination, and as long as he is neither under discipline nor expelled from the ministry, he shall have the right (cf. 157):
(1) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony (157:1).
(2) To be eligible for election to any office in the Church for which elders are eligible (157:2).
(3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of The Discipline (157:3).
(4) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which he has been assigned by the district conference (157:4); and to serve his assigned church without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (157:5; cf. 1132-1133).
(5) To be a voting member of the district conference if on the stationed, reserve, or superannuated lists, or a nonvoting member of the district conference if on the unstationed list (163; 437:1; 440:1); and to have his conference relations changed only after careful investigation by the district board of administration, and interview if possible (486:bc).
(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Discipline from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the Regional Superintendent over the district to which he seeks to transfer (157:6; cf. 1128:1).
(7) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against his character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (157:7; 1521; 1527-1529).

1122. Duties of an Ordained Elder. An ordained elder shall be responsible:
(1) To devote himself without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the district conference in determining and occupying his field of service.
(2) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1123:3), and to the district superintendent as required (cf. 294:31).
(3) To place his credentials on file voluntarily with his district superintendent if he ceases for an extended period to serve in one of the categories of the ministry listed in 1156-1168 (cf. 1197-1138).
(4) To surrender voluntarily his credentials if he is guilty of an offense which would disqualify him from service as an elder (cf. 1137; 1139-1140).

1123. Regulations for an Elder.
(1) An elder is amenable to the district of which he is a member, and he may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender his credentials by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529.
(2) An elder's credentials shall consist of his certificate of ordination (1119:7; 1836), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (1852).
(3) An elder who fails to file his annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, 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 shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference. (4) When an elder surrenders his certificate of ordination because he is guilty of an offense (1122:4), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial
process (1529:4). It shall be lawful to publish such fact in the columns of the regional church periodical.

E. General Regulations for Elders and Licensed Ministers

1. Special Advice to Ministers

1126. John Wesley's "Rules of a Helper" have perhaps never been excelled as counsel to ministers, whether young or old. These "Rules" are, in part, as follows:

1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed a moment, never triflingly employed, never while away time; spend no more time at any place than is strictly necessary.
2. Be serious. Let your motto be, "Holiness unto the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.
3. Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. The Judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.
4. Speak evil of no one, else your word especially would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast till you come to the person concerned.
5. Tell everyone under your care what you think wrong in his conduct and temper, and that lovingly and plainly as soon as may be; else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.
6. Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all.
7. Be ashamed of nothing but sin. Let your industry, as well as your humility, commend itself to all.
8. Be punctual: do everything exactly at the time.
9. Do not mend the rules, but keep them; not for wrath but for conscience' sake.
10. You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work; and go always not only to those that desire you, but to those who need you most.

2. Membership of Ministers

1127. Local Church Membership. Each Wesleyan minister, whether ordained or licensed, must be a member of a local Wesleyan church (156) within the district in which he holds his ministerial membership. If he serves as a pastor, his membership is automatically transferred to the church he pastors (244:3). If he serves in some capacity other than that of a pastor, he shall hold and transfer his local church membership within the district in the same manner as a layman. If he takes a letter of withdrawal from his local church (1805), such withdrawal will not affect his standing in the district, unless he fails to use it in joining another Wesleyan church within the district (cf. 1128:4).

1128. District Membership. Each Wesleyan elder shall be a member of the district conference which appoints him to service, and each licensed minister of the district conference which issues his license (cf. 1114:3; 1121:5). The minister's district membership shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. If a minister desires to accept a pastoral call from a church within the bounds of another district, or if a minister not serving as a pastor desires to transfer his ministerial membership to another district, he must first obtain the written permission of the Regional Superintendent and the district superintendent over the district to which he desires to transfer (157:6; 511:18; 740:29). When such has been obtained, he shall ask his district superintendent for a letter of transfer (1864; cf. 511:25) to be sent directly to the district superintendent of the district to which he is transferring (cf. 1115:4). He shall continue to be considered as a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the latter district stating that he has been duly received at a member of a local church within that district and has been duly enrolled as a member of the district conference (2855; cf. 511:25).
(2) In an emergency, an elder may serve as supply pastor of a church located within the bounds of a district other than the one in which he holds his ministerial membership (cf. 1159:1), provided that such an arrangement has the written approval of the superintendent of each district involved, and does not continue beyond the next session of the district conference in which he holds his membership without the consent of his district conference.

(3) If a minister so requests, the district superintendent may grant him a letter of standing (1856; cf. 511:25), which shall terminate immediately his ministerial membership in The Wesleyan Church (cf. 1138). Such a letter of standing shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance in the case of an elder, or until the next session of the district conference from which he has withdrawn in the case of a licensed minister (or licensed preacher).

(4) If a minister receives a letter of withdrawal from his local church (1805; cf. 1127), and does not use it in joining another Wesleyan church within the district by the time of the next session of the district conference, or if he declares in writing that he has withdrawn from the Church, or if he leaves for parts unknown, or if he joins another denomination, either as a member or as a minister, or if an elder fails to submit his annual service report as set forth in 541 and 1123:3, the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference may order that he be declared withdrawn (cf. 1135; 1138). 

(5) No letters of transfer or standing shall be granted to any minister by a district superintendent until satisfactory evidence is given by the applicant that no outstanding debts are unprovided for, and that he has honorably withdrawn from his contract for service with his church or district.

3. Minister and Marriage

1129. Any minister who enters into a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures, and to those expositions of Scripture as set forth in the General Rules (151:17; cf. 1130), after having been ordained or licensed, shall be dismissed from his ministerial standing, provided that guilt shall be established in accord with the judicial processes set forth in The Discipline (1527-1529; cf. 151:17).

1130. In performing marriages, Wesleyan ministers shall not unite in marriage any person who is divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless such remarriage is in keeping with the Scriptures and the General Rules (151:17) as explained by the following regulations:

(1) When one spouse is guilty of adultery and a divorce has been granted by a court of law on those grounds, the innocent spouse shall have the right to remarry.

(2) When a divorce has been granted by a court of law other than scriptural grounds, if one spouse remarries after the divorce has been granted, this constitutes scriptural grounds for divorce for the other spouse, who shall then have the right to remarry.

(3) When a divorce, although granted by a court of law on other than scriptural grounds, does in fact involve adultery, the minister shall be free to unite in marriage the spouse he believes to be the aggrieved member.

4. Relationship to Other Ministers and Churches

1132. Each minister of The Wesleyan Church shall respect the rights of each of his brethren within his field of labor, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone against any pastor, district official, or other minister of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 157:5). In the event of any such violation of ministerial ethics, the aggrieved person may file a complaint with his district superintendent (1527:1; cf. 1511:2-4).

1133. If a Wesleyan minister shall engage to serve another denomination, or an interdenominational or independent work, as a pastor or in some other regular capacity, except by permission of his district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by permission of his district board of administration,
the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference
may order that he be declared withdrawn. If he is serving within the territory
of a district other than the one to which he belongs, he must have not only the
permission of his own district, but also the permission of the district super­
intendent over the territory where he proposes to labor (511:25). An elder
serving outside The Wesleyan Church with the permission of his district, shall
be placed either on the stationed or unstationed lists as set forth in 1168 and
1174.

5. Restoration of Ministers

1136. If a licensed minister ceases to be licensed or is declared withdrawn
from his district conference, and he was neither under charges nor under dis­
cipline, he may at a later time again be recommended by his local church confer­
ence and qualify for and be granted a district license.

1137. If an elder has filed his credentials with his district superintendent
(1122:3), or if he has voluntarily surrendered (1122:4) or been required to sur­
render them because of guilt in an offense which disqualifies him from being an
elder, his credentials shall be forwarded to the Regional Secretary, to be filed
and preserved, subject to the order of the district conference having original
jurisdiction (cf. 755:4b).

1138. An elder who has voluntarily filed his credentials with his district
superintendent (1122:3), or who has taken a letter of standing and has not
used the same within the prescribed time (1128:3), or who has been declared
withdrawn when neither under charges nor under discipline (cf. 1123:3; 1128:4;
1133), may be restored to the office of an elder in The Wesleyan Church, if
such is approved by the district conference from which he withdrew, or in the
interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration, and if such
is recommended by the local church conference where he now holds his membership
and by the district board of ministerial standing of the district in which he
seeks ministerial membership, and if such restoration is voted by the district
conference in which he seeks ministerial membership (cf. 1548).

1139. An elder or licensed minister who has been expelled from the ministry
of The Wesleyan Church, either through voluntary surrender of his credentials
because of guilt (1122:4) or through judicial process and disciplinary action,
other than that considered in 1138; may be restored to the office and work of
a minister in The Wesleyan Church, provided that he shall have shown evidence
of repentance and amendment of life, and provided that such is approved, rec­
ommended, and voted by the various bodies designated in 1138. In the case of
imorality, to which he has confessed guilt or for which guilt was declared by
judicial process, such restoration may be accomplished only with the additional
approval of the Regional Board of Administration. In no case may restoration
after expulsion for such an offense be initiated for five years subsequent to
the minister’s having shown evidence of repentance and amendment of life.

1140. An elder or licensed minister who has been disqualified for the minis­
try through a marriage contrary to the Scriptures and the General Rules (131:
17; 1130), shall not be restored to the office and work of a minister as long
as both his former and latter spouse are living, and then only if he has mani­
fested repentance and been approved, recommended, and voted restoration by the
various bodies designated in 1138.
Chapter II

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

A. Priority of Ministerial Education

1146. The importance of the training of the Christian minister has been evident ever since Christ gave the name of "disciples" or "learners" to his first preachers, and ever since the aging Paul provided for successive classes of ministerial students by admonishing Timothy, "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). Such training becomes even more urgent in an age when the thirst for knowledge is almost universal, when man's knowledge of himself and his world is multiplying, and when formal education on the highest level is becoming the normal pattern for a large segment of society. The Wesleyan Church gives priority in its organization and its educational institutions to the training of its youth for the Christian ministry and related fields of labor (cf. 926:1). The Church expects each person who answers the call to preach to prepare himself thoroughly for his ministry and to devote himself throughout his ministry to being an able dispenser of divine wisdom.

B. Special Situations

1147. It is recognized that some are called to preach when they are at an advanced age, when the normal opportunities for educational preparation have passed them by. While the Church shall make possible every opportunity for educational advancement within its power, and shall expect all those called to the work of the ministry within its ranks to meet the stipulated requirements, it must also stand prepared to make exceptions to its requirements when a particular situation merits, so that no person whose personal testimony, graces, gifts, and fruits evidence the call of God upon him shall be prevented from fulfilling this call because of educational limitations.

C. Types of Ministerial Education

1. Courses of Study

1150. The Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions shall develop and the Regional Board of Administration shall approve institutions or courses of study for local preachers, licensed ministers, deaconesses, and special workers as possible. All candidates for licenses in such categories must either have completed, or be enrolled in such courses of study as applicable.

2. Training Outside The Wesleyan Church

1151. Some candidates for the ministry will have secured some or all of their college and/or seminary training outside the institutions and agencies of The Wesleyan Church. In such a case, the district board of ministerial standing shall forward copies of transcripts or other records of study to the Ministerial Study Course Agency so that it can carefully evaluate such work in terms of its equivalence to the ministerial courses of study of The Wesleyan Church, giving particular attention to the candidate's qualifications in the areas of Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity (941:5; 1108:1; 1111:3; 1115:3; 1119:3; 1120). Subsequent to such evaluation and the report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the district board of ministerial standing shall have the right to require additional work until it and the Agency are fully satisfied that all requirements for the Wesleyan ministry have been met. (cf. 53:2.)
Chapter III
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

A. Categories of Service

1156. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes only one order of the Christian ministry, that of the elder, it also recognizes that the ordained elder, or the licensed minister preparing for ordination, may serve the Church in various capacities. Christ has called some to be "apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4: 11-12). The Church recognizes the following categories of service to which a district conference may appoint an elder, or, as circumstances warrant, a licensed minister (473:23a): pastor (1158-1159), evangelist (1160-1162), missionary (1164), educator (1165), administrator (1166), chaplain (1167), and interchurch service (1168).

1. Pastors

1158. Regular Pastoral Service. The pastoral office is defined in 276. In The Wesleyan Church, pastoral service includes the pastor of a church (294), an associate pastor (296), and an assistant pastor, who may specialize in such ways as minister of Christian education, minister of music, minister of visitation, or minister of youth (297-298). An elder appointed by a district conference to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a Wesleyan church, pioneer church, or preaching point shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:l:A:2). A licensed minister appointed as pastor of a provisional or an established church shall be a voting member of the district conference (161; 437:1; 539:11:A; 1112:4).

1159. Supply Pastors. If no elders, licensed ministers, or preachers eligible for ministerial license are available to be appointed as pastors of churches left unsupplied at the close of a district conference session, or left without a pastor between sessions of the district conference, the district superintendent and the district board of administration shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor (486:27,32; 511:19-20), who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

1. A supply pastor may be a Wesleyan elder or licensed minister serving under some other appointment or an elder on loan from one district to another (cf. 207; 539:1A:2b; 1128:2), a commissioned or licensed deaconess (1185), a local preacher of The Wesleyan Church (1108:4), a minister in process of transfer from another denomination (1125:3; 1129:3), or a minister who belongs to another denomination.

2. A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but he shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres to him on some other basis, and he shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in the filing of reports unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent (cf. 511:8).

3. A supply pastor's church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church he is serving.

4. A supply pastor shall be granted a certificate of authorization to supply on the form provided in 1828, and shall be a voting member of the district conference unless he is a voting member by some other right (440:8).

5. A supply pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the district board of administration (486:32; 511:25; cf. 1621:4).

2. Evangelists

1160. Function. An evangelist is an elder or licensed minister who devotes his time to traveling and preaching the gospel without any specific pastoral assignment, and who is authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land. The Wesleyan Church recognizes two levels of evangelistic service to which a district conference
may appoint ministers: district evangelist and regional evangelist.

1161. District Evangelist. A district evangelist is an elder or a licensed minister, appointed by his district to serve in the field of evangelism primarily within the district. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:1:A:3a), and a licensed minister so appointed shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under "Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments" (cf. 539:11:B; 440:2). To receive such an appointment, the minister involved must plan to devote a major portion of his time to the work of evangelism, and he shall not be continued in such an appointment in subsequent years unless he reports to his district conference at least fourteen full weeks per year so devoted, or the equivalent thereof.

1162. Regional Evangelist and Reserve Regional Evangelist. A regional evangelist is an elder, appointed by his district conference to the field of evangelism and recommended for service to the Church at large. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:1:A:3a). An elder who has retired to the supernumerated list may be appointed and certified as a reserve regional evangelist (1162:4). Appointment to regional evangelism is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

(1) The candidate shall be examined carefully by the district board of administration relative to his Christian experience, his full personal commitment and support of the Articles of Religion and General Rules, to the government, institutions, and best interests of The Wesleyan Church, his gifts and aptitudes for the work of an evangelist, and his intention to devote his full time to the work of evangelism.

(2) Upon satisfactory completion of three years' service as district evangelist, the district board of administration may recommend that person to the district conference as a regional evangelist. District approval at that time represents an endorsement of the candidate as a regional evangelist. The three-year requirement may be waived if, in the judgment of the district board of administration and district conference, an elder is uniquely qualified to serve the regional church in this capacity. Upon approval by the district conference of appointment to regional evangelism, a certificate of such appointment shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and the district secretary (cf. 1839).

(3) Appointment and certification as a regional evangelist shall only be continued in subsequent years if he reports to his district conference at least sixteen full weeks per year or the equivalent thereof devoted to evangelism.

(4) Appointment and certification as a reserve regional evangelist shall be according to the same conditions and procedures as for a regional evangelist (1162:1-3), except that he shall be required to devote only eight weekends per year or the equivalent thereof in evangelistic meetings.

1163. Evangelistic Reports. In addition to the filing of his annual service report (541), each evangelist shall file an annual statistical report with his district statistical committee on forms approved by the Regional Board of Administration and made available by the Regional Secretary.

3. Missionaries

1164. When an elder or licensed minister has been appointed by the Regional Board of Administration to service as a missionary in any pioneer area or district of The Wesleyan Church outside the region, his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list, and a licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under "Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments" (cf. 539:11:B; 440:2).

4. Educators

1165. When an elder or licensed minister has been employed on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan
Church, his district conference shall list him as if it had appointed him. An elder so serving shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:1:A:4c), and a licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under "Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments" (cf. 539:11:3; 440:2).

5. Administrators

1166. When an elder has been elected by the Regional Conference as a regional official (711), or an elder of licensed minister has been elected or employed by the Regional Board of Administration to serve the regional church in a ministerial capacity, or an elder has been elected by the district conference as district superintendent or full-time service of the district in a ministerial capacity, his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder serving in this manner shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:1:A:1,4a,b), and a licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under "Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments" (cf. 539:11:B; 440:2). Any elder employed by the regional church in other than a ministerial capacity, as interpreted by the Regional Board of Administration, shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:11:0:3).

6. Military Chaplains

1167. When an elder has been approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by his government as a military chaplain, his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder serving in this capacity shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:1:A:4d).

7. Ministers Engaged in Interchurch Service

1168. An elder employed as an officer in a church-related organization serving The Wesleyan Church, or approved upon careful evaluation of his district conference to serve with an educational institution, evangelistic or missionary organization not directly related to The Wesleyan Church, or to minister in such a capacity as an institutional chaplain, shall be appointed to interchurch service and shall be listed by his district as a stationed elder (cf. 539:11:A:5). A licensed minister so appointed shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under "Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments" (cf. 539:11:B).

8. Other Appointments

1. Students

1170. The district conference may list elders or licensed ministers as ministerial students, and recognize local preachers who are pursuing ministerial studies, in keeping with the regulations set forth below. Elders and licensed ministers so appointed shall be nonvoting members of the district conference (440:1,2).

(1) An elder without other appointment who enrolls in a seminary or other graduate school for advanced training shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:11:0:2; 1174).

(2) A ministerial student engaged in full-time study in preparation for ordination, either in the four-year ministerial or preministerial course of a Wesleyan educational institution, or in an approved theological seminary, if he meets all other qualifications, may be granted a district ministerial license, and be appointed by his district conference as a ministerial student (cf. 539:11:C).

(3) A ministerial student who has completed the local preacher's course of study and is continuing his preparation through the correspondence course, or who is enrolled on a part-time basis in a Wesleyan educational institution, if he has been recommended by his local church conference to study under the direc-
tion of the district board of ministerial standing, may be listed as an unlicensed ministerial student (cf. 539:111).

