THE DISCIPLINE
of
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
of
SIERRA LEONE
2002

Third Revised Edition

Revised by action and authority of the National Conference of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone held in Makeni, (December 2000); and authorized by the General Board of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church in (November 2002).

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PART I. BASIC PRINCIPLES

Chapter One

HISTORY

A. The Origin of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

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

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

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

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

5. In the early years, progress seemed to be hindered by Satan or sickness at every turn. Some building would be started or school classes begun, only to be delayed by the frequent illness of the workers. In a twelve-year period, one child and nine missionaries died of tropical diseases at Kunso or soon after they arrived home in America:
6. For two years the chief of Masumbo begged for someone to stay in his town. When the station was opened there in 1895, missionaries fully intended to begin in another new area every year. This proved to be impossible because of a lack of workers, funds, transportation and towns around Kunso and Masumbo. It was not until 1907 that a missionary was temporarily stationed at Tambiama in the Loko Chiefdom. Then in 1908, Rev. and Mrs. George Clarke moved to Kamabai and buildings were erected. In 1909, May Lord and Cleo Young opened the station at Binkolo.

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

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

B. Development of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. The anniversary programme of evangelism met with opposition in a few areas untouched before by Christians. On the whole, it pointed up the locations where people did desire to know more of the gospel and wanted a church. Then again during World War II expansion had to be curtailed. Since new and returning missionaries could not get passage on ships, the staff was depleted. Shortages of supplies and funds created a hardship for several years.
18. The leaders never lost sight of their original objective—to establish a self-governing self-propagating, and self-supporting Church. The Bible school was moved from Kamabai to Gbendembu in 1932. Within three years new buildings were completed and the name changed to Clarke Memorial Biblical Seminary. A select group of students pursued their education at the school in the period that followed; however, many graduates took government jobs or entered the teaching profession rather than the pastoral ministry. In an attempt to secure pastors for the increasing number of villages calling for workers, a new venture was proposed in 1960, the Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (formerly called Vernacular Bible School). The primary goal was education to qualify men to pastor village churches. The school also provides practical training in the dry season with team evangelism. The large number of villages reached by these teams and the good response each year has resulted in new areas becoming receptive to the gospel. Through the avenue of the Bible school a programme of fruitful evangelism and successful church growth has been practiced.

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

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

21. In 1960, another outreach ministry was begun with radio broadcasts over station ELWA in Monrovia, Liberia. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone provided programmes in local languages from the recording studio located at Gbendembu. From the 100 tapes first produced in the Temne language, the ministry was enlarged to fifteen weekly programmes in seven languages produced by the studio staff in cooperation with local pastors, musical groups, and six other mission agencies. Programs produced at Gbendembu Recording Studio were for a time also aired regularly on SLBS radio in Freetown as well as ELWA. The ministry of the studio also expanded into cassettes, with a catalog of over 200 titles in songs and messages. The studio also manages a library of over 80 Christian films, several of which were produced in Sierra Leone and nearly 30 with sound tracks in local languages. Through organized film campaigns thousands of people yearly register decisions for Christ. The aim of the studio ministry has primarily been to evangelize in homes and villages without a Christian testimony, but programmes and other audiovisual means also encourage Christian growth. The recording studio and radio ministry were
transferred to the national church headquarters in Makeni in 1991.

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

23. From the arrival of the first missionaries, limited medical service was included in the programme in an attempt to help people and to open their hearts to the gospel. After Alice Harris left Kunso in 1893, no experienced personnel served until 1906 when a dispensary was opened at Kamabai. Later a small hospital was built there. In 1930 the medical center was transferred to Kamakwie where thousands of patients have received physical and spiritual healing at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital. Ward services and witnessing of chaplains and staff have been effective in adding believers to the churches and in opening doors to unreached areas. Dispensaries have served the people of towns around mission stations, and mobile clinics have reached outlying villages regularly or annually. Personal witnessing and clinic services have resulted in converts who have then shared their testimonies with others. The decade of the 80s has seen the emergence of a full public health nursing outreach from the hospital. Through health committees, immunizations, and other programmes an effort is made to stress preventive medicine.

24. In 1968, The Wesleyan Methodist Church of American merged with the Pilgrim Holiness Church. The merging conference, the result of several years of preparation, was held in June at Anderson, Indiana, USA. The Pilgrim Holiness Church came into being during the last part of the nineteenth century as a result of the same revival of scriptural holiness that had so vitally affected the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It was first organized in 1897 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its major emphases were holiness, evangelism, and foreign missions. It grew both as a result of evangelism and the affiliation of several other church bodies of like faith.
25. The Wesleyan Church was the name given to the new denomination formed by the merger of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and the Pilgrim Holiness Church. At the merging conference in 1968 the new denomination made provision for a world organization to be known as the Wesleyan World Fellowship. Delegates from all mission units of the Wesleyan Church took part in the formation of the Wesleyan World Fellowship in 1972 following the holding of the Second General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

26. In 1978, the General Department of World Missions launched its first Metro-Move Seminar in Freetown. This was the beginning of a worldwide Wesleyan movement to plant churches and evangelize through planned strategy in urban areas. This also marked the beginning of a phase of church development in Sierra Leone, with the establishment of an organized church in Kisse, Freetown, and a new church in Kenema. While plans were made to establish churches in other cities and sections of Freetown, outreach continued into new interior villages as well, especially around Bafodia.