2. Elders on Reserve

1172. An elder on reserve is one available for district conference appointment but left without specific employment (539:1:6). He is a voting member of the district conference (161; 437:1). If an elder remains on reserve for two consecutive years without definite appointment, he shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list, unless continued on reserve by vote of the district conference (473:23c).

3. Superannuated Elders

1173. An elder who is retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, and who was on either the stationed or reserve list at the time of his retirement or incapacitation, shall be placed on the superannuated list (cf. 539:1:6). Superannuated elders are voting members of the district conference (161; 437:1).

4. Unstationed Elders

1174. An elder in active service outside of The Wesleyan Church, with the consent of his district conference, but who is not eligible for inclusion in the stationed or reserve list (cf. 1168; or an elder who is enrolled in a seminary or other graduate school for advanced training (1170:1), or an elder who is not available for appointment, or an elder who is not otherwise provided for in the stationed, reserve, or superannuated lists, shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:1:10). Unstationed elders are nonvoting members of the district conference (440:1).

5. Ministers in Process of Transfer From Another Denomination

1175. An elder seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination, shall be listed by his district conference for the first year, and until all deficiencies in educational or service requirements are cared for, as an elder in process of transfer (cf. 539:11; 1120; 1151). An elder in process of transfer shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference. A licensed minister or ordained deacon seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination must spend his first year as a local preacher (1115:3), and shall not be listed by the district conference as having an appointment unless he serves as a supply pastor (cf. 539:1:6; 1153).
Chapter IV
SPECIAL LAY MINISTRIES

A. Deaconess

1181. Function. A deaconess is a woman who believes that she is divinely led to set herself apart from other pursuits and devote herself to special service, in order to minister to the sick and the needy, to comfort the sorrowing, to seek the lost and wandering, and to engage in other works of Christian benevolence, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a local church conference or district conference.

1182. Local Deaconess. A woman who is a full member of The Wesleyan Church may be licensed as a local deaconess by her local church conference (274:7) for one year, provided that the local church board recommends her for such license after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (316:19). Her license shall be issued and signed by the pastor and local church secretary (1841; cf. 294:28; 337:3). She shall serve under the direction of the pastor (294:28) and shall be accountable to the local church board (316:19; cf. 274:7). She shall be responsible to enroll in the deaconess's course of study (1150), under the Ministerial Study Course Agency. Her license may be renewed annually by the local church conference upon recommendation of the local church board. The local deaconess has no vote in the local church board nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

1183. Licensed Deaconess. A local deaconess may be granted a district deaconess's license by her district conference (473:26d) provided that she is at least twenty-one years of age, has served satisfactorily as a local deaconess for at least one year, has completed the units on Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity in the course of study for the deaconesses (1150) as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, has been recommended for district license by her local church conference (274:7; cf. 316:20), promises to pursue the course of study with all diligence until completed, and has been recommended for such license by the district board of ministerial standing after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (537:3). Her license shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (1842; cf. 511:23; 517:4). Her license may be renewed annually if she continues to qualify as set forth above, if she completes two units in the course of study for deaconesses (1150) as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and if her service is satisfactory, including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed deaconess fails to file her annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, her license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8). She shall serve under the direction of the district (485:33), and her license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529. A person from another denomination holding a district deaconess's license or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of a licensed minister (1115:3).

1184. Commissioned Deaconess. A licensed deaconess may be commissioned by her district conference provided that she has completed the deaconess's course of study (1150) or its equivalent as certified by the Ministerial Study Course Agency (1851), has served satisfactorily as a licensed deaconess for at least two years, and has been recommended for commissioning by the district board of ministerial standing after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (537:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote of the district conference (473:26d), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1721 (cc. 540), and the issuance of a commission signed by the Regional Superintendent over the district, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (1843; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 740:28). The commission shall be continuous until such time as she ceases to be active as a deaconess and files her commission with her district superintendent, or unless she is deprived of her commission by judicial process (1527-1529). A commissioned deaconess who fails to file her annual service report
SPECIAL LAY MINISTRIES

(541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If she then fails to report, she shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and her name shall be so entered (cf. 537:8). A person from another denomination holding a commission as a deaconess or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of an elder (486:30; 537:3; 1110).

1185. General Regulations for Commissioned and Licensed Deaconesses. A commissioned or licensed deaconess shall be a member of a local church within the district which authorizes her service, and shall serve under the direction of her pastor unless assigned to serve under some district or regional agency. She may serve as a supply pastor (1159:1), but shall not administer the sacraments nor solemnize marriages. She shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (440:3; 537:7). She may be granted a letter of transfer to another district, or a letter of standing, by the district superintendent (486:33; 511:29). A letter of transfer shall be sent directly to the superintendent of the district to which she is transferring, and she shall continue to be considered as a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the latter district stating that she has been duly received as a member of a local church within the district and has been duly enrolled as a member of the district (1855). A former deaconess may be restored her license or commission only in keeping with the provisions of 1136-1140.

B. Special Worker

1187. Function. A special worker is a layman who believes that he is divinely led to serve the Church as a director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker, or in some other special capacity, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a district conference.

1188. Licensed Special Worker. A full member of The Wesleyan Church may be granted a district special worker's license by his district conference (473:26e) provided that he has been recommended for such license by his local church conference (274:9; cf. 316:20), that he promises to pursue the course of study for his particular field of service (1150), and that he has been recommended for such license by the district board of ministerial standing after careful examination concerning his Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in his particular field of service (537:5). His license shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (1846; cf. 511:23; 517:4). His license may be renewed annually if he continues to qualify as above, if he completes two units in his course of study as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and if his service is satisfactory, including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed special worker fails to file his annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, his license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8). He shall be amenable to the district (486:33), and his license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529. A person from another denomination holding a district license as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of a licensed minister (1115:3).

1189. Commissioned Special Worker. A licensed special worker may be commissioned by his district conference provided that he has completed his course of study (1150) or its equivalent as certified by the Ministerial Study Course Agency (1851), has served satisfactorily under a district special worker's license for at least two years, and has been recommended for commissioning by the district board of ministerial standing after careful examination concerning his Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in his particular field of service (537:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote...
of the district conference (473:26e), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1741 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a commission signed by the Regional Superintendent over the district, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (1947; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 740:28). The commission shall be continuous until such time as he ceases to be active in his particular field of service and files his commission with his district superintendent, or unless he is deprived of his commission by judicial process (1527-1529). A commissioned special worker who fails to file his annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, 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 shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference (cf. 537:8). A person from another denomination holding a commission as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of an elder (486:30; 537:3; 1120).

1190. General Regulations for Special Workers. A licensed or commissioned special worker shall be a member of a local church within the district which authorizes his service, and shall serve under the direction of his pastor, or upon the call of local churches, or under a district or regional agency, as the case may be. He shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (440:4), and shall report annually to the district conference (537:7). He may be granted a letter of transfer or standing in the same manner as a deaconess (1854-1856; cf. 1185). A former special worker may be restored his license or commission only in keeping with the provisions of 1136-1140.
PART VII
CONSTITUTIONS OF SOCIETIES

Chapter I
COUNCIL OF SOCIETIES

A. Function

1201. The Council of Societies serves under the Regional Board of Administration to supervise the activities of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, Wesleyan Youth, and such other societies as the Regional Board of Administration shall assign, to recommend policies providing for their financial support, and to coordinate the service projects of all societies.

B. Membership

1202. The Council of Societies shall consist of the Assistant Regional Superintendent, who shall be chairman, the Regional Director of Wesleyan Men, the Regional Director of Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, the Regional Director of Wesleyan Youth, and such others as the Regional Board of Administration shall designate or elect.

C. Sessions

1203. The Council of Societies shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine. It may be called into special session by its chairman, or in the absence of the chairman by the vice-chairman, provided each member has had forty-eight hours previous notice.

D. Organization and Procedure

1204. The Assistant Regional Superintendent (1202) shall be the chairman of the Council of Societies, and the Council of Societies shall elect its own vice-chairman and secretary. These officers shall perform the functions normal to their office. The chairman shall serve as an advisor to the societies in the interim of Council of Societies sessions.

1205. Quorum and Voting. A majority of members of the Council of Societies shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient in all matters of business.

1206. Amenity. The Council of Societies is directly responsible to the Regional Board of Administration.

E. Duties and Powers

1208. The duties and powers of the Council of Societies shall be:

1. To supervise the activities of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, Wesleyan Youth, and such other societies as the Regional Board of Administration shall assign (691:41; 1242) in accordance with The Discipline and the constitution of the societies, and as approved by the Regional Board of Administration, and to coordinate all matters overlapping concern between Junior Youth and YMWB.

2. To make recommendations to the Regional Board of Administration concerning the establishment, merger, or dissolution of a society, or other changes in structure or relationship (691:29).

3. To recommend to the Regional Board of Administration, policies governing the financial support of societies including the setting of membership dues (1224:3); policies for the compiling and keeping of statistics by the Regional Secretary (1245:4); official handbook prepared by the executive committees of the societies (691:29; 1245:6); and the time and place of regional society conventions (691:30; 1243).
(4) To grant final approval of all plans of the regional executive committees of the societies and of the leaders of the other societies under its charge (1245:6).

(5) To receive reports from the regional directors of the societies on such matters as the Council of Societies shall determine.

(6) To assign and coordinate the service projects of all societies (1231); providing for the proper distribution of such projects for missions, evangelism, educational institutions, and other benevolent causes (cf. 837:13; 863:9; 921:10).

(7) To report annually to the Regional Board of Administration and at other times to the Executive Committee as directed (691:18).
Chapter II
SOCITIES

General Regulations

1210. Societies of The Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa may function at the local and district and regional levels as provided herewith. All regional activities of the societies shall be supervised and coordinated by the Council of Societies.

1212. Societies within The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa may be: Wesleyan Youth, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, and Wesleyan Men. Junior Youth and Young Missionary Workers' Band may be carried on as subordinate parts of Wesleyan Youth and WMGO respectively. Officers shall be elected and serve under the provisions relating to "other officers" (1217:2, 1224:2).

1213. All local societies shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor and the local church board (194:16; 316:23).

1214. All district societies shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent and the district board of administration (486:19,20,23b; 511:8).

1215. The work of the societies on regional level shall be supervised and coordinated by the Council of Societies. (Cf. 902, Youth.) The regional director shall be amenable to the Regional Board of Administration.
Chapter II

CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL SOCIETY CHAPTER

1221. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Church. (The first blank may be either Wesleyan Youth, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, or Wesleyan Men. The second blank would indicate the name of the local church.)

1222. Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Society shall be to build up its members in Christian experience and in holy character and to provide opportunity for them to unitedly seek advancement of the kingdom of God and the growth of the Church through worldwide soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship with those of like station in life.

1223. Article 3. Relationship. The local organization of the Society shall function as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor, and shall be amenable to the local church board (294:16; 316:2,23), or the local board of Christian education (386:2).

1224. Article 4. Membership and Dues. (1) Active membership. Active membership in the society shall be open to all youth, women, and men (as applicable to the society) who are full members of the Wesleyan Church.

(2) Associate membership. Associate membership in the society shall be open to all those of good character who are interested in the work of the society but who are not yet full members of the Wesleyan Church. Associate members may vote at the annual business meeting but shall not be eligible for office or delegates of the society.

(3) Membership Dues. Membership dues shall be set by the Regional Board of Administration, and shall be used for the work of the local, district, and regional organizations.

1225. Article 5. Finance. (1) The local organization shall cooperate with district and regional organizations in the raising of funds and promoting of projects.

(2) The local society shall submit all financial projects to the local church board for approval.

1226. Article 6. Meetings. (1) The local society chapter should meet regularly, 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) The annual business meeting for the election of officers shall be held during the month preceding the close of the district fiscal year.

1227. Article 7. Local Society Officers. (1) Executive Officers. The executive officers of the local society chapter shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the pastor (294:18) shall constitute the local Society executive committee. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined if desired. Each local Wesleyan Youth organization shall also have an adult sponsor (316:22; 1228:7) who shall also be a member of the local society executive committee.

(2) Other Officers. Each local society chapter may have such other officers and committees as it shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23).

(3) Delegates. In addition to the president of each local chapter, who is a member of the district society convention by virtue of his or her office (1228:2), each local chapter shall be entitled to at least one additional delegate to the district convention. The district organization of the society may establish a system of multiple representation from larger chapters (1233:2).

(4) Qualifications. The executive society officers and delegates shall be selected from the active members of the local chapters.
(5) Election Procedure. The executive society officers and delegates shall be elected at the annual business meeting (1226:3) of the local chapter. Prior to the annual business meeting the local chapter shall elect or the local society executive committee shall appoint a nominating committee of three to five members, over which the pastor or his representative shall preside (294:18). The nominating committee shall select two or more nominations for president to be submitted to the local church board for approval. The local church board may make substitutes or additonal nominations as desired.

The nominating committee shall present nominations to the local chapter at its annual meeting for all other officers, committees, and delegates. The executive officers shall be elected by ballot and other officers, committees, and delegates may be elected in any manner desired. In all cases, election shall be by majority vote of the active and associate members of the local chapter present and voting. The election must be ratified by the local church board before becoming final (316:23).

(6) Term of Service. Local society officers shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year, and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(7) Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committees of the local society chapter shall be amenable to the local church board and may be removed for cause whenever the best interests of the church or the local chapter so require by a majority vote of the local church board. The local church board shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best.

1228. Article X. Duties of Local Society Officers.

(1) Criteria. All local society officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Discipline, this constitution, and official instructions issued by the Regional Board of Administration; or the district society organization.

(2) Local Society President. The president shall cooperate with the district society president, exercise leadership of the local chapter under the oversight of the pastor (294:16), preside over meetings and business meetings of the chapter and its executive committee (1227:16), serve as an ex officio member of all other subcommittees of the society, report to each regular session of the local church conference (272:2) and to the local church board as it shall order (316:4), and shall serve as an ex officio member of the district society convention (1232:2).

(3) Local Society Vice-President. The vice-president shall assist the society president as the president shall request, and shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve (1228:2).

(4) Local Society Secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of all meetings, and shall record the minutes of all meetings, including those of the local society executive committee (1218:6). He shall submit statistical reports of membership and meetings as requested by the local church board or the district organization.

(5) Local Society Treasurer.

a) The treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all funds of the local chapter (1225:1) in keeping with the financial plans of the district organization, and as ordered by the chapter or its executive committee subject to the approval of the local church board (316:3), remitting promptly to the district and regional treasurers all funds intended for the district and regional organizations.

b) Reports. The treasurer shall submit a financial report monthly to the chapter and to the local church board (316:4). He shall submit an annual report to the annual local church conference (272:3). His books of financial record shall be submitted annually for audit as ordered by the local church board (316:8; 353).

(6) Local Society Executive Committee (1227:1). The local president shall be chairman ex officio (1228:2) of the local society executive committee, and the local secretary shall be secretary ex officio (1228:8). The local society executive committee shall direct the affairs of the local chapter between its business meetings, shall make recommendations to the chapter regarding activities and projects, and shall appoint all committee members not elected by the
chapter. All plans and actions of the local society executive committee may be reviewed by the local church board, which may veto any of the committee's plans or actions (316:23).

(7) Local Adult Youth Sponsor. The adult youth sponsor shall supervise the work of the local Wesleyan Youth in cooperation with the pastor, seeking the highest spiritual welfare of each member. He shall attend all meetings of the local WY including social activities, and all meetings of the local WY executive committee of which he shall be a member. He shall seek to encourage, advise, and guide the youth in their services and activities so that they may fulfill the objectives of the organization. He shall be elected by the local church board as provided in 316:22.

1229. Article 9. Local Bylaws. The local society chapter may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of this constitution, The Discipline, or the district organization, and provided they are approved by the local church board.
CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

1230. Article 1. Name. All local chapters of a society (Wesleyan Youth, Wesleyan Women's Gospel Organization, or Wesleyan Men) shall be known collectively as the (name of district) organization of (society).

1231. Article 2. Purpose. The district organization shall seek to carry out the basic purposes of the society (1222) by encouraging the organization of local chapters in local Wesleyan churches of the district, and securing their cooperation as a district unit in promoting activities and projects consistent with the basic purposes.

1232. Article 3. Relationship. The district society organization shall function as a part of the district to which it belongs. It shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (511:8) and amenable to the district board of administration (486:20, 23b).

(1) Purpose and Organization. There may be an annual district convention of the (society) in each district at such a time and place as the district board of administration shall approve (486:20), to receive reports (1235:1), to elect district society officers (1234:4), to make recommendations to the district board of administration, to carry on all other business pertaining to the district organization of the society, and to provide the members of the convention with a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. The district director of the society shall preside at the convention (1235:2). The district superintendent or his representative shall be present at each meeting of the annual convention (507:3; 511:9).

(2) Membership. The district convention of the society shall be composed of the district superintendent (507:3), the district society officers (1234), the society presidents of all local chapters (1228:2), and delegates from the local chapters. Delegates shall be members of The Wesleyan Church, and shall be elected by the chapters at the annual meeting for the election of officers (1226:3; 1227:3).

(3) Committees. There shall be a society nominating committee as set forth in 1234:4. The district convention may elect such other committees as it may deem necessary, and shall define the duties of the same.

(4) Approval. All plans and actions of the district convention shall be subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:20).

1234. Article 5. District Society Officers.
(1) Executive Officers. The society executive officers shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the district superintendent (511:10), shall constitute the district executive committee of the society.

(2) Other Officers. There may be other such officers and standing committees as the district convention shall deem necessary.

(3) Qualifications. All officers and committee members must be full members of The Wesleyan Church, and wherever practical, members of a local chapter of the society. The executive officers of the societies should be laymen if possible and practical.

(4) Election Procedure. The executive officers of the district society, as well as such other officers and committee members as the bylaws shall require, shall be elected by the district society convention. The district convention shall elect, or the district executive committee of the society shall appoint, a nominating committee over which the district superintendent or his representative shall preside. Preceding the district convention the society nominating committee shall select two or more nominees for district president for approval by the district board of administration and election by the district convention of the society, provided that the district board of administration may make such other nominations as desired. The society nominating committee shall present nominations for all other officers and committees directly to the convention for election. Executive officers shall be elected by ballot and other officers may be elected in any manner desired. All offices and positions shall
be filled by majority vote of the district convention present and voting. The election must be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final (486:19).

(5) Term of Service. District society officers shall assume office at the close of the district convention at which they are elected and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committee members shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the society or the district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration. The district board of administration shall fill all vacancies (486:23b).

(1) Criteria. All district society officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Discipline, this constitution, and other official instructions of the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration.

(2) District Society President. The president shall exercise general leadership of the society throughout the district under the general oversight of the district superintendent (511:8). The president also shall preside over meetings of the district society executive committee and the district convention (1235:6); seek to organize local chapters of the society; visit the local chapters as time and funds permit; and report annually to the district conference (473:10), the district society convention (1233:1), and at other times as directed by the district board of administration (486:9). The president shall be a voting member of the district conference.

(3) District Society Vice-President. The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request and shall assume the duties of the president (1234:2) in case the president is unable to serve.

(4) District Society Secretary. The secretary shall record the minutes of the district convention (1233:1) and of the meetings of the district society executive committee (1235:6) and shall perform such other duties as the district convention shall determine.

(5) District Society Treasurer. The district society treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all funds remitted by local society chapters or raised by the district organization itself, forwarding specified funds and disbursing other funds in keeping with the financial plans of the district organization, or as directed by the Regional Boards of Administration. The district society treasurer shall report to the district society executive committee as required, to the district board of administration quarterly, and to the district convention (1233:1) and district conference (473:10) annually. His books shall be submitted to the district auditing committee annually (521-522) and as ordered by the district board of administration (486:20).

(6) District Society Executive Committee (1234:1). The district president of the society shall be chairman ex officio of the society executive committee (1235:2), and the district secretary of the society shall be secretary ex officio (1235:4). The district society executive committee shall direct the affairs of the society between annual district conventions, subject to the review and coordination of the district board of administration (486:20).

1236. Article 7. District Bylaws. The district convention of the society may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with The Discipline, this constitution, and other directives of the regional church and district and subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:20).
Chapter V

CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

1240. Article 1. Name. All local and district chapters of the various societies shall be known as the ___________ Society of The Wesleyan Church.

1241. Article 2. Purpose. The regional organization of societies shall carry out the basic purpose of societies throughout the Church, securing the cooperation of local and district societies and coordinating them as an effective arm of the Church.

1242. Article 3. Relationship. The regional society shall function as a part of The Wesleyan Church and shall be subject to the supervision of the Council of Societies (1201; 1208:1) on the regional level.

1243. Article 4. Regional Convention. There shall be a regional convention of each of the societies at least quadrennially, at a time and place recommended by the Council of Societies and approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

1) Purpose and Organization. The convention shall be for inspiration, fellowship, instruction, and to receive reports, to nominate candidates for the office of Regional Director, other executive officers and committees (1244), to make recommendations for presentation at regional conference, and to carry on any other necessary business. The regional society director shall preside at the convention and the Regional Superintendent or his representative shall attend each meeting.

2) Structure. All district presidents shall be expected to attend and participate and other district and local officers and members shall be encouraged to do so. The regional executive committee of the particular society will plan the program appointing all necessary committees and making all assignments. The Council of Societies shall recommend to the Regional Board of Administration a plan for meeting the expenses of the convention (1208:3).

3) Voting Members. The voting members of the regional convention shall be: the Regional Superintendent or his representative, the regional executive officers (1234:1), the presidents of all district societies, and delegates as recommended by the Council of Societies and approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

4) Committees. There shall be a nominating committee as set forth in 1244:4a. The regional convention may elect other committees as it deems necessary and shall define the duties of the same.

5) Approval. All plans and actions of the regional convention shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration or its executive committee (1208:30).

1244. Article 5. Regional Officers.

1) Executive Officers. The regional executive officers of a society shall be: the director (905; 1245:2), the assistant director (1245:3), the secretary (1245:4), and the treasurer (1245:4). These together with the Regional Superintendent or his representative as chairman shall form the regional executive committee of the society.

2) Other Officers. There may be other officers and committees as recommended by the particular society and approved by the Regional Board of Administration.

3) Qualifications. All regional officers and committee members shall be full members of The Wesleyan Church.

4) Election Procedure.

a) Regional Director. During the regional convention prior to the quadrennial Regional Conference, the chairman of the Council of Societies or his representative shall convene the district society presidents as a nominating committee, to select at least two nominees for consideration by the Regional Conference nominating committee and subsequent election by the Regional Conference. The Regional Conference may substitute or include additional names.

b) Other Officers and Committees. The nominating committee shall present nominations for all other officers and committees to the Regional Board of Administration who shall elect the executive officers by ballot and all others in any manner desired.

5) Term of Service. The regional officers shall assume office at the close
of the Regional Conference and shall serve for four years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(5) Amenity and Vacancies. All officers and committees shall be ameniable to the Regional Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the society or the Church so require, by a majority vote of the Regional Board of Administration. The Regional Board of Administration shall fill all vacancies.


(1) Criteria. The regional society officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Discipline, this constitution, and other official instructions of the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration.

(2) Regional Director. The regional director shall exercise general leadership of the society throughout the whole Church under the general oversight of the Regional Superintendent. The director shall also preside over meetings of the regional society executive committee and the regional convention (1245:1; 1245:6), seek to promote the work of the society on district and local levels; visit each district as time and funds permit; and report annually or as otherwise directed to the Regional Board of Administration. The director shall be a voting member of the Regional Conference. (Cf. 905; 906, Youth.)

(3) Regional Assistant Director. The regional assistant director shall assist the director as the director shall request, and shall assume the duties of the director in case the director is unable to serve (906; 1245:2).

(4) Regional Society Secretary. The secretary shall record the minutes of regional conventions and of meetings of the regional society executive committee, and shall perform such other duties as the regional society shall determine.

(5) Regional Society Treasurer. The regional society treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all funds remitted to the regional society treasury, and shall disburse funds according to the financial plans of the society or as directed by the Regional Board of Administration. The regional society treasurer shall report to the regional director quarterly, to the Regional Board of Administration annually, and to the regional society convention and the society executive committee as required. The books of the regional society treasurer shall be submitted to the regional auditing committee annually at the time ordered by the Regional Board of Administration.

(6) Regional Society Executive Committee. The regional director shall be chairman of the society executive committee (1245:2), and the regional secretary of the society shall be the secretary of the society executive committee (1245:4). The regional society executive committee shall direct the affairs of the society between meetings of the regional society convention, subject to the review and direction of the Council of Societies.

1246. Article 7. Regional Bylaws. The regional society convention may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with The Discipline, this constitution, and other directives of the regional church, and subject to the approval of the Regional Board of Administration.
PART VIII
CORPORATIONS
Chapter I
GENERAL REGULATIONS

1301. The Wesleyan Church shall be incorporated as otherwise legally registered according to the laws of each country within the subcontinent of Africa in which the Church carries on its activities and holds property. The authorization for each incorporation or legal registration shall be recommended by the Regional Conference or its Regional Board of Administration and approved by the General Board of Administration of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

1302. The purpose of the corporations shall be to enable The Wesleyan Church to receive, own, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of property, and facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs in harmony with its primary objective as a religious, benevolent, charitable institution, and shall not be for the pecuniary gain or profit of the members thereof.

1303. The governing board of trustees of each corporation shall in all instances consider itself the servant of the Church, and shall administer the affairs of the corporation in keeping with the ecclesiastical leadership and authority of The Wesleyan Church as provided for in The Discipline.
Chapter II
DISTRICT CORPORATIONS

1311. Each established and provisional district shall be incorporated or otherwise legally registered in accordance with the authorization regulations set out in 1301 and for the purpose described in 1302.

1312. A pioneer district may be incorporated or otherwise legally registered when so recommended by the Regional Secretary of Missions and authorized as prescribed by The Discipline (1301).

1313. District corporations or similarly constructed district bodies shall be governed by The Discipline and in particular as set forth in 1401-1408.
PART IX
PROPERTY
Chapter I
GENERAL REGULATIONS

1401. The general regulations set forth herewith shall be binding on all trustees and their governing bodies of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa unless otherwise stated in The Discipline or in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the corporations.

1402. All provisions of The Discipline relating to property, both real and personal, and relating to the formation and operation of any corporation, are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws of the country; and in the event of conflict therewith, said provisions of The Discipline shall be modified to the extent required to conform to such local laws.

1405. A trustee must be a full member of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever a trustee ceases to be a member of The Wesleyan Church for any reason, his office as trustee shall be declared vacant and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term in the manner provided in the articles of incorporation or bylaws.

1406. All trustees shall administer their duties in accord with The Discipline as from time to time amended, as directed by the governing body to which they are amenable, and subject to local laws as set forth in 1403. Whenever a trustee refuses to carry out properly given orders and instructions and submit to the authority to which he is amenable, he may be removed from office and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term as provided for in The Discipline.

1407. A board of trustees shall have and hold in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church any and all property committed to it; shall see that titles are good, that deeds and all written instrumentalities are in harmony with The Discipline and with local laws as set forth in 1403, that all property deeds and titles are properly and promptly recorded; and shall perform such other duties as are required of them in The Discipline or by the governing body to which they are amenable, and, in the case of incorporated bodies, as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws or charter of the corporation.

1408. A trustee or board of trustees and/or its governing body may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church.
A. Meaning and Purpose of Church Discipline

1501. General Statement. The relationship between The Southern Africa Regional Conference and the North American General Conference shall be kept in view. This relationship is defined in Part I, Chapter III, especially in paragraphs 98-100.

1502. Definition. Church discipline is the orderly exercise of that authority, and the application of those principles and laws, which the Church has derived from the Word of God and has appointed for the governing of its members, ministers, congregations, and official bodies.

1503. Classification. Church discipline may be referred to in the general sense of administrative discipline and in the more restricted sense of judicial discipline:

1. Administrative Discipline. Administrative discipline is the general and orderly exercise of ecclesiastical authority for the government and preservation of the Church. The purpose of administrative discipline is to provide for the purity, effectiveness, and spiritual influence of the church organization and the protection of the rights of its members, ministers, congregations, and official bodies.

2. Judicial Discipline. Judicial discipline is the proper exercise of the authority which Christ has vested in His church for the prevention and correction of offenses and the removal of scandal (cf. Matt. 18:15-18; I Cor. 5:1-5). The purpose of judicial discipline is the vindication of the truth, the preservation of the integrity of the body, the restoration and salvation of the guilty, and the warning of the careless.

1504. Subjects of Discipline. All members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church are subject to its administrative discipline, and, if charged with an offense, are subject to its judicial discipline.

B. The Administration of Judicial Discipline

1505. In order that the purposes of church discipline may be realized, judicial discipline for The Wesleyan Church shall be administered in accord with the following principles:

1. A prayerful and Christlike spirit shall be maintained at all times by all parties (Eph. 4:15; II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 13:4-7).

2. The restoration and salvation of erring members shall ever be kept in view. Every effort that love can suggest shall be made to bring back to the Lord one who, while under the Church's care, has wandered from Him.

3. A sincere and reasonable effort shall be made to clear up an accusation or to deal with an offending person without the formality of a church trial, in keeping with the scriptural admonitions (Matt. 18:15-18; Gal. 6:1-2, and James 5:16).

4. Each accusation and all judicial proceedings shall receive prompt and careful attention by the proper authorities.

5. The doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church shall be maintained without respect of persons. Any offending person shall be dealt with kindly, yet faithfully, according to the seriousness of the offense, and as provided for in this Judiciary and in The Discipline.

6. Legal technicalities shall not be permitted to obstruct the sincere search for truth, while at the same time the fundamental principles and procedures of justice shall be upheld. There shall be no attempt to confuse or entangle anyone in the process of an investigation or a trial (cf. 136).
The accused person shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, the moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is necessary in church discipline (1557).

C. Fundamental Rights and Duties for Judicial Discipline

1506. Right of Trial and Appeal. The right to a fair and impartial trial and the right to appeal shall not be denied to any member (cf. 230:232; 234), minister, local church, district, or official body of The Wesleyan Church. No one shall be arbitrarily set aside without due consideration for both his spiritual welfare and his rights as a member of The Wesleyan Church and shall always have the right to request a trial or to appeal, even when placed under discipline (153:4; 154:3; 157:7; 159:7; 163:10; 176:5a,d; 181:4,6; and 182).

1507. Rights of the Accused. Any member or minister who is accused shall have the following rights:

(1) Counsel. The accused shall always have the right to be represented at a church trial by counsel of his own choosing, provided such counsel is a full member in good standing in The Wesleyan Church, or to present his own defense. Any full member against whom there are no charges shall be considered to be in good standing.

(2) Examination. The accused, or his counsel, shall have the right to meet his accuser(s) face to face and to cross-examine any witnesses for the prosecution.

(3) Objection. The accused shall have the right to challenge for cause the qualifications of any member of the judicatory, the validity of which shall be determined by the presiding officer (156:7).

(4) Limitation. A minister or member shall not be required to answer charges for any act which occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges.

1508. Right of Investigation. The Church has a right to investigate the character of its members and ministers in order to maintain the purity of its doctrines and practices, and can, therefore, through its own officers, official bodies, and judicatories, require any member or minister under investigation to testify, under penalty of dismissal if they refuse.

1509. Duty of Cooperation. It shall be the duty of every member, minister, and church body to cooperate and to witness when properly requested to do so for an official investigation or trial.
Chapter II
OFFENSES

A. Individual

1511. Any member, minister, deaconess, special worker, or district or regional official of The Wesleyan Church 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 tolerating such disobedience.
3. Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize Church authority.
4. Conduct unbecoming a member or minister of The Wesleyan Church.
5. Immorality or crime.
6. Serious or persistent neglect of duty.

B. Local Church, District, or Official Body

1512. Any local church, district, official body, or other agency of The Wesleyan Church shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for any of the following offenses:

1. Disseminating or tolerating the teaching of any doctrine contrary to the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as stated in The Discipline.
2. Disobedience to the provisions of The Discipline or tolerating such disobedience.
3. Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize Church authority.
Chapter III

LOCAL CHURCH JURISDICTION

1515. Jurisdiction. Original jurisdiction over a lay member belongs to the local church of which he is a member (cf. 1522; 1538):

(1) Accusations against a lay member shall be submitted to the pastor (284:16; 1552). If there is no pastor, or if the pastor does not attend to the matter, the accusation shall be submitted to a member of the local church board who shall present it to the local church board. Inquiry shall be made (1553), and the local church board shall have charge of ordering an investigation (1558:1) or trial (316:11), if necessary, as set forth in this Judiciary (cf. 1551-1574). Any charge against a lay member must be sustained by two or more responsible members of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever a trial is ordered, the district superintendent shall be notified.

(2) The authority of a local church board for a pioneer church shall be exercised by the district superintendent (511:15).

(3) The district superintendent, when requested to do so by the local church board, shall have authority to provide for any unusual circumstances not provided for in The Discipline, and to appoint, when necessary, any members from another Wesleyan Church or from the district to a local judicial committee (1517:1-2; cf. 511:16).

(4) When a lay member, who resides away from the church in which he holds membership and attends another Wesleyan church, is accused of improper or immoral conduct, the pastor and the local church board where he attends shall have authority to make an official investigation of such accusation (1551-1553; 1558). If, pursuant to such investigation, a bill of charges is drawn up against such a member it shall be presented to the pastor of the local church where the accused holds membership.

1517. Local Judicial Committee. Charges against a lay member shall be heard and determined by a local judicial committee:

(1) A local judicial committee shall consist of not less than three members (1567), which shall be selected by the local church board, as the occasion may arise, from its own membership or the membership of the local church (316:11; 399; cf. 1515:3). The committee shall serve from the time of its appointment until it shall hear and determine the case, including any reopening (1570).

(2) The local church board shall designate the chairman or may request the district superintendent to do so. The chairman of the local judicial committee shall be the presiding officer and shall conduct the proceedings in accord with this Judiciary (cf. 1551-1574), and shall notify the accused of his rights (1506).

(3) It shall be the duty of the local judicial committee to hear and determine the charges, to render a verdict concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to recommend to the body having authority over the accused (274:1; 6,7; 316:11,29) the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1578). A two-thirds majority vote of all members of the committee shall be required to render a verdict of guilty. Discipline, if required, shall be administered by the body having authority over the accused, and may take the form of admonition, rebuke, suspension, deposition, or dismissal, and said body may require repentance, apology, or restitution as deemed necessary.

(4) Whenever the accused lay member is serving the Church under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration (1537), a certified copy of the findings of the local judicial committee shall be forwarded to the chairman of the Regional Board of Administration (cf. 740:17), and whenever the accused is licensed or commissioned by the district, a certified copy of the findings shall be forwarded to the district superintendent (cf. 511:27).

(5) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused, and concerning the verdict by the local church board, to the district board of review, within thirty days (1525:1; 1571-1574).

1518. Restrictions Under Discipline. Whenever a lay member has been found guilty by a judicatory, and has been placed under discipline by being suspended from the rights and privileges of membership, he shall not vote, hold
or exercise any office, and shall not be eligible for a local license or a district license or commission for the duration of such suspension. If the suspension has been for an indefinite period, the local church board shall be responsible to declare an end to the suspension (316:11). If the person suspended shows the desired repentance and the offense has ceased, the suspension shall be terminated. If the offense has not ceased, in due time, the local church board shall recommend the dismissal of the accused from the Church or vote for such dismissal itself if such power has been delegated (cf. 274:1; 316:10).

1519. Reinstatement. After being dismissed from the Church, a lay member may be reinstated by the local church when such a person evidences a genuine repentance and amendment of life, and meets the requirements for membership.
Chapter IV

DISTRICT JURISDICTION

A. Jurisdiction

1521. The district conference shall have original jurisdiction as set forth in 1522 over the following members and local units of the district (cf. 1537):

1. An elder or licensed minister.*
2. A commissioned or licensed deaconess.
3. A commissioned or licensed special worker.
4. A supply pastor.
5. A preaching point, pioneer church, local church, or circuit within the bounds of the district.

1522. The jurisdiction of the district conference (473:9), and, in the interim of its sessions, the district board of administration (486:1), over those persons listed in 1521:1-4, shall be over their standing in the ministry or as a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be, and their district conference relations and appointments (530) with the exception of those who are first amenable to the Regional Board of Administration for their official duties (1537-1538; cf. 160:1; 176:4). The district conference or district board of administration may also decide upon the submission of charges to the local church having jurisdiction over the membership of the accused.

1523. The district conference, when in session, shall receive any complaint or accusation (cf. 1527) against any person or local unit under its jurisdiction (1521), appointing an investigative committee (1558:1), and, if necessary, referring charges against a person to a district judicial committee appointed by the district conference (1526), and referring charges against a local unit to the district board of review (1529). If the judiciary is able to complete its work while the district conference is still in session, it shall report its findings to the conference which shall fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1576-1579). If the investigative committee or the judiciary completes its work after the close of the district conference session, it shall report its findings to the district board of administration, which shall exercise the authority of the district conference over those under its jurisdiction and shall take charge of all judicial proceedings necessary in the interim of district conference sessions (486:29,33).

B. District Board of Review

1524. Each established district shall have a district board of review consisting of four elders and three lay members, elected annually by the district conference (529; cf. 471:2). They shall be members of The Wesleyan Church and of that district and shall not, at the same time, be members of the district board of administration. The district conference shall also elect two elders and two lay members as reserves who shall serve in the order of their election whenever a member is disqualified for a particular case (1567) and shall also fill any vacancies in the order of their election. The district board of review shall organize itself and elect its own officers, and shall keep complete records of all proceedings and cases. The chairman shall see that proceedings are conducted in keeping with the rules of procedure (1551-1574) and other provisions of The Discipline. The board shall meet annually at the time of the regular district conference session and at other times and places as deemed necessary. The chairman shall also be authorized to call any member(s), minister(s), or local churches through their officials to appear and to testify concerning matters brought before the district board of review (1507-1508). The records of the district board of review shall be in the custody of the district secretary (517:5).

1525. The duties and powers of the district board of review are:

1. To hear and determine the appeal of a lay member or of a local church board concerning the results of a local church trial (1517:3,5); to sustain, modify, or revoke, in whole or in part, the verdict and/or the penalty as set forth in 1571-1574 by a majority vote of all members of the district board of

*See 1521:1 in the Appendix.
1525:1 JUDICIARY

[Content of the document]

1526. Appeals. Appeals concerning a decision of the district board of review shall be made to the Regional Board of Review (1530:4; 1993:7).

C. Ministers, Deaconesses, and Special Workers

1. Procedure

1527. Accusations or complaints against those under the jurisdiction of the district as set forth in 1521:1-4 shall be cared for as follows:

(1) Accusations shall be submitted to the district superintendent who shall make inquiry (511:27; 1553), and the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, the district board of administration shall decide on any official investigation (1558:1) or trial, if necessary, as set forth in the rules of procedure (486:33; 1523; 1561-1574). Any charges alleging an offense as set forth in 1511 shall be heard and determined by a district judicial committee (1528). If guilt has been confessed by the accused a trial is unnecessary and the district conference or the district board of administration shall proceed to fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed, which may consist of admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition (1529; 1578-1579).

(2) If the accused is the district superintendent, a regional official, or other person amenable to the Regional Board of Administration (1537), the accusation shall be given to the Regional Superintendent and handled as set forth in 1540.

(3) If an accusation alleges an offense committed by a person under the jurisdiction of the district (1521:1-4) in a district other than that in which the accused holds membership, the district superintendent and the district board of administration of the district in which the offense was allegedly committed shall have jurisdiction over the official investigation (155a). If a bill of charges is to be drawn up, it shall be submitted through the Regional Superintendent(s) to the district in which the accused holds membership.

2. District Judicial Committee

1528. A district judicial committee shall be constituted and shall carry out such duties as provided herewith:
(1) A district judicial committee shall consist of four elders and three lay members, selected by the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration (466:16,33), as the occasion may arise, from among its own members or the members of the district, and the appointing body may request that one member shall be a regional official. The Regional Superintendent shall be notified of the trial. The committee shall serve from the time of its appointment until it shall hear and determine the case.

(2) The appointing body shall appoint the chairman or may request the Regional Superintendent to do so. The chairman of the district judicial committee shall preside over the trial and shall conduct it according to the rules of procedure (1551-1574), The Discipline, shall notify the accused of his rights (1576), and shall decide on the admissibility of evidence (1555).

(3) It shall be the duty of the district judicial committee to hear and determine the charges, to render a verdict concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to recommend the penalty, if any, to be imposed by the body having jurisdiction over the accused (1578). A two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district judicial committee shall be required for a verdict of guilt. The penalty may take the form of admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition as set forth in 1529 and 1578-1579, and the body having jurisdiction may also require repentance, apology, or restitution as deemed necessary.

(4) The records of a district judicial committee shall be filed with the district secretary (511:6). Whenever the accused is a district superintendent, a regional official, or one who is serving under the Regional Board of Administration (cf. 1537), a copy of the findings of the committee shall be forwarded to the chairman of the Regional Board of Administration.

(5) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused, and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration, to the Regional Board of Review within thirty days (1571-1574; 1593:7).

3. Special Regulations for Ministers, Deaconesses, and Special Workers

1529. The administration of judicial discipline and penalties to those persons under the jurisdiction of the district (1521:1-4) shall be in accord with the following regulations (cf. 1578-1579):

(1) Indiscreet Conduct. Whenever a minister, deaconess, or special worker has been charged with an offense alleging immorality or crime (1511:5; cf. 1579:5) and is not found guilty of such actions but rather of "high impiudence or indiscreet conduct," the offender shall be subject to admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition, according to the seriousness of the offense.

(2) Suspension. Whenever a minister shall be suspended from the ministry, or a deaconess or special worker shall be suspended from such office, his credentials shall be surrendered to the custody of the district superintendent (cf. 511:27). Whenever such a person shall furnish the district superintendent a written apology acknowledging his guilt and pledging to correct the matter, and gives evidence that the offense has ceased and that he is repentant, the district board of administration may end the suspension, reinstate the person, and authorize the return of his credentials. If the written apology and assurances are not forthcoming, and the accused does not exercise his right of appeal, the district board of administration shall declare that the said person has withdrawn from the district, and his credentials shall be forwarded to the Regional Secretary (cf. 486:35; 755:4b; 1128:4, 1137).

(3) Immorality and Crime. Whenever a minister, deaconess, or special worker shall have been convicted by a judicatory of such immoral acts as fornication or adultery, or has confessed to such acts to the official body having jurisdiction over him, he shall be deposed from the ministry or from the office of a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be. This shall not prohibit membership in a Wesleyan church when the guilty person repents and demonstrates a Christian life according to the standards of The Wesleyan Church. Anyone who has been deposed for such an offense may be reinstated as provided for in 1139.

(4) Deposition. An elder or licensed minister, that has been deposed from the ministry, or a commissioned or licensed deaconess or special worker that has been deposed from such office, shall immediately surrender his credentials.
to the district superintendent (cf. 511:27; 1222:4; 1137); shall cease to exercise any of the functions of the ministry or of a commission, or license, as the case may be; shall not occupy any pulpit in The Wesleyan Church; shall cease to draw any salary; and, if a pastor, shall vacate the parsonage within thirty days. Whenever anyone who has been expelled from the ministry or a commission or license shall appeal, the penalty may be deferred with the exception that such a person shall be suspended from the exercise of any office or of his particular service while the appeal is pending (cf. 1573).

(5) Reinstatement. Provisions for the reinstatement of an elder or licensed minister are set forth in 1138-1140, and shall be the same for a deaconess or special worker (cf. 1185; 1190).

D. Local Churches

1. Procedure

1530. The procedure for the discipline of a local church (or circuit) shall be:

(1) Any complaint against a local church by a lay member, minister, or another local church shall be submitted in writing to the district superintendent (511:27), who, together with the district board of administration (486:29) shall endeavor to make an amicable settlement. If such a settlement cannot be realized, the complaint shall be referred to the district board of review who shall hear and decide the complaint (1525:2,4).

(2) Whenever a local church shall be charged with an offense as set forth in 1512, the district superintendent (511:27) and the district board of administration (486:29) shall make every effort to bring about an amicable settlement. The district board of administration shall have the authority to cite the offending church, in the person of its pastor and local officials or local church board, to appear before it to settle the matter or to show cause why it shall not be placed under discipline. Such a citation shall contain a clear and definite statement of the charges and any supporting evidence so that the accused local church may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon the pastor and the local church secretary. Whenever a settlement cannot be effected, a bill of charges and specifications against the local church shall be submitted to the district board of review who shall hear and determine the case (1525:3).

(3) Whenever a local church has been declared guilty of an offense as set forth in 1512 by the district board of review (cf. 1525:3), it shall be suspended by the district conference, or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration (486:29), from all the rights and privileges of a local church as set forth in the Constitution (160) and The Discipline. The suspension shall end when the local church, through its officials, shall make a written apology acknowledging its guilt and pledging loyalty to the district and the denomination, and when, in the opinion of the district board of administration, the offense has ceased. Whenever a local church does not offer such a written apology and assurance, and if it continues to offend, it shall be reorganized (1531).

(4) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused church, and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration to the Regional Board of Review (1593:7).

2. Reorganization

1531. Whenever a local church, through its pastor and/or local church officials or local church board, shall refuse to answer the citations of the district board of administration to appear for making a settlement (1530:2) or the citation of the district board of review to appear for the hearing of the case (cf. 1561), or whenever a local church that has been placed under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance as set forth in 1530:3 and does not exercise the right of appeal, the district board of administration shall authorize the district superintendent and any two of its other members to reorganize the local church. The district superintendent and the appointed representatives shall ask the members of the local church for an affirmation
of loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, its Discipline as currently revised and amended, and its duly elected officials. Those members who affirm such loyalty shall be the members of that local church, and those members who refuse to affirm such loyalty shall be declared as having withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church and from that local church and all offices held by such persons shall thereby be vacated. The loyal members shall be entitled to hold and use the property as provided for by The Discipline and to carry on the functions of the local church. Whenever such members are ten or fewer, the church shall be automatically classified as a pioneer church and shall be under the supervision of the district superintendent and the district board of administration (cf. 205; 208:1).

1532. Any person who has been declared as withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church during the reorganization of a local church may be reinstated when he gives evidence of a change of attitude, and when he is deemed to meet the requirements for membership.
Chapter V
REGIONAL CHURCH JURISDICTION

A. Regional Conference

1535. The Regional Conference, as the chief governing body, exercises supreme judicial authority within The Wesleyan Church. The Regional Conference shall hear appeals from rulings of the Regional Board of Review (152:154) and may, at its own pleasure, hear and determine such appeals, or appoint special committees to do so as desired who shall report their findings to the Regional Conference for final action (1550:19); shall appoint investigative committees to consider accusations against the various units under its jurisdiction, hear the reports of such committees, file charges, if necessary, against such units before the Regional Board of Review (151:6; 1543-1546), and upon hearing the findings and recommendations of the Regional Board of Review fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1533:5c). In the interim of Regional Conference sessions, the Regional Board of Administration shall hear the findings and recommendations of the Regional Board of Review and fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1593:5c).

B. Officials

1. Jurisdiction

1537. The Regional Board of Administration shall have jurisdiction over the following persons in regard to their official duties:
   (1) A regional official (711; cf. 176:4; 691:40).
   (2) A district superintendent (cf. 163:1; 176:4; 691:39).
   (3) A member or minister of The Wesleyan Church who is serving under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration, including any who are elected or employed by the Regional Board of Administration for full-time service for the regional church (cf. 163:1; 691:21), missionaries or workers under the Regional Department of Missions or the Regional Department of Evangelism (cf. 163:1; 691:27) members of boards elected by the Regional Board of Administration, and any others amenable to the Regional Board of Administration.

1538. The Regional Board of Administration shall have the authority to remove from office, for cause, any persons under its jurisdiction as listed in 1537:1-3 (cf. 691:42), but shall not have authority to depose anyone from the ministry (cf. 1525) or to dismiss anyone from the Church (cf. 1515-1519). The purpose of any disciplinary or judicial proceedings, such as an official investigation or the hearing of any complaints or charges by a judicial committee, shall be to clear up any accusations or charges, or to determine the official standing and relationship of an accused person to the regional church, or to decide upon the submission of charges to the official body having jurisdiction over the ministerial standing or membership of the accused, as the case may be.

2. Procedure

1540. Administrative or judicial discipline against persons listed in 1537:1-3 shall be administered as follows:
   (1) If the accused is a regional official or a district superintendent, any accusation alleging an offense set forth in 1511 shall be submitted in writing (1552) to the chairman of the Regional Board of Administration (684; 740:5) and must be sustained by at least three responsible members of The Wesleyan Church. If the accused is the Regional Superintendent, the Assistant Regional Superintendent shall have charge of the matter. He shall make inquiry as required in 1553-1554, and shall also report the matter to the North American General Secretary of World Missions. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to order an official investigation (1558), if such is deemed necessary, in the interim of Regional Board sessions, and in an emergency may suspend the accused from the exercise of his office, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members until the Regional Board of Administration shall be called into special session, which shall be within thirty days of such suspension.
The Regional Board of Administration shall dispose of any charges or accusations as set forth in 1538. Whenever it is deemed necessary, the Regional Board of Administration may remove a regional official, or a district superintendent from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members (691:41a), and shall also decide whether charges shall be submitted to the official body having jurisdiction over the accused concerning his ministerial standing or membership in the Church (163:1).

(2) If the accused is a member or minister under the jurisdiction of the Regional Board of Administration as set forth in 1537:3, an accusation or complaint shall be submitted to the regional official to which the accused is amenable or to the Regional Superintendent. The Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee shall decide on the disposition of such accusations or charges as set forth in 1538. If it is deemed necessary, the Regional Board of Administration may remove such a person from office by a majority vote of all members of the Regional Board (691:41b).

3. Power of Removal

1541. The Regional Board of Administration, the board of trustees of an educational or benevolent institution, and other such governing boards shall have full power and authority to discharge at their discretion any officer or employee thereof (with the exception of those in 1537:1-3 which shall be limited to the Regional Board of Administration) who shall be guilty of any immoral conduct or breach of trust, or who for any reason is unable, or who fails, to perform the duties of his office or for other misconduct which any of said boards may deem sufficient to warrant discharge. The action of such board in removing such employee in the circumstances above set forth shall be final. Any governing board of a subsidiary corporation, or of an educational or benevolent institution, shall have the right to recommend the removal of any of its members to the Regional Board of Administration, who shall have power to sustain or reject such a recommendation (691:41b).

C. Districts

1. Procedure

1543. Any charge or complaint against an established district alleging an offense set forth in 1512 shall be heard and determined by the Regional Board of Review (1593:5c). The Regional Superintendent, together with the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee shall make every effort to clear up such accusations or charges or to effect an amicable settlement (691:42; 740:31) before any district, through its officials or district board of administration, shall be brought to trial before the Regional Board of Review, unless a hearing is requested by the accused district.

1544. The Regional Board of Administration, or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to cite a district, through its officials or its district board of administration, to appear before it to show cause, if it has, why it should not be brought to trial or declared to be in a state of disobedience or insubordination for an offense as set forth in 1512. Such a citation shall set forth a clear and definite statement of the charges and any supporting facts or evidence and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the Regional Board of Administration, so that the accused district may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon both the superintendent and the secretary of the accused district. Should the hearing before the Regional Board of Administration or the Executive Committee result in a satisfactory adjustment of its charges, with the accused district pledging its loyalty to the denomination, no further steps shall be taken. When it is impossible to reach an amicable settlement, in the opinion of the Regional Board of Administration, or should the cited district officials fail or refuse to appear, a bill of charges and specifications for offenses as listed in 1512 shall be prepared and submitted to the Regional Board of Review (cf. 691:42).
1545. After receiving the report of the findings of the Regional Board of Review and pursuant thereto, the Regional Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, may place a district found guilty under discipline and suspend all its rights and privileges as a district under the Constitution and The Discipline, and may thereupon appoint the Regional Superintendent or regional official to have charge of the district (176:5b,e; cf. 69:142). Such suspension shall continue until the district under discipline shall, through its officials, offer a written apology acknowledging its guilt and giving assurance of its loyalty to the denomination, and shall also give evidence that the offense has ceased, whereupon the Regional Board of Administration shall end the suspension and reinstate the district (cf. 69:43). A district under discipline shall also be suspended from all rights to acquire, purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any real property, unless approved by the regional official appointed to have charge of the district.

1546. An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused district, and concerning the verdict by the Regional Board of Administration to the Regional Conference (1394).

2. Reorganization

1547. Whenever a district under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance of loyalty as set forth in 1545, or whenever the district officials refuse to answer a citation to appear (1544), the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee may authorize the Regional Superintendent to reorganize the district (691:43). The Regional Superintendent shall ask for an affirmation of loyalty. Those members and ministers of the district who affirm their loyalty to The Wesleyan Church and to its Discipline as currently revised and amended and to its duly elected officials shall be and constitute the district. Those members of the district who refuse to affirm such loyalty to The Wesleyan Church shall be declared by the Regional Superintendent as having withdrawn from the district and from The Wesleyan Church, and all offices held by such persons shall thereupon be vacated. Those who are thus declared to be the members of the district shall be entitled to hold and to use all the district property in the manner as set forth in The Discipline and shall be organized to carry on the work of the district. Should the number of loyal ministers and members be fewer than that required for an established district, the district shall be reclassified by the Regional Board of Administration as a provisional or pioneer district as the case may be (cf. 418; 424-425).

1548. If a minister that has been declared withdrawn from the district shall desire to be reinstated, he may be reinstated as provided for in 1138-1140.
Chapter VI
RULES OF PROCEDURE

A. Procedure

1551. The procedure for handling accusations or complaints, investigations, and trials by the various official bodies and judicatories of The Wesleyan Church shall be as hereinafter provided, with the exception of the Board of Review which shall provide its own rules of procedure (1588:2). Additional rules of procedure for such matters as evidence, testimony, and other technicalities shall be issued with the approval of the Regional Board of Administration (691:45) and be available upon request from the Regional Secretary (cf. 755:4b).

B. Accusation

1552. Accusations must be in writing, dated, signed by the accuser(s) and handed to the official having jurisdiction over the accused before official action shall be taken. Whenever, in the opinion of the accuser(s), proper action has not been taken, appeal may be made to the next higher Church authority.

C. Preliminary Settlement

1553. A sincere effort shall be made in each case to meet with the accused personally in order to clear up the accusation or to avoid the necessity of trial. Whenever an alleged offense involves an error in doctrine, disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church, indulgence in sinful temper or words, the sowing of dissension, or other similar matters, the official having jurisdiction, or other designated representative, shall privately inquire, and, if necessary, instruct and admonish an offending person. If there is an acknowledgment of the fault and correction is made, the case shall be dropped. If the offense continues, the official in charge shall take with him two or three other discreet ministers or members of The Wesleyan Church and give further instruction and reproof. If the offense continues, the offending member shall be brought to trial.

1554. If an aggrieved person shall allege a personal offense, he shall be first required to follow the Lord's directions in Matthew 18:15-17 before filing accusations or charges against the offending party.

D. Evidence

1555. Rules of Evidence. An investigation committee, judicatory, or other official body shall not be bound by any technical rules of evidence but shall adopt such rules as shall, in its opinion, be best adapted to ascertain the truth and determine accurately the substantial rights of the parties involved (1504:6). The presiding officer of the judicatory shall decide on the admissibility of evidence.

1556. Testimony. No one may be barred as a witness on the grounds that he is not a member of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever circumstances make it impossible for a witness to appear, a proper certificate or affidavit from such a person may be presented, provided that the party against whom it is sought to be introduced has had a proper opportunity to see the certificate or affidavit and to question before witnesses the person signing the affidavit regarding the contents thereof. Witnesses shall be examined first by the party producing them, then cross-examined by the opposite party, after which any member of the judicatory or either party may put additional questions.

1557. Proof of Charges. The accused shall be presumed innocent until the
contrary is proved (1505:7). However, the moral conviction of the truth of
the charge is all that is necessary to find the accused guilty of the charges.*
In all cases the accused may be questioned relative to the charges made.

E. Committee of Investigation

1558. A trial may not be ordered until a proper inquiry is made by a com-
mittee of investigation.
(1) Such a committee shall be appointed by the official body having juris-
diction, and shall consist of two or more members or ministers of The Wesleyan
Church in good standing who can be relied on for impartial judgment, who are
not involved in the case, and who are not closely related to the accuser or
the accused. A member of the committee of investigation may not thereafter
be a member of the judicatory that will hear the case.
(2) The committee shall make a careful and thorough inquiry into the matter,
meet with the accuser and the accused, endeavor to bring the accuser and the
accused together in the presence of the committee, appoint a secretary to keep
an accurate record of all committee proceedings, testimonies, and evidence,
and shall make a written report to the appointing body of its findings and
recommendation. If the committee believes no reasonable grounds for such ac-
cusations exist or that there is insufficient evidence, it shall so report,
and if its findings are otherwise, the committee shall draw up charges and
specifications accordingly.
(3) The appointing body shall receive and pass on the report and recommenda-
tions of the committee of investigation. If there is insufficient evidence, or
if guilt is confessed, a trial shall not be ordered, and in no case shall a
trial be ordered unless a charge is sustained by two responsible members or
ministers of the Wesleyan Church. When guilt is confessed, the official body
may pass on the offense and decide on the penalty to be imposed, if any, with-
out further trial unless such is requested by the accused. If the official
body decides that a trial shall be conducted for the hearing and determination
of charges, it shall so order, setting the date and place for such trial, ap-
pointing the members of the judicatory and the prosecutor (1560), unless other-
wise provided for in this Judiciary. The date of the trial shall not be less
than ten days from the date that notice shall be given to the accused or more
than thirty days (cf. 1505:4).

F. Charges

1559. It is not required that the charges be written in any particular legal
form, but every charge must be in writing, dated, signed by the accuser or by
those members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church sustaining the charge, and
must clearly define the alleged offense by its proper term as stated in 1511-
1512, and shall be accompanied by the specifications of the facts relied on to
sustain the charge:
(1) A charge shall not allege more than one offense. However, more than one
charge against the same person, with the specifications for each charge, may
be presented to the judicatory at the same time and heard at the same time,
provided that the vote on each charge shall be taken separately.
(2) The specifications shall declare as far as possible, the time, place,
and circumstances of the alleged offense, and shall be accompanied with the

*"In acting upon the case, it must be borne in mind that there is a vast dis-
tinction between the evidence necessary to convict in a civil court and that
required to convict in an ordinary society or ecclesiastical body. A notorious
pickpocket could not even be arrested, much less convicted by a civil
court, simply on the ground of being commonly known as a pickpocket; while
such evidence would convict and expel him from ordinary society.

"The moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is necessary
in an ecclesiastical or other deliberative body to find the accused guilty of
the charges." --Robert's Rules of Order.
names of the witnesses and the title of each record or document to be cited for its support.

(3) No charge shall be entertained for any alleged offense committed more than five years before the filing of such charge (1507:4).

G. Counsel

1560. The official body ordering a trial shall, at the same time, appoint a prosecutor, whose duty it shall be to prepare in final form the bill of charges and specifications, present them at the proper time and place to the judicatory, and represent the Church during the hearing. The accused shall have the right to choose his own counsel (1507:1) or to present his own defense, but where this right is not exercised a defense council may be appointed by the chairman of the judicatory. Both the prosecutor and the counsel for the accused shall be members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church in good standing.

H. Notices

1561. All notices and citations to appear shall be given as directed by the chairman of the judicatory and shall be in writing, in the name of the Church, and signed by the chairman. An official notice of the date, time, and place of the trial, together with an official copy of the bill of charges and specifications, and a citation to appear shall be delivered to the accused not less than ten days prior to the date set for the trial. No subsequent changes in such charges and specifications shall be permitted. Notices to appear shall be given to such witnesses as either party may name, and shall also be served at least ten days before the trial. Members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church shall be cited to appear, but others may only be requested to appear.

I. Participants

1562. Only those who are members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church shall be allowed to participate in a trial, except as witnesses, and only those participating in the trial shall be permitted to attend the hearing of the trial. All deliberations of a judicatory shall be considered confidential, and members of a judicatory shall not discuss the case with anyone outside of the judicatory during the hearing of the case.

J. Request for Withdrawal

1563. Whenever in the course of an investigation or trial, the accused person shall request a letter of withdrawal from the Church, the same shall be granted and the case shall end. It shall be noted on the membership records of the local church, and, when the accused is a minister, on the membership record of the district, as "withdrawn under accusation" whenever such request is during the investigation, and "withdrawn under charges" when such request is during the trial. (Cf. 250.)

K. Postponements

1564. The prosecutor, or the accused, shall have the right to petition the chairman of the judicatory for a postponement of the trial date, and the chairman may grant such a petition if deemed essential for proper preparation or other necessary reasons, provided that the other party shall be notified before the postponement is granted. A postponement shall not be granted for more than thirty days.

L. Failure or Refusal to Appear

1565. Whenever an accused member or minister refuses to obey a properly issued citation to appear for trial, or fails to appear except for unavoidable circumstances, he shall be considered guilty of contempt and shall be censured by the chairman of the judicatory. If such an accused person refuses or fails
to appear after a second citation, it shall be considered as sufficient reason for summary dismissal from the Church (1508). A member or minister of The Wesleyan Church who refuses a properly issued citation to appear as a witness shall likewise be deemed guilty of contempt and shall be liable to censure (1509).

M. Status of the Accused

1566. After the official notice of the date, time, and place of the trial, together with a copy of the bill of charges and specifications, is delivered to the accused and until after judgment is rendered by the judicatory, the accused may be temporarily suspended from the exercise of any office by the judicatory at its discretion.

N. Grounds for Challenge

1567. A person is disqualified to serve as a member of any judicatory who is personally interested in the case, closely related to either the accused or the accuser, has been active for or against either party in the matter referred to in the charges, is at personal variance with either party, or has prejudged the case. Any member of a judicatory may, on such grounds, be challenged by either party, provided that such challenge shall be made not later than the opening of any trial hearing, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining members of the judicatory.

O. Records

1568. The chairman of the judicatory shall appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the judicatory, and shall see that complete and accurate records are kept by the secretary of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents admitted, together with copies of the charges, specifications, notices, citations, and findings of the judicatory. The records shall be attested to by both the chairman and the secretary. The chairman shall be the custodian of such records until the case is finished and shall then deliver such records to the proper secretary for permanent filing. Whenever the decision of the judicatory is appealed, the person having custody of the official records shall forward such records promptly to the chairman of the appellate body, or a transcript of the same, when requested to do so by the chairman of the appellate body.

P. The Order of a Church Trial

1569. The following order should be observed in conducting a church trial:
   (1) Devotional exercises.
   (2) Statement of purpose, the reading of the official action ordering the trial, and the announcement of the members of the judicatory, by the chairman of the judicatory.
   (3) Challenges by either party of the members of the judicatory (1567), if any.
   (4) Reading of the charges and specifications by the secretary.
   (5) Answer by the accused or his counsel with a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty." If guilt is confessed, the judicatory may thereupon consider the penalty to be imposed, if any, and terminate the hearing, or it may request to hear the evidence in order to make a more proper determination of the cause and the penalties to be imposed.
   (6) Statement of the case and line of evidence, by the prosecutor.
   (7) Evidence for the prosecution, and cross-examination by the defense.
   (8) Statement of the case and line of defense, by the defense.
   (9) Evidence for the defense, and cross-examination by the prosecution.
   (10) Rebuttal by the prosecution.
   (11) Rebuttal by the defense.
   (12) Summary of the case by the prosecution.
   (13) Summary of the case by the defense.
   (14) Should it be deemed proper to allow the prosecutor to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.
(15) Instructions by the chairman to the judicatory concerning the duties assigned to it as set forth in this Judiciary and especially to render a verdict in not more than three days, and to vote separately on each charge and by secret ballot, with a two-thirds vote of all the members required to render a verdict of guilty. Members of the Judicatory who have been absent from more than one sitting shall not be permitted to vote on the verdict.

(16) The verdict.

(17) Announcement by the chairman of the verdict, and the recommendations, if any, being made to the official body having jurisdiction over the accused.

Q. Motion to Reopen the Case

1570. If within thirty days after his conviction under the foregoing provisions, the accused shall make application in writing to the chairman of the official body having jurisdiction over him for a reopening of the case on the ground of newly discovered evidence, and shall submit a written statement of the same, and if it shall appear that such evidence is material to the issue involved, the case may be reopened. In no case, however, shall a reopening of the case be granted when the failure to submit such evidence at the original hearing was the result of neglect or carelessness on the part of the accused. The judicatory may thereafter reopen the case or may refuse to do so. Upon such refusal, if it appears that the failure to submit such evidence was not the result of neglect or carelessness on the part of the accused, such additional evidence may become a part of the record of the appeal. The judicatory shall be considered to continue for a period of thirty days in order to receive and consider a petition for a reopening of the case and until the matter shall be decided upon, or a new judicatory may be constituted.

R. Appeals

1571. Right of Appeal. The accused, if found guilty, shall have the right to appeal the verdict and/or the penalty unless such right has been forfeited for misconduct. Misconduct shall consist of withdrawing from the Church, publicly discrediting or slandering the members of the Judicatory, refusing to abide by the decision of the Judicatory, or by refusing to appear in person or by counsel if cited to appear by the appellate body, or by resorting to a suit in a civil court concerning the matters involved in the charges. Misconduct shall be decided upon by the appellate body. If, on the other hand, the accused was found innocent, the official body which ordered his trial has the right to appeal the verdict.

1572. Procedure of Appeal. The appellant or his counsel, within thirty days after being notified of the verdict and/or penalty, shall submit his request in writing and shall set forth the grounds of the appeal. The chairman of the appellate body shall ask for a transfer of all the official records of the case or a transcript of the same, which shall be forwarded promptly by the person having custody of such records. The appellant shall be responsible to pay the cost of the appeal, including the cost of preparing a transcript of the records. Upon modification or reversal of the verdict and/or penalty, such cost of the appeal shall be paid by the church or district from which such appeal is taken by the appellant.

1573. Status of the Accused During Appeal. While the appeal is pending, the penalty shall be deferred. Whenever the accused is a church or a district, it may continue to function but shall have the status of being under discipline and shall not be entitled to any representatives in a conference body and, in the case of a district, shall not have authority to buy, sell, or transfer any real property, except with the approval of the Regional Superintendent over the area.

1574. Judgment of the Appellate Body. The appellate body shall promptly consider the case and the grounds for appeal and shall render judgment within thirty days, with the exception of the Board of Review. The appellate body,
by a majority vote, may affirm, modify, or reverse the findings of the lower
decision in whole or in part, or may remand the case for a new trial, pro-
vided that if the accused has been previously found innocent, it shall require
a two-thirds majority vote of the appellate body to find him guilty. In all
cases the right to present evidence shall be exhausted when the case has been
heard once on its merits in the proper court, with the exception as provided
for in 1570. The appellate body shall also have the right to cite the accused
or his counsel to appear. Whenever a case is remanded for a new trial, a new
decision shall be constituted if necessary, to provide for a fair and proper
hearing of the case. When any appellate court shall reverse, in whole or in
part, the findings of a trial court, or change the penalty imposed by the of-
ficial body having jurisdiction, it shall return to the official body having
jurisdiction, or to the judiciary, a statement of the grounds of its action.
Chapter VII

PENALTIES

A. Definition of Penalties

1578. There shall be five degrees of penalty for the administration of discipline which are:

1. Admonition. Admonition is the mildest penalty and consists of a gentle reproof, a 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 setting forth the offense, an official rebuke and correction, and a warning to the offender.

3. Suspension. Suspension is that penalty by which the accused is placed "under discipline" and is deprived of certain rights and privileges for a period of probation.
   a) Suspension may be applied to the rights and privileges of membership, the rights and privileges of the ministry, or the exercise of an office. A local church or a district may be suspended from the rights and privileges of a church and a district, respectively, as set forth in the Constitution and The Discipline.
   b) Suspension may be definite or indefinite as to duration. Definite suspension is administered when the name of Christ, the integrity of the Church, and the good of the offender demand it, even though the offender may have given evidence of repentance. Indefinite suspension is required when the offender is to be placed on probation until demonstrating a genuine repentance and reformation of life to the proper authorities. The official body having jurisdiction over the party placed "under discipline" for an indefinite suspension shall have the authority to end such suspension or, if necessary, to impose a stronger penalty when the accused continues to offend.

4. Deposition. Deposition is that penalty by which a person is removed from an official position or appointment, or expelled from the ministry, or removed from the office of a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be.

5. Dismissal. Dismissal is the strongest penalty and is the expulsion of the offender from membership in the Church (154:3; 247:3), which automatically includes all lesser penalties. Dismissal should be imposed only for the most serious offenses, or for obstinate persistence in a serious offense and can only be imposed by the local church (274:1). The purpose of dismissal is to awaken the offender, to deliver the Church from scandal, and to warn others.

B. Assignment of Penalties

1579. Official bodies shall be governed by the seriousness of the offense and by the following regulations in the assignment of penalties:

1. Anyone declared guilty of holding or teaching any doctrine contrary to the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as stated in The Discipline (1511:1) shall be punished with deposition and/or dismissal (1578:4-5), unless the official body is of the opinion that the offense has ceased, in which case the penalty shall be either that of admonition, rebuke, or suspension.

2. Disobedience to The Discipline, or tolerating such disobedience (1511:2), shall be punished with such penalty as deemed advisable.

3. Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority (1511:3) shall be punished with such penalty as deemed advisable.

4. Conduct unbecoming a member or minister (1511:4), such as dishonesty, or sowing dissension by inveighing against the officials or ministers of the Church, shall be punished with deposition and/or dismissal (1578:4-6), unless the official body believes the offender is truly penitent, in which case he shall be rebuked or indefinitely suspended (1578:2-3) until such time as the proper authorities are satisfied that the accused has reasonably demonstrated genuine Christian character in accord with the standards of The Wesleyan Church.

5. Immorality, such as adultery, fornication, or other acts involving moral turpitude, or crime, may be punished by immediate dismissal from The Wesleyan Church (1511:5; cf. 131:17; 1529:3).

6. Serious or persistent neglect of duties (1511:6) shall be punished by suspension or deposition, unless corrected, in which case a lesser penalty may be imposed.
Chapter VII

BOARD OF REVIEW

A. Membership

1581. Members. The Regional Board of Review shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be elders and four of whom shall be laymen who are full members of The Wesleyan Church:

1. Their term of office shall be for four years. They shall serve from the close of the session of the Regional Conference at which they are elected until the close of the next session of the Regional Conference or until their successors are elected and qualified.

2. A member of the Board of Review may not at the same time be a member of the Regional Board of Administration.

3. The Regional Conference shall elect by ballot and by majority vote the members of the Board of Review, from two or more nominations for each member of the Board of Review presented by the Committee on Special Nominations (640:2; 650:15).

4. A member of the Board of Review shall be disqualified for a particular case, when he is personally interested or involved in the case, closely related to any parties involved, or has been active for or against either party in the matter to be heard and determined by the Board of Review. Any member of the Board of Review may be challenged for such reasons or for other reasons, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining members of the Board of Review. Whenever a member is disqualified, the chairman shall appoint an alternate for the hearing of that particular case (1583), provided that such appointment shall be in the order of election (1582) and shall maintain the membership of the board as five elders and four laymen.

1582. Alternates. The Regional Conference shall elect, by ballot and by majority vote, from the nominees remaining after the election of the members of the Board of Review (1581:3), four elders and three laymen to serve as alternate members of the Board of Review, with the same qualifications (1581:2) and term of office (1581:1) as the members (cf. 650:15).

1583. Vacancies. A vacancy in the membership of the Board of Review shall be filled by an alternate, who shall be appointed by the chairman of the Board of Review in the order of election and in such a manner as to maintain the representation of elders and laymen as set forth in 1581. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, an alternate shall be appointed to serve until the close of the next Regional Conference. An alternate shall also be appointed to serve for a particular case whenever a member of the Board of Review is disqualified (1581:4), or for a temporary vacancy created by the absence of a member at the session of the Board of Review held during the Regional Conference.

B. Sessions

1585. Regular Sessions. The Board of Review shall meet at the time and place of the Regional Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body. In the interim of Regional Conferences, the board shall meet in annual session at a time and place of its own choosing, unless the chairman of the board shall certify in writing to all members that there is no pending business for the board.

1586. Special Sessions. The Board of Review shall meet at other times and places of its own choosing as deemed necessary, or as requested by the Regional Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

C. Organization and Procedure

1588. Organization and procedure for the Board of Review shall be:

1. Organization. The Board of Review shall organize itself and shall elect, from among its own members, a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers as deemed necessary.
(2) Procedure. The Board of Review shall decide on its own methods and rules of procedure and shall adopt such bylaws as deemed necessary, provided such do not contravene any provisions of The Discipline. All parties shall file their briefs and arguments and shall present evidence under such rules as the Board of Review shall adopt from time to time.

(3) Quorum. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. A decision of the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act by the Regional Conference shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the board, and on all other matters a majority vote of all members of the board shall be sufficient.

1593:5 Records. The Board of Review shall see that complete and accurate minutes are kept of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents, and findings, certified copies of which shall be forwarded promptly after each session to the Regional Secretary (755:4b).

1593:6 Notification. After each session of the Board of Review, an official summary of the board’s decisions on points of church law or interpretations of The Discipline, as prepared by the secretary and attested to by the chairman, shall be published in The Ikhwezi. A decision of the Board of Review which is not overruled by the Regional Conference shall be incorporated in The Discipline.

1591:6 Funds. Expense allowances for members of the Board of Review shall be the same as for members of the Regional Board of Administration, when the members of the Board of Review are engaged in official business, and payment therefore shall be made by the Regional Treasurer. The party making appeal shall be responsible for the expenses involved in attending to the appeal.

D. Duties and Powers

1593:6 The jurisdiction and duties of the Board of Review are set forth in the Constitution (180-182) and as provided for hereinafter:

(1) To determine the constitutionality of any act of the Regional Conference, upon the appeal of the Regional Superintendent or one-fifth of the members of the Regional Conference (181:1). An act of the Regional Conference that is declared as unconstitutional by the Board of Review shall be null and void.

(2) To render a judgment on the constitutionality of any memorial or proposed legislation to be acted upon by the Regional Conference, when the Regional Conference shall so request, by a majority vote, and to notify the Regional Conference immediately of such judgment (cf. 181:1).

(3) To hear and determine any appeal for a ruling of the Regional Superintendent on a point of church law, an interpretation of The Discipline, or the validity of an action by a district (181:2).

(4) To hear and determine any appeal concerning the legality of any action by any regional church board upon appeal of one-third of the members thereof or by request of the Regional Superintendent (181:3).

(5) To have jurisdiction over the issues arising between a district and the Regional Conference, or, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions between a district and the Regional Board of Administration, as follows (181:4, 181:5):

a) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the Regional Conference, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the district conference (181:6).

b) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the Regional Board of Administration in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a majority vote of the district conference or by a two-thirds vote of the district board of administration (486:34), and further provided that the subject of the complaint concerns the district by which it is presented.

c) To hear and determine any charges against a district alleging an offense as set forth in 1512, provided that such charges are preferred by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration; to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused district; and, if necessary, to
recommend to the Regional Conference, or, in the interim of Regional Conference sessions, to the Regional Board of Administration the placing of the district under discipline (cf. 650:17,19; 691:45; 1543-1547).

(6) To have jurisdiction over any complaints between districts; to hear and determine such complaints or charges, provided that such are sustained by a two-thirds vote of the district conference presenting the complaint (181:4).

(7) To hear and determine any appeal from the judgment of a district judicial committee or district board of review (1526; 1528:5; 1530:4).

(8) To hear and determine the validity of complaints against books used in the correspondence courses of study and by the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (181:5; cf. 941:2).

(9) To hear and determine such cases as shall be referred to it by the Regional Conference or the Regional Board of Administration.

E. Appeals

1594. A decision of the Board of Review shall be final until overruled by the Regional Conference by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting (182). An appeal may be presented to the Regional Conference by either party involved in the judgment. The Regional Conference may hear and determine such appeals or may create a special judicial committee to hear the appeals and present its recommendations to the Regional Conference for final determination.
Chapter IX

DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR THE JUDICIARY

(1598). The terms used in this Judiciary are defined as follows:

1. **Accusation.** A written representation alleging an offense by a member or minister of The Wesleyan Church (1552).
2. **Charge.** A written statement alleging an offense as set forth in 1511-1512, accompanied by specifications, for which a trial may be conducted (1559).
3. **Church.** The Wesleyan Church.
4. **Complaint.** A written representation of a grievance by a member(s) or minister(s) against the local church or higher authority; a written grievance by one unit against a unit of equal authority, or of a lower church body against a higher church body.
5. **Deaconess.** A woman who is commissioned or licensed as a deaconess by a district conference as set forth in 1181-1185.
6. **Discipline.** The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church as currently legislated and declared from time to time (100).
7. **Judiciary.** An officially constituted board or committee for the hearing of charges or appeals. The judicatories of The Wesleyan Church are local judicial committee, district judicial committee, district board of review, regional conference judicial committee, and the Regional Board of Review.
8. **Member.** A full member of The Wesleyan Church, and unless otherwise specified includes all elders, licensed ministers, and others commissioned or licensed by a district.
9. **Minister.** An elder or licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church.
10. **Official Body.** A conference or board having jurisdiction over members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church in matters of administrative or judicial discipline. The official bodies having jurisdiction over disciplinary proceedings are the local church conference, and the local church board, the district conference and the district board of administration, and the Regional Conference and the Regional Board of Administration.
11. **Special Worker.** A member of The Wesleyan Church commissioned or licensed as a special worker by the district conference as set forth in 1187-1190.
PART XI

THE RITUAL

Chapter 1

BAPTISM

A. Dedication and Baptism of Infants

1601. (The following ritual is adaptable for use whether the parents or guardians desire to dedicate their child without the sacrament of baptism or to dedicate him through the sacrament of baptism, and for services where more than one child is presented and both types of dedication are desired. When the parents or guardians or other sponsors have presented themselves with the child before the minister at his call, the minister 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 signify your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that he shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the church, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and thus doing may live and die a Christian, attaining in the end of this earthly life to everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

But in order that this may be accomplished, it will be your duty as parents to teach this child early the fear of the Lord; to watch over his education, that he may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, 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 sanctuary, to restrain him from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lieth, to "bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of the Lord?

(Then the parents or guardians shall answer:)

We will.

(Then the minister shall read the following Scripture lesson:)

"And they brought young children to him, that he should teach them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:13-16).

(Then the minister shall ask the parents or guardians of each child to be dedicated without the sacrament of baptism, if there are such, the name of the child, take him in his arms, and say:)

In behalf of the parents and of this congregation, I dedicate unto the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(Then the minister shall address the parents or guardians of children to be dedicated through the sacrament of baptism, if there are such:)

*Throughout the Ritual, whenever a word may change form due to the sex or number of persons to whom the ritual is being administered on a given occasion, that word is underscored to alert the minister who reads. "This child" may become "these children," and "he" may become "she," or "they," etc.

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I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister shall pray)

Our loving heavenly Father, we do here and now dedicate these children unto thee, praying that they may be endued with heavenly virtues, taught by thy Holy Spirit, nourished by thy Word, kept by divine grace, and everlasting ly rewarded through thy eternal mercies. Grant unto these parents grace and wisdom and strength that they may understand the greatness of their responsibility, and may be enabled to lead these children by precept and example in the narrow way of life, that both parents and children may come to thy everlasting kingdom, which thou hast promised through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

B. Baptism of Children

1606. (The following ritual may be used whenever simplicity of thought and expression are important, whether for children or adults. When the candidate for baptism has presented himself before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, in keeping with the example of Jesus, you have presented yourself this day that you might receive the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is not itself the door to salvation, but rather is an outward sign of the new birth which God has wrought in your heart. It proclaims to all the world that you have taken Christ Jesus as the Lord of your life, and that it is your purpose always to obey Him. In order that we may hear your testimony of what God has done for you, and that we may know that you understand the significance of the step you are taking, we want to ask you these questions.

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

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

Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?
Answer. I do.

Trust ing God to help you, will you resist temptation always and keep from doing those things which you know to be sinful or displeasing to God, and will you do those things you know a Christian should do?
Answer. I will.

(Then the minister shall ask each candidate to state his name, and shall sprinkle or pour water upon him, or if desired, immerse him in water, saying:

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister shall pray)

Our heavenly Father, the author of life eternal, we ask that thou wilt continue the work of grace which thou hast begun in this life. Watch over thy child, protect him from sin and wrong, and hold him fast in the way of righteousness. Grant him that greater baptism of the Holy Spirit which will free him from carnal affections and cause every Christian grace and virtue to grow in his heart. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C. Baptism of Adults

1611. (The following ritual is to be used with adults and youth who prefer the traditional form of the sacrament of baptism. When the candidate for baptism has presented himself before the minister at his call, the minister 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 pollution of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Therefore we invite you to join with us in fervent prayer for our brother, that he may have grace always to keep his covenant with God, and that he may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

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(Then the minister shall 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 rite testify truthfully to that inner washing through faith in the precious blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and that he may enjoy the everlasting benediction of this heavenly washing and come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Then the minister shall say:) Hear the words of the Saviour as recorded 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 Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

(Then the minister shall address the candidate saying:) Beloved, you have presented yourself for holy baptism. You have heard how the congregation has prayed that God would continue His loving favor toward you and bring you unto His eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping God, has promised His only begotten Son that He would grant these gracious favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the presence of this congregation that you, renouncing the devil and all his works, will implicitly believe God's holy Word and obediently keep His commandments.

(Then shall the minister ask of each candidate severally:) Do you renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them? Answer. I renounce them all.

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, 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 thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead? And do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? Answer. All this I steadfastly believe.

Do you desire to be baptized in this faith? Answer. This is my desire.

Will you obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of your life? Answer. I will endeavor to do so, God being my helper.

(Then the minister shall ask each candidate to state his name, and shall sprinkle or pour water upon him, or if desired immerse him in water, saying:) I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister shall pray:) Almighty and everlasting God, Author of life eternal, grant that the regenerating grace which thou hast so mercifully granted to this person may not have been bestowed in vain. Grant also that he may enjoy that greater baptism of the Holy Spirit which will free him from carnal affections and cause every Christian grace and virtue to grow in his heart. Grant that he may have constant victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, and that he may enjoy the fullness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

D. Affirmation of Parental Vows—

1616. A person who was baptized as an infant, upon coming to maturity and being converted, and desiring to make personal the vows earlier taken in his behalf by his parents, may do so by publicly answering the questions in the Ritual of Baptism as given in 1606 or 1611, and as directed by his pastor.
Chapter II

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1621. When candidates for full membership, preparatory membership, junior membership, or associate membership have been approved for reception as given in 226-234, the pastor shall appoint a time during a regular worship service for their public reception, and he or his representative shall preside over the service of reception. In those churches in which the local churches must vote on the reception of full members, such vote should be taken at a meeting prior to the service of reception. Paragraph 1624, "Reception of Full Members," has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

1622. The service of reception may begin with a hymn and Scripture reading such as one of those listed below, and with the administration of the sacrament of baptism to any who have not previously received it.


1623. Introductory Remarks.

Minister. Dearly beloved, the privileges and blessings which we have in association together in the church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. Christ so loved the church, that He gave himself for it, sanctifying himself that the church might be sanctified. He designed to speak of himself as the Head of the Church and of the church as His body; and again 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 glorious relationship with all mankind, and sent it into the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to administer the sacraments, to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to edify the believer until He comes again. All of us, whatever our age or station, stand in need of Christ's church and of those means of grace which it also 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 universal church, and who come now to be received into the official and visible fellowship of this local unit of the body of Christ.

1624. Reception of Full Members.

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

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 received the sacrament of baptism, have been instructed in and have accepted the doctrines and polity of The Wesleyan Church, and have been approved by vote as manifesting in spirit and practice God's work of grace within their hearts. We now propose 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.

Minister. Beloved in the Lord, you are come hither seeking union with the church of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that you are minded to undertake the privileges and duties of membership in The Wesleyan Church. Before you are fully admitted thereto, you should here publicly and individually make your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions.

Minister. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God? Candidate. I do.

Minister. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you have been sanctified wholly? If not, will you diligently seek this grace?

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

Minister. Is it your purpose that your life shall be governed by the Word of God in all its relations to God and your fellowmen?
1624. The Ritual

Candidate. It is.

Minister. Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion, our General Rules, our Elementary Principles, and our Church polity, set forth in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, as the exponent of your faith and your rule of conduct?

Candidate. I do.

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

Candidate. Yes, I will.

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

You cheerfully devote yourselves to God in the everlasting covenant of His grace, consecrating all your powers and faculties to His service and glory. And you promise that you will cleave to Him as your chief good; that you will give diligent attention to His Word and ordinances; that you will seek the honor and advancement of His kingdom; and that henceforth, denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, you will live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

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

Candidate. I do.

1625. Reception of Transfers from Other Denominations.

Minister. There are those who have found Christ in some other branch of His church, but who now desire to transfer their membership to The Wesleyan Church, and who have presented themselves for reception as full members by transfer. To them we address this question.

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

Candidate. I do.

1626. Other Categories of Membership.

Minister. The church of Jesus Christ is not only for those who are spiritually strong and mature, but it is intended by its Head and Master for all who know Him as Saviour and who love and serve Him as Lord. There are those who are not yet ready for full membership in The Wesleyan Church, either because they are young in Christ or young in years, or because they do not feel free to assume all of the responsibilities which go with full membership. For these, the Church has provided the categories of preparatory membership, junior membership, and associate 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.

1627. Reception of Preparatory Members.

Minister. To those who have so recently been converted to Christ, who desire to study and grow toward spiritual maturity, and who have here presented themselves for reception as preparatory members, we address these questions.

Minister. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate. Yes, He does.

Minister. Will you endeavor to profit from the instruction the Church shall provide, to acquaint yourselves with the Scriptures and The Discipline of our
Church, to govern your lives by its rules as God shall give you understanding, and to prepare yourselves with all diligence for full membership?

Candidate. I will.

1628. Reception of Junior Members.
Minister. 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 address these questions.

Minister. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?
Candidate. Yes, He does.

Minister. 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.

1629. Reception of Associate Members.
Minister. 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 address these questions.

Minister. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?
Candidate. Yes, He does.

Minister. Do you desire to be associated with The Wesleyan Church, do you accept the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as expressed in our Articles of Religion, and will you seek to live so as to edify the church and to strengthen its spiritual life and fellowship?
Candidate. Yes, this is my desire and purpose.

1630. Response of the Church.
Minister. 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. We, the members of this church, do cordially receive you as brothers and sisters beloved to our communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with you in love, and watch over you, to instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish you, with all longsuffering, gentleness, and love.

1631. Prayer.
Minister. O God of the church, we thank thee for the blessing of Christian fellowship, for joining together in one body all those who truly believe in Jesus Christ, thy Son. We thank thee for these who this day are becoming a part of this local church, this branch of Christ's body. Grant to them the grace and strength they shall need to fulfill their vows and bind our hearts together in thy holy love, that we may aid each other and that together we may share thy gospel with the world for which Christ died. In His name we pray. Amen.

1632. Right Hand of Fellowship.
Minister. And now, in behalf of The Wesleyan Church and of this local congregation, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, welcoming you as members with us of the body of Christ.

1633. The service of reception may close with a hymn and a benediction such as the following:


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.
Chapter III

LORD'S SUPPER

A. General Directions

1641. The Lord's Supper shall be observed in each local Wesleyan church at least once each three months (cf. 294:6).

1642. It is expected that Wesleyan ministers shall carefully admonish 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 expressing repentance and seeking forgiveness.

1643. Only unfermented grape juice shall be used in observing the Lord's Supper. It is recommended that only unleavened bread be used.

B. Order of the Lord's Supper - Longer Form

1646. (The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall address the congregation, saying:)

Call to Worship

The Lord Jesus himself instituted the holy sacrament we call the Lord's Supper, giving it to the disciples as a means of remembering Him until He comes again, and as a seal of the new covenant between God and man. This service is therefore a time of special sacredness and we can only be properly prepared by having our hearts and minds inclined to reverent worship, and by being freed of all things contrary to the divine nature and purpose. Therefore let us bow in a period of silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and to bring us into conformity with the holy God we serve.

(The minister shall allow sufficient time for each to prepare himself for the service, and then shall pray:)

Invocation

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

Hymns

(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood.")

Scripture Readings

(Then the minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2,5-12,18-21; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10,12-22; Heb. 9:11-17,22-28; I Pet. 1:18-23; 2:21-25.)

Prayer

(Then the minister shall pray:)

Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men, we acknowledge that in thy sight all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Outside of Christ we are sinners, and it is only through His atonement that we are forgiv en and cleansed. Whatever there is of purity and virtue in our hearts or in our lives is the product of thy grace. We come
today to remember once again how Christ procured our salvation. And as we do, we ask that the Holy Spirit shall search our hearts. If we have committed any act which is displeasing unto thee, or neglected any duty which would have honored thee, reveal it and forgive, we pray. Or if there is any tendency to disobedience, to the love of the world, or to the exaltation of self, reveal it and purge it from our hearts, we pray. Thou hast told us that if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Our hope, our trust, our righteousness are in Him alone. Have mercy upon us for His sake, and grant that we may serve and please thee in newness of life and purity of heart, world without end, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon, Hymn, Instructions

(Then the minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the minister shall direct the people as to the plan for the distribution of the elements of the Supper, either directing them to come and kneel at the altar or to be served while seated, in either instance using this invitation:)

Invitation

You who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and charity with your neighbors; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly (kneeling) make your humble confession to Almighty God.

(When all are in place, the minister shall remove the cloth folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:)

Consecration of Bread and Wine

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; accept our praise, we beseech thee. We thank thee for thy love, for the gift of thy Son, for the sacrifice He made in our behalf, for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our hearts, for the present witness of thy Holy Spirit to our hearts that we are thy children. Grant that, as we receive these thy creatures of bread and wine, in remembrance of Christ's death and passion, in communion with thee and with thy children, we may be made partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread;

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

(Here he may take in his hand the vessel from which the wine is to be poured, or the tray of individual cups.) and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying; Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

Distribution of Bread and Wine

(Then the minister shall direct the distribution of the elements. He may either first kneel at the table himself and partake, then serve other ministers who may be assisting him, and then serve the people; or he may direct first the distribution of the bread with all holding their portion until he joins them in simultaneous participation, and then the distribution of the wine in the same manner.)
(In either instance, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the bread, he shall read the following):

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

(And in like manner, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the wine, he shall read the following):

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

(After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister and congregation join in saying:)

Lord's Prayer

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

Benediction

(Then the minister shall conclude the service with the benediction.)

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

C. Order of the Lord's Supper--Shorter Form

1656. (The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2; 6-12:18-21; 1 Cor. 10:16-17: 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10, 12-22; Heb. 9:11-17, 22-28; 1 Peter 1:18-23; 2:1-25.

(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: 

(Then the minister shall call the congregation to kneel at the altar, using this invitation:)

You who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and charity with your neighbors; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly make your humble confession to Almighty God.

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

O God of grace and mercy, we thank thee that thou diest over love us and provide for our redemption. We thank thee for thy Son who died to save us, and for thy Spirit who invites us to draw near. Guide us now as we commemorate the passion of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to commune with thee and with 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 minister shall first serve himself the bread, and then distribute it to the people, saying:)

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

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful. (After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister pronounce the benediction:)

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

MARRIAGE

A. Marriage Ceremony - Longer Form

1661. (At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand side of the woman, the minister shall say:)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and His church. This holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence in Cana of Galilee, and the Apostle Paul commended as honorable among all men. It is not therefore to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

(Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall say:)

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

(Then shall the minister address the man by name, and ask:)

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

(The man shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister address the woman by name, and ask:)

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

(The woman shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister ask:)

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(The father of the woman, or whoever gives her in marriage shall answer:)

I do (or Her mother and I).

(Then the minister shall cause the man and woman to join right hands, and shall cause the man, using their given names, to say after him:)

I, , take you, , to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

(Then shall the minister cause the woman, using their given names, to say after him:)

I, , take you, , to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

(Then shall the minister say:) By seeking the ministry of the church, you have expressed your conviction that marriage is more than a legal contract, but rather a bond of union sealed in heaven. Henceforth you shall no longer be two but one. Your paths will be united; your responsibilities will increase, but your strength and your joys will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest in your relations one to the other, and with God who has witnessed and sealed this covenant.

(If there is a ring, the man shall place it on the second finger of the woman's left hand, and holding it say after the minister:)

With this ring I thee wed. May it be the symbol and seal of our mutual covenant and of our changeless love one to the other.

(Then the minister shall join their right hands and say:) What God has joined together, let no man put asunder. Let us pray.
0 eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let thy blessing descend and rest upon these thy children, whom we bless in thy name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honor, and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt, or decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as thy gifts to be employed in thy service. May they so live together in faithfulness and patience. In wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister cause the man and woman to join right hands, and placing his hand on top of theirs shall say:

Forasmuch as and have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and that have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands: I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder. Amen.

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

B. Marriage Ceremony - Shorter Form

1662. (At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:)

My friends, the ordinance of marriage was instituted by God himself in the garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and family. Your happiness for the future will largely depend upon the fidelity with which the marriage vows are cherished and kept. There must be mutual affection for the one for the other, and the marriage covenant must be kept in purity of spirit, as well as in actual word and deed, if you would reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

(With their hands joined, the minister shall address the man by name, and ask:)

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

(The man shall answer:)

I will.

(Then the minister shall address the woman by name, and ask:)

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

(The woman shall answer:)

I will.

(If there is a ring, the man shall place it on the second finger of the woman's left hand, and holding it say after the minister:)

With this ring I thee wed. May it be the symbol and seal of our mutual covenant and of our changeless love to one another.

(Then the minister shall join their right hands and say:)

What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

(Then the minister shall place his right hand upon their joined hands and say:)}
Since they have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of
these witnesses, by the authority committed unto me as a minister of the church
of Jesus Christ, I declare that and are now
husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom
God hath joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.
(Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.)
Chapter V
BURIAL OF THE DEAD

1681. At the House, Church, or Funeral Chapel.

Opening Sentences
(The minister shall open the service with an opening sentence, such as one of the following:)

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

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof" (Ps. 46:1-3).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25).

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

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Cor. 1:3-4).

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:17-18).

"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4:6-8).

Hymn
(Then a hymn shall be sung, or played. Then the minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following:)

Scripture Readings

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heareth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee" (Ps. 39:4-7).

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.... For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.... we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten: and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:1-2, 4b-10, 12).

"Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and
all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies
under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Behold, I
tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a
moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall
sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...
So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall
have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,
Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is
thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But
thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in
the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the
Lord" (I Cor. 15:20-26).51-52,54-58

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number,
of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne,
and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and
cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the
throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and
about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces,
and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanks­
giving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.

Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are
arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou
knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation,
and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. There­
fore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple:
and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no
more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat:
For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead
them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from
their eyes" (Rev. 7:9-17).

Prayer
(Then the minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer 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 thou dost love us, and that thou canst
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 admonition to our hearts and souls.
Bless those who feel this sorrow most keenly, and cause the bonds of Christian
love to bind us together, so that we may share with them that spiritual
strength and that faith in God which is ours through the love of Christ, in whose
name we pray. Amen.

Message and Prayer
(Then the minister shall preach a funeral message. He may close with an ex­
temporaneous prayer, and the following benediction:)

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the

1691. At the Graveside.

Scripture Readings
(The minister shall read a brief Scripture lesson, such as one of the follow­
ings:)

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My
help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy
foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth the body of Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (Ps. 121).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:1-6).

Committals

(Then the minister shall read one of the following Committals:)

"Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of the world the soul of the departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and shall be made like unto His glorious body according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself."

"And now, as we stand beside this open grave, in this silent city of the dead, we commit this body to the ground; and we commit the spirit, 0 our Father, together with every sacred interest of our hearts, into thy keeping; praying thee that thou wilt deal graciously and mercifully with each of us, until we too shall come to thee in glory, through riches of grace in Jesus our Lord."

Prayer and Benediction

(Then the minister may offer a brief extemporaneous prayer, and conclude with the following benediction:)

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."
Ordination of Elders

A. Regulations

1701. That portion of the Ritual of Ordination entitled, "Examination of Candidates," has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

1702. The ordination service shall be presided over by the Regional Superintendent, if present (740:28), in cooperation with the district superintendent (511:23), and they shall be assisted in the various parts of the service and in the act of ordination by a council of ordination (546; 1119:6).

S. The Order of the Ordination of Elders

Call to Worship

1711. (The minister presiding over the ordination service shall commence the service with a Call to Worship, such as Isa. 52:7; I Cor. 1:21-24; II Cor. 4:5-6).

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak," "A Charge to Keep I Have," "Lead on, O King Eternal," "Soldiers of Christ Arise," "Conquering Now and Still to Conquer.")

Invocation

(Then the minister appointed shall give the invocation:)

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast appointed elders in the church, grant us thy assistance in this service given to the ordination of such elders, and mercifully behold these thy servants, now called to this office, and replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life; that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office to the glory of thy name and the edification of thy church, through the merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Sermon

(Then the minister appointed shall preach the ordination sermon, cf. 743:14).

Presentation of Candidates

(Then the district superintendent or his appointee shall present to the presiding minister those who are to be ordained, saying:)

Present (read names aloud) to be ordained as elders in the church of God.

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain elders. For, after due examination, we find that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are qualified for the same. If any here know any impediment for which 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 impediment is.

(Then the appointed ministers shall read the Epistle and the Gospel, respectively:)

The Epistle

"I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach...the unspeakable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ...And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and..."
some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 3:7-9; 4:11-13).

The Gospel

"Then said Jesus... I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (John 10:7a,9-16).

The Charge

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall address the candidates, giving the charge:)

You have heard, brethren, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and what great importance this office is, unto which you are called. You are messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family, to seek for Christ’s sheep that are dispersed 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 spouse. And if that church or any member thereof is hurt or hindered by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault and also the gravity of the punishment which will follow. Therefore, consider with yourselves the purpose of your ministry toward the children of God, toward the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until you have done all within your power to bring those committed to your charge unto ripeness and perfection of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for sinfulness in life.

We have hoped that you have weighed and pondered 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 as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that you may so endeavor 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

(Then the presiding minister 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 it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to the office and work of an elder in the church of God?

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 they contain sufficiently all doctrine required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to 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 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 monitions and 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 helpful to the knowledge of the same?

Answer. I will endeavor 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 is possible, 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 those 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 Candidates' Wives

(Then if it is so desired, the presiding minister 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 this 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 have just heard the response of your husband in which he affirms his call to the holy ministry as an elder in the church of God. 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 and Purpose

(Then shall the presiding minister, or other appointed minister, pray the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Purpose:)

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 hath 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
ORDINATION OF ELDERS

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 liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Act of Ordination

(Then the candidates for ordination shall kneel, and, if so desired, their wives may kneel at their sides, and the presiding minister and the council of ordination shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each one, and the presiding minister shall say:)

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in the church of God. 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 presiding minister shall deliver to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:)

Take thou the authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy sacraments, and to perform all the duties of an elder in the church of God.

Prayer for Enduement

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister 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 favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Right Hand of Fellowship

(The newly ordained elders shall then arise, and the presiding minister and the members of the council of ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the work and labors of the ministry. Then the presiding minister may direct the congregation to file by and greet the new elders, or he or other appointed minister shall close the service with the following benediction:)

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.
Chapter VII
COMMISSIONING OF DEACONNESS

1721. Order of Commissioning of Deaconesses.

The service of consecration in the commissioning of a deaconess shall be under the direction of the council of ordination (546; 1184).

Invocation

(The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give an extemporary invocation.)

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lord, I Have Shut the Door," "Take My Life, and Let It Be," "Rescue the Perishing," "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming.")

Scripture Reading

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as: Matt. 25:31-40; Luke 10:25-42.)

Sermon

(Then a sermon or address may be given, declaring the nature of the office and duty of a deaconess.)

Presentation of Candidates

(Then the appointed person shall bring the candidates and present them to the presiding minister, saying):

I present (read names) unto you to be commissioned as deaconesses.

(Then the presiding officer shall say):

Dear beloved, these are they whom we purpose this day to commission as deaconesses in The Wesleyan Church. After inquiry and examination we discover that they have met the stated requirements of the Church, and we believe them to be worthy and proper persons for this office.

Address to Candidates

(Then the presiding minister shall address the candidates saying):

Dear beloved, we rejoice that in the providence of God, a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the church. In our Master's vineyard there are various forms of labor, and to each disciple some fitting task is assigned; but to you are accorded peculiar privileges and priceless opportunities. Released from other cares you give yourself without reservation to the service of the Lord, ready for any service which may fall to your lot. Like our Master, you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering as He did to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sinning world. You are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, offer pardon to the sinner, and be ever ready to take up any other duty for which willing hands cannot otherwise be found. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated yourselves to this office and work. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the church.

Questioning of the Candidates

(Then the presiding minister shall cause the candidates to stand before him, and shall question them individually.)

Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer. I do.
COMMISSIONING OF DEACONESSES

Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a deaconess in The Wesleyan Church?
Answer. I do.

Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?
Answer. I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Will you strive to walk so close to your Saviour's side, and so ever be filled with His Spirit, that you will carry His blessed presence to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?
Answer. I will endeavor to do so.

Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the doing of your work?
Answer. I will cheerfully do so.

Consecration of the Candidates

(Then the candidates shall kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray):

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Phoebe and Dorcas into the service of thy church, look upon these thy servants who are to be set apart to the offices of deaconess. Give to them, we pray thee, such understanding of thy holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that they may be to all whom they teach or serve a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May they so order their time and nourish their minds and hearts that they may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and steadily increase in the ability to lead others unto Him. Grant that they may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will in the holy task to which thou hast called them; and grant them thy Holy Spirit, that they may worthily discharge the work committed to them, to the blessing of mankind and to the praise of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

(Then, while the candidates remain kneeling, the presiding minister shall address them, saying:)

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Act of Commissioning

(Then the candidates shall arise, and the presiding minister shall take by the hand each one in turn, and say:) I commission you to the office of deaconess in The Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

(Then a hymn may be sung, such as: "A Charge to Keep I Have," "O Jesus, I Have Promised," "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken.")

Benediction

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall say:) 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.

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Chapter VIII
COMMISSIONING OF LAY WORKERS

1741. Order of Commissioning of Lay Workers.
(This ritual is adaptable for use in commissioning any type of lay worker, including special workers, such as director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker; including lay missionaries, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, wives of ordained missionaries, office workers; and including any other lay worker commissioned by his district conference. In each case, the presiding minister and others helping in the commissioning service (cf. 546; 1189) shall insert the title of the commission being granted in the blanks, and make such other adaptations or modifications as are needed.)

Invocation
(The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous invocation.)

Hymn
(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Take My Life, and Let It Be," "Hear Ye the Master's Call," "Give of Your Best to the Master," "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling.")

Scripture Reading
(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Acts 2:41-44 and 6:1-8; Rom. 12: 4-15; I Cor. 12:4-12.)

Sermon
(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister may give a sermon or address declaring the need and function of lay workers.)

Presentation of Candidate
(Then the appointed person shall present the candidates individually to the presiding minister, saying:)

I present unto you to be commissioned as

(Then the presiding minister shall address the congregation, saying:)
Dearly beloved, this is he whom we purpose this day to commission as

in The Wesleyan Church. After inquiry and examination, we discover that he has met the stated requirements of the Church, and we believe him to be a worthy and proper person for this service.

Address to Candidate
(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall address the candidate, saying:)
Dearly beloved, we rejoice that in the providence of God a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the Church. It is with infinite wisdom that God has provided diversities of gifts for His workers, distributing and administering them according to His good pleasure through the Holy Spirit. It is with joy that your brethren have watched God's will revealed in your life, and your own resolve grow firm to use your gift for His glory. Turning aside from worldly interests and pursuits, you are devoting yourself to the Lord's work, and to being a helper of the ministry. You will be pouring out your talent, your time, your possessions, your strength, your very self in a living sacrifice to Christ. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated yourself to this service. What you have
done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the church.

Questioning of Candidate

(Then the presiding minister shall question the candidate.)

Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this service?

Answer. I do.

Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of ___________ in The Wesleyan Church?

Answer. I do.

Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer. I do so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and in such other devotions as will help you to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Answer. I will.

Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer. I will cheerfully do so.

Consecration of Candidate

(Then the presiding minister shall kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray.)

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Stephen, Philip, and other laymen into the service of thy church, look upon this thy servant who is to be set apart to service as ___________. Give to him, we pray thee, such understanding of thy holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that he may be to all whom he teaches or serves a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May he so order his time and nourish his mind and heart that he may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will in the holy task to which thou hast called him, and grant him thy Holy Spirit, that he may worthily discharge the work committed to him, to the blessing of mankind and to the praise of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

(Then the presiding minister shall address the candidates, saying.)

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you the grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Act of Commissioning

(Then the candidate shall rise, and the presiding minister shall take him by the hand and say.)

I commission you to service as ___________ in The Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," "O Jesus, I Have Promised," "Work for the Night Is Coming," "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go.")

Benediction

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction.)
The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
Chapter IX

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

A. General Regulations

1761. The installation ceremonies provided herewith shall normally be used as a part of some general service of worship, and in most instances the other parts of the service, such as hymns, Scripture readings, 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

1764. Order of Installation of a Pastor.

(The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the installation of a pastor (511:23). The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give the invocation:)

O Lord, merciful God, who hast made known to me thy will that we should pray thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest; we earnestly beseech thee to send forth into the world continually true teachers and ministers of thy Word, and so to enlighten their minds with the knowledge of thy truth, that they may faithfully make known the whole counsel of God unto salvation, to the glory of thy name and the saving of souls; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(The presiding minister or other appointed minister may read a Scripture lesson such as John 15:1-8. The presiding minister or other appointed minister may deliver an appropriate message. At the proper time, the presiding minister shall address the congregation, saying:)

Dearly beloved, we are here assembled in the sight of God to install the Reverend , who has heeded your call to become the pastor of this church, and whose installation has been duly authorized by the District of The Wesleyan Church.

(The pastor shall come and stand before the presiding minister, who shall address him, saying:)

Dear brother, the duties of your holy office are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both Law and Gospel, as they are comprehended in the Holy Scriptures and defined in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church. This you are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle admonishes, "If any speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11).

Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine shall be refused with all restraint as the Scripture warns, "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves" (II Tim. 2:24-25a).

Those who are committed to your pastoral care are to be diligently admonished to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. The erring are to be warned with the fidelity 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).

You are also to be the steward of the holy sacraments which you are to administer to the comfort of troubled souls.

In view of the Saviour's gracious word, "Suffer the little children to come unto me" (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special sense be the object of your pastoral instruction and care.

The measure of faithfulness with which you are to seek the erring is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of the Apostle Paul who said, "I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men of God will impel you to pray diligently for your people and to be a pattern unto them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfill with all diligence these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before the church of God, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

Answer. Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall
judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. . . watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (II Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

(The congregation shall rise, and the presiding minister shall address them, saying:)

And now, dearly beloved, I admonish you to receive as your pastor, the Reverend __________, whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by him, whether it be for your comfort, your admonition, or your instruction, even as Christ has said, "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (Luke 8:18).

Use all diligence that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God's house, in accordance with the counsel of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to bring children "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Pray for your pastor that his ministry may tend to the salvation of many souls, and that through his labors, you, together with him, may be saved. Honor and esteem him who is to minister to your souls. As the Apostle Paul exhorts, you, who are over you in the Lord, and admonish you and . . . esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves" (I Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as becomes a Christian church, accept these obligations?

Answer. Yes, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding minister shall address the pastor, saying:)

Upon these, your solemn mutual promises, I now install you, the Reverend __________, as pastor of the Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the presiding minister 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 a hymn such as, "A Charge to Keep I have." Then the congregation may come forward to greet the pastor and his family at the altar. The pastor shall pronounce the benediction.)

C. Installation of Local Church Officers

1768. Order of Installation of Local Church Officers.

(This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just prior to the time when the newly elected officers shall assume their duties. The congregation may join in singing a hymn, such as: "A Charge to Keep I have," or "I'll Live for Him Who Died for Me." The pastor may read a Scripture lesson such as Acts 2:41-44 and 6:1-8. Depending upon the number of the officers involved, he may wish to read something concerning their duties from The Discipline. At the proper time, he shall call the newly elected officers before the congregation, and shall address them, saying:)

Dearly beloved, it is recorded 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 so increased, and so became diversified, that the church called its members together and chose men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to assist 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 honorable office.

In like manner this church, having first sought the guidance of the divine Spirit, has chosen you to similar offices to be associated with the brethren already in office 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 pledge of trust to Christ and His church.

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The Officers' Pledge

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 devolving upon me as an officer of this church. I will endeavor to be regular in my attendance, cheerful in my service, whole-hearted in my giving, openminded in my planning, patient in the face of trials, persistent in the face of difficulty, and Christlike in my fidelity to His service. I will seek by example and precept the promotion of Christian fellowship amongst all our members and the spreading of the message of full salvation at home and abroad. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer. 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 pledge of loyalty to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.

The Church's Pledge

Having chosen these officers to guide us in the administration of the church, we, its members and friends, do now pledge our loyalty 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 declare our determination to pray for all our leaders and to share with them in the glorious responsibility of spreading the good news, thus hastening the coming of Christ. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer. We do.

(The officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer in their behalf.)

D. Installation of District Superintendent

1772. Order of Installation of a District Superintendent.

(The Regional Superintendent or his representative shall be in charge of installing the district superintendent before the adjournment of the annual conference in which he is elected. The newly elected district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, secretary, and treasurer, and such other district officers as are desired, shall be called before the Regional Superintendent, who shall first address the district superintendent, saying:)

District Superintendent, today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of your district. You have been prayerfully elected by this district conference to serve as leader of the district of The Wesleyan Church. It is in you that the ministers 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 honor 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 labors, may your secret be His all-sufficient strength; in administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present help." The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a 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...
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of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of superintendent of the District, and do you hereby solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of the District, according to The Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer. I do, God being my helper.

(Then the Regional Superintendent shall address the other district officers, saying:)

Do you, as officers representing the District, covenant to support the district superintendent, and to discharge your several duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of this district, according to The Discipline, and in the fear of God?

Answer. We do, God being our helper.

(Then the Regional Superintendent shall address the district superintendent, saying:)

As Representative of The Wesleyan Church, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as superintendent of this District, entitled to the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining.

(Then the Regional Superintendent shall lead in prayer.)

E. Installation of Regional Officials

177&. Order of Installation of Regional Officials.

(In the parts of the service prior to the actual installation, a Scripture lesson such as I Corinthians 12:14-28 shall be read. The person appointed to preside over the service shall be responsible for giving the various charges, and shall address the congregation, saying:)

According to Acts, chapter 6, the Holy Spirit led the first-century church to select men for positions of service according to gifts bestowed upon them. So the Holy Spirit has led The Wesleyan Church to choose men believed to be blameless in heart as well as in life, possessing in measure the qualifications for the offices to which they are called. These men we now come to set apart as Regional Officials and members of the Regional Board of Administration.

(Then the chairman shall address the one elected as Regional Superintendent, saying:)

Will the elected Regional Superintendent please stand.

(Name of elected) the Church has called you to the honored and responsible place of leadership of Regional Superintendent. This high office is one of great importance and dignity, imposing weighty responsibilities and demanding earnest, arduous, and self-sacrificing labor. In assuming your duties, you become a steward over the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church.

You have been chosen for the office of Regional Superintendent because the Church recognizes in you the leadership abilities to carry spiritual and administrative authority in humility that is born of love. Further, you exemplify the high standard for Christian leadership set forth in the Word of God by Paul in the first chapter of his epistle to Titus, when he said, "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:7-9).

Do you accept the office of Regional Superintendent, and promise that you will faithfully endeavor to discharge your duties as set forth in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church?

Answer. I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to this high office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your duties as Regional Superintendent, you are hereby set apart to this service in the Church.

May faith and courage and knowledge and temperance and patience and godliness and brotherly kindness and charity be in you and abound, so that you...
shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in your leadership of the Church.

Amen.

(Then the Regional Superintendent shall be seated, and the chairman shall
address those others elected as Regional Officials, saying:)  

Will ______________________ elected as Assistant Regional Superintendent;

 ______________________ elected as Regional Treasurer;

 ______________________ elected as Regional Secretary of Missions;

 ______________________ elected as Regional Secretary of Evangelism;

 ______________________ elected as Regional Secretary of Educational Institutions;

 ______________________ elected as Regional Secretary of Sunday Schools; and

 ______________________ elected as Regional Editor please stand.

Brothers, The Wesleyan Church has honored you by electing you to stand with
the Regional Superintendent as the Regional Officials of the Church. These are
highly esteemed places of leadership. In assuming these offices, you become
the recipients of respect and deference from faithful Wesleyans throughout the
region.

In connection with your respective offices, The Discipline charges you under
the direction of the Regional Board of Administration with the responsibility
of the administration and promotion of the work of the Church and its outreach
into new areas. Your service in these offices will impose duties which cannot
be faithfully performed without self-denial and self-sacrifice. You must spend
and be spent for the Church in the spirit of joyful service. Your election to
this office is evidence of the confidence the Church has in you as Christian
gentlemen and as leaders. May your leadership always inspire such confidence,
to the glory of God.

Do you accept the office to which the Church has elected you, and do you
promise to discharge your duties as God may help you?

Answer. I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to these high offices, and you have
declared your willingness to accept them and your sincere purpose to discharge
faithfully your several duties, you are now set apart to this service in the
Church.

May you be strong to do God's will, and have great joy in your labors. Amen.

(Then the other Regional Officials shall be seated, and the chairman shall
address the district representative and members-at-large of the Regional Board
of Administration, saying:)  

Will the district representative and members-at-large of the Regional Board
of Administration please stand.

Brothers, having carefully considered the responsibilities and obligations
of service as a member of the Regional Board of Administration as set forth in
The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, will you, with just appreciation of
these responsibilities and obligations, accept this service to which you are
called?

Answer. I will.

Will you promise that, always seeking divine help, you will faithfully serve
as a member of the Regional Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church, as-
sisting to govern and direct its affairs in a manner which will make for peace,
purity, and spiritual growth throughout the denomination?

Answer. I will.

(The Regional Superintendent and other Regional Officials shall stand once
again, and the chairman shall address them and the area representatives of the
Regional Board of Administration collectively, saying:)  

Forsaking as you have been chosen by your brethren and have declared your
willingness to accept the service to which they have elected you, you are here-
by formally recognized as the Regional Board of Administration of The Wesleyan
Church. May you always be worthy of the honor conferred upon you and the trust
reposed in you by your brethren. And may God, by whose providence you have
been set apart to this service, grant that "the whole body fitly joined to-
tgether and compacted by that which every joint supplyeth," may increase "unto
the ossifying of itself in love." Amen.

(Then the chairman shall address the congregation, saying:)  

Have you, members and representatives of The Wesleyan Church, region wide,
seeking the guidance of divine wisdom, chosen the brethren who now stand before
you to take charge of your denominational activities and interests in Regional Officials and members of the Regional Board of Administration?

Answer. We have.

Will you pledge to honor, encourage, and cooperate with them in all things consistent with the will of God, and will you zealously aid them in the discharge of their official duties?

Answer. We will.

(Then the chairman shall address the Regional Superintendent and other Regional Officials, saying:)

Brethren, take to yourselves the office to which you have been called, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the chairman shall pray:)

Set apart, we beseech thee, O Lord, these thy servants to the work whereunto thou hast called them by the voice of the Church.

Endue them with heavenly vision. Grant to them thy grace that they may serve thee well, being full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, administering the work of their office in the fear of the Lord.

Give them favor and influence throughout thy Church. May thy work increase and advance because of thy blessings and their diligence.

Equip these officers for their respective duties and enable them to be faithful in all things, so that when the Great Shepherd shall appear, each may receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Through Christ we bring this petition. Amen.

F. Installation of a College President

1779. Order of Installation of a College President.

(The chairman of the board of trustees of the involved institution shall formally and officially install a college president at the proper time during the convocation of inauguration. He shall address the president, saying:)

President, you have been chosen as the leader of the Wesleyan Church is placing under your guidance and leadership not only the physical plant which is about us, the loyal faculty which serves therein, but also the sons and daughters from our homes who are to be nurtured in the Christian tradition. They are the foundation both for tomorrow’s Church and for your future constituency.

As president of College, yours is both a priceless heritage and a grave responsibility. You are to be the one to whom all institutional personnel are responsible. It will be your task to interpret the college program to the faculty, the student body, the board of trustees, the constituency, and the general public. Yours is one of many educational institutions which through an unending stream of trained youth constantly condition the thought life of our age. The heritage, the doctrines, and the ideals of The Wesleyan Church will be projected to succeeding generations only as you dedicate yourself to their preservation in the present. And if free institutions are to endure in the society of which we are a part, you must carry a flaming torch of democratic idealism.

In the discharge of these responsibilities, you will need, in some measure at least, the calm spirit of a Moses, the physical strength of a Samson, the patience of a Job, the wisdom of a Solomon, the prophetical vision of an Isaiah, the resolutions of a Paul, and the constant abiding presence of the matchless Christ, whose Great Commission closed with the words, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

You have been called to this important task because we have confidence in your leadership, in your ability, in your Christian integrity, and in your consecration to the sacred task before you. We pledge to you our cooperation, our financial support, and our prayers for the days which are ahead.

By the authority invested in me as chairman of the board of trustees of College, I hereby place in your hands the official seal of the institution as the insignia of your authority and declare you formally installed as president of College.
Chapter X

DEDICATION SERVICES

A. Dedication of a Church Building

1781. Order of Dedication of a Church Building.

Call to Worship

(The pastor or other appointed minister shall give the call to worship:)

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Ps. 100:2-4).

Invocation

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give the invocation:)

"O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into thy house, and grant, we entreat thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be the light thereof, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," "O Worship the King," "The Church's One Foundation," "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord").

Scripture Readings

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: II Chron. 6:1-2,18-21,40-42; 7:1-4; Ps. 24; 84; Heb. 10:19-26.)

Sermon

(The district superintendent or a representative of the regional church or district or other Wesleyan minister may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task 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 where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure and properly deeded as specified in The Discipline.)

Presentation of Building for Dedication

(Then the district superintendent or his representative shall take his place at the pulpit and the trustees of the church shall stand before him (cf. 511:11). The chairman of the trustees shall address the district superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the trustees, the members, 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 respond, saying:) Dearly beloved, for countless centuries man have erected buildings for the
public worship of God, and have separated them from all unhallowed uses in order to increase man’s reverence for God and for those places in which he communes with Him. 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 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 sacred uses.

Litany of Dedication

(Then the district superintendent shall cause 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 honor of His Son, who loves us and gave Himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illuminates 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 goodwill to all;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: In gratitude for the labors 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 of 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 an extemporaneous 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 labor 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 undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all these 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

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lead On, O King Eternal.")
Benediction

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister 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.

B. Dedication of Parsonage

1791. Order of Dedication of a Parsonage.

The dedication service, an appropriate hymn may be sung by the congregation or by a soloist or choir. Suitable numbers include: "Happy the Home When God Is There," and "Bless This House." Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous prayer. Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give a Scripture reading, such as I Cor. 9:7-10,13-14. Then the district superintendent (cf. 511:11) or his representative shall address the congregation, saying:

The Scriptures clearly teach that as Aaron was divinely appointed to the priesthood, 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 office and great value to the church. It is a wise provision contributing to his temporal support. 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 ministry and the church he represents.

(Then the trustees of the church shall come and stand before the district superintendent, saying:)

On behalf of the trustees, the members, 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 discourse, gratefully commending the people for providing this house, and charging the pastor to live here in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then he shall offer a prayer of dedication, such as the following:)

[Here the pastor would prayerfully 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 dwell in this house shall be so yielded and dedicated to thy service as "vessels sanctified and meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work," that their ministry shall be a heavenly benediction to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall enter this the home of thy ministering servants shall be made to sense thy presence, and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in thy holy commandments, and that all more minister to the material comforts of thy servants in this house shall by thee be richly rewarded.

Grant, O Lord, that all who come to this house for spiritual counsel and comfort, shall by thy blessings be made both to perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in the holy estate of matrimony in this house may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.

Grant, O Lord, that in the family altar of this house, when prayer with thanksgiving and supplication shall be offered, that they may receive from thy hand such things as are requisite and necessary. Also, that as thy servants study and search thy Word, that divine illumination for life and duty may be given as in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them.

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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 residence of the pastor of the Wesleyan Church.

(Then the district superintendent or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:) The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.
PART XII
FORMS
Chapter 1
CHURCH LETTERS

A. Letter of Transfer

1801. Letter Sent by Church Granting Transfer to Another Wesleyan Church (cf. 243-244).
To the pastor and secretary of the Wesleyan Church.
This certifies that the bearer is a member in good standing in our Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring membership to your church, is hereby transferred and commended to your care and fellowship.
By the authority and in behalf of our Wesleyan Church, this day of , A.D. .

Pastor

Secretary

The member's relationship at the church granting the letter continues until he is duly received by the church to which he is being transferred.
(*Insert the proper term, namely full, preparatory, junior, or associate.)

1802. Acknowledgment Sent by Receiving Church (cf. 243).
To the pastor and secretary of the Wesleyan Church.
This certifies that for whom you issued a letter of transfer dated the day of , A.D. , has been duly received by the Wesleyan Church on the day of , A.D. , and we send you this acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of this transfer.

Pastor

Secretary

1803. Notice Sent to Member Being Transferred.
We have on this date, the day of , A.D. , issued a transfer of your membership to the Wesleyan Church commending you to its care and fellowship. May the Lord bless you in your new relationship.

Pastor

Secretary

B. Letter of Recommendation

1804. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Transfer to Another Denomination (cf. 249).
This certifies that the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable member of our Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring from said church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom
this certificate may be presented.
By the authority and in behalf of the Wesleyan Church this day of A.D.

Pastor

Secretary

It is understood that this letter of recommendation terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately.

(*Insert the proper term, namely full, preparatory, junior, or associate.)

C. Letter of Withdrawal

1805. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Withdraw from the Church (cf. 250; 1562).

This certifies that the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of withdrawing from said church, is hereby declared to be withdrawn.
By authority and in behalf of the Wesleyan Church, this day of A.D.

Pastor

Secretary

It is understood that this letter of withdrawal terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately.

(*Insert the proper term, namely full, preparatory, junior, or associate.)
Chapter II

SERVICE CREDENTIALS

A. Ministerial Credentials

1826. Local Preacher's License (cf. 1106).
This certifies that , having been duly examined concerning gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified
for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usages of The Wesleyan
Church as a local preacher, for one year, provided that spirit, prac-
tice, and teachings are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of
The Wesleyan Church.
By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the ________
Wesleyan Church, this ________ day of ________, A.D. ________.
Pastor
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 pastor and the
local church secretary.)

1827. Local Preacher's Letter of Standing (cf. 1109:3).
This certifies that has been up to this date a
local preacher in good standing in the Wesleyan Church,
and being desirous of transferring ________ membership from this church, is
granted this letter of standing to recommend ________ to whomsoever it may
concern as a person worthy of consideration for license as a local preacher.
By the authority and in behalf of the Wesleyan Church,
this ________ day of ________, A.D. ________.
Pastor
Secretary

This certifies that ________ has been appointed on a tem-
porary basis as a supply pastor of the Wesleyan Church,
and is hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership
to the congregation, and to perform such other duties as shall be authorized
by the district superintendent.
By the authority and in behalf of the District of The Wes-
leyan Church, this ________ day of ________, A.D.
District Superintendent
District Secretary

1829. Recommendation for Listing as Ministerial Student (cf. 1108:1; 1170:3).
This certifies that , a local preacher in the
Wesleyan Church, having qualified for district recognition as a ministerial
student, is hereby recommended by the local church conference to the
District Conference of The Wesleyan Church as having the graces, gifts, and
usefulness necessary for listing as a ministerial student.
By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the ________

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Wesleyan Church, this day of , A.D. 

Pastor 

Secretary 

1833. District Ministerial License (cf. 1112). This certifies that having been duly examined concerning gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a licensed minister according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, for one year, provided that spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church. By order and in behalf of the district conference of the District of The Wesleyan Church, this day of , A.D. 

District Superintendent 

District Treasurer 

(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.)

1836. Certificate of Ordination (cf. 1119). This certifies that , having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an elder in the church of God so long as spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, and is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same. By order and in behalf of the district conference of the District of The Wesleyan Church, this day of , A.D. 

Regional Superintendent 

District Superintendent 

District Secretary 

1837. Certificate of Validation of Ordination for Minister Transferring from Another Denomination (cf. 1120). This certifies that the District-Conference of The Wesleyan Church, having examined the credentials of the Rev. an ordained minister of the Church, and having received other testimonials of graces, gifts, and usefulness, and being satisfied that is a person worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, has this day accepted and recognized in due form as an elder in The Wesleyan Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions
SERVICE CREDENTIALS

pertaining to ordination, so long as spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the District of The Wesleyan Church, this day of A.D.

Regional Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

1841. Local Deaconess's License (cf. 1182).
This certifies that having been duly examined concerning her gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church as a local deaconess, for one year, provided that her spirit, practice, and service is in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the Wesleyan Church, this day of A.D.

Pastor

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 pastor and the local church secretary.)

1842. District Deaconess's License (cf. 1183).

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This certifies that ________, having been duly examined concerning her gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a licensed deaconess according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, for one year, provided that her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the __________

District of The Wesleyan Church, this ________ day of ________,

A.D. ________

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.

1843. Deaconess's Commission (cf. 1184).

This certifies that ________, has this day been consecrated according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church to service as a commissioned deaconess, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend her to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a deaconess so long as her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, and she continues to be actively engaged in such work.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the __________

District of The Wesleyan Church, this ________ day of ________,

A.D. ________

Regional Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

C. Special Worker's Credentials

1846. Special Worker's License (cf. 1188).

This certifies that ________, having been duly examined concerning ________ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a licensed special worker according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, and is authorized to serve as a ________ for one year, provided that her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, such as director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.*)

(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.)
1847. Special Worker's Commission (cf. 1189).
This certifies that ___________ has this day been consecrated according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church to service as a commissioned special worker, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend ___________ to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a(8) * so long as spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, and ___________ continues to be actively engaged in such work:

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the District of The Wesleyan Church, this ___________ day of ___________, A.D.

Regional Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, such as director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)

D. General Credentials

1851. Course of Study Certificate (cf. 111:3; 1119:3; 1184, 1189).
This certifies that ___________ has completed the Course of Study for ___________, authorized in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church and provided by the Regional Board of Administration, or the equivalent of said Course, having satisfactorily passed examination in such subject.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand this ___________ day of ___________, A.D. ___________.

Director of Ministerial Study Course Agency

(*Insert the name of the particular Course of Study, namely that for Local Preachers, Licensed Ministers, Ministers of Music, Ministers of Christian Education, Deaconesses, Directors of Music, Directors of Christian Education, Evangelistic Singers, Chalk Artists, or Children's Workers.)

1852. Recommendation for District License (cf. 1108:1; 1183; 1188).
This certifies that ___________, a full member in good standing of the Wesleyan Church, is hereby recommended by the ___________ Local Church conference to the District Conference of The Wesleyan Church as having the graces, gifts, usefulness, and other qualifications necessary for district authorization to serve as a ___________.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the Wesleyan Church, this ___________ day of ___________, A.D. ___________.

Pastor

Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, namely licensed minister, licensed deaconess, or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker--director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)
1853. Pocket Certificate of Standing (cf. 1115:2; 1123:2).
This certifies that was, on this day of __________, A.D. ______, a(n) __________ in good standing of the District of The Wesleyan Church.
District Secretary
Valid only for one year, and only when signed by the Secretary.
(*Insert the proper term such as ordained elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, licensed special worker.)

1854. District Letter of Transfer (cf. 1128:2; 1185; 1190).
To the superintendent of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Church.
This certifies that is a(n) __________ in good standing in the __________ District of The Wesleyan Church, and, having requested a transfer, is hereby transferred and recommended to your district, subject to the action of said district.
By the authority and in behalf of the District of The Wesleyan Church, this __________ day of __________, A.D. ______.
District Superintendent
The person for whom the letter is granted shall continue as a member of the district granting the letter until the district receiving the letter replies on form 1855.
(*Insert the proper term, namely stationed elder, elder on reserve, superannuated elder, unstationed elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker.
If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker-director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker. If the person being transferred is a licensed minister, licensed deaconess, or licensed special worker, the transfer is not valid unless accompanied by a properly attested statement of his standing in the proper course of study and of his service record in the district.)

1855. Acknowledgment of District Letter of Transfer (cf. 1128:1; 1185; 1190).
To the superintendent of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Church.
This certifies that __________, for whom you issued a letter of transfer as a(n) __________ dated the __________ day of __________, A.D. ______, has been duly enrolled by the District as a(n) __________, A.D. ______, and we send you this acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of the transfer.
By the authority and in behalf of the District of The Wesleyan Church this __________ day of __________, A.D. ______.
District Superintendent
(*Insert the proper term, namely stationed elder, elder on reserve, superannuated elder, unstationed elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker.
If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker-director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)
1856. District Letter of Standing (cf. 1128:3; 1165; 1190).
This certifies that _has been up to this date a(n) __________ in good standing in the __________ District of __________, The Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of removing from The Wesleyan Church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this letter may be presented.
By the authority and in behalf of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

District Superintendent

It is understood that this letter terminates immediately any relationship the bearer may have had to The Wesleyan Church as a minister, deaconess, or special worker.

(*Insert the proper term, namely elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker--director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)