27. The auxiliaries of the church have been an important and integral part of church life. Wesleyan women have had considerable influence on village women over the years, through both local meetings and the annual institutes. The Wesleyan Youth auxiliary became officially organized in 1980. This step encouraged new growth including the establishment of over a dozen local Wesleyan Youth groups, enlargement of junior and senior youth camps, leadership training, and the appointment of a full-time youth worker in 1983. The Wesleyan Men's movement was launched in 1981 and progressed slowly with a resurgence in 1984 stressing the men's role in development, church growth, and spiritual life.

28. The annual District Conference held at Makeni Teachers College on December 12-18, 1983, marked a significant turning point in the church. Major revisions were made in The Discipline, including provision for a national church government with administrative districts. Then, the 96th and final District Conference was held December 9-12, 1985, followed by the first National Conference of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone on December 13-15, 1985. Three districts were organized at that conference: Northern, Central, and Western. The Koinadugu District was added in 1986 and the Southern District was carved out of the Central District in 1987. In 1989 the Northern District was divided, which made a total of six administrative districts. Also, in 1989 the names of the districts were changed to correspond with the major town in each district: Freetown District, Gbendemubu District, Kabala District, Kamakwie District, Madina District, and Makeni District.

29. The year 1989 marked the centennial of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. Special celebrations were held throughout the year in preacher-teacher institutes, schools, churches and annual district conferences. The climax of this year of celebration came at the National Conference which was held at the Wesleyan Conference Centre in Makeni, on December 14-17, 1989. The members of the Executive Committee of the Wesleyan World Fellowship met in Freetown on December 12-13, 1989, and shared in the celebration.
The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone honours the following district superintendents who provided faithful leadership to the church while it was a single district:

- Rev. Sapri Turay 1942 - 1948
- Rev. Brahma Turay 1948 - 1959
- Rev. Bai Bangura 1960 - 1968
- Dr. Y. M. Kroma 1983 - 1985

The following national superintendents are also honoured for their dynamic leadership of the national church:

- Dr. Y. M. Kroma 1985 - 1993
- Rev. S. D. Kanu 1993 - 2000
- Rev. J. Y. Konteh 2000 - ——
Chapter Two

MISSION OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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

52. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (see 1160) and is a national church sponsored by the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church through its General Department of World Missions with headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. The General Director is the chief administrative officer of the General Department of World Missions, with the General Board of Administration serving as the chief governing body in the interim of General Conference sessions. The General Conference is the supreme governing body, and the General Superintendents are the general spiritual and administrative leaders of the Church. The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is authorized by the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church.

53. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all mankind the good news and glorious experience of full salvation. To this end, The Wesleyan Church shall 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 facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, education, literary, and benevolent work.

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

CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCH LAW

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) The Discipline. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, The Discipline is understood to refer to The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as currently approved and authorized by the General Board of Administration.
62. The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is composed of three major sections, as follows: (1) The Articles of Incorporation (2) The Constitution, and (3) Statutory Law. These are more fully indicated in the following paragraphs.

63. The Articles of Incorporation. Paragraphs 71 to 82 of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone comprise the Articles of Incorporation of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. They are the legal charter for the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and as such are registered with the appropriate office of the national government of Sierra Leone. As indicated in paragraph 82, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation are subject to the approval of the North American General Board of Administration.

64. The Constitution. Paragraphs 101 to 155 of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone comprise the Constitution. These paragraphs include the doctrines, principles, and rules which are basic to membership in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(1) Relationship to Essentials. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of an historic statement of faith and practice and are set forth in the Charter of the Wesleyan World Fellowship. Each member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship must subscribe to the Essentials’ pronouncements and must not contravene any of its provisions in its Constitution, Articles of Religion, or Discipline. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone does so subscribe. The Articles of Religion and other statements of faith and practice which are a part of the Constitution of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are in accord with the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and are not intended to contravene or contradict them at any point.

(2) Identification. The Constitution of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone consists of Articles I through V, including the Name, Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and The First Principles and Amendments. The Constitution may be amended as set forth in paragraph 155.

65. Statutory Law. The remaining portions of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone other than the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution shall be considered Statutory Law for the government of the national, district, and local churches of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. Amendments to Statutory Law sections may be submitted from the National Conference of Sierra Leone for approval by the North American General Board of Administration through the General Director of Wesleyan World Missions. Except in matters of emergency, amendments to the Statutory Law of The Discipline shall be submitted for approval only once within a quadrennium of the North American General Conference, on a schedule to be arranged between the national conference of Sierra Leone and the General Department of World Missions. Amendments to The Discipline shall be implemented only after approval by the General Board of Administration.
Chapter Four
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

Article I

71. Name

The corporation is called the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (1100) with international headquarters in Indianapolis, state of Indiana, United States of America.

Article II

72. Seat

The registered office of the corporation is situated at number 54 Rogbaneh Road, Makeni, Bombali District, Northern Province, Sierra Leone.

Article III

73. Purpose

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

Article IV

74. Means

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

75. Membership

The membership of the corporation are the members of the National Conference which is composed of ministerial and lay delegates duly representing each organized district, and national officers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (606, 630, 631).

Article VI

76. Directors

The Board of Directors is the National Board of Administration duly constituted and organized as required in The Discipline (670-682). It is composed of the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, the National Secretary, the National Treasurer, the district superintendents, and members-at-large elected by the National Conference. The minimum number of members of the National Board of Administration is twenty.

Article VII

77. Powers and Duties of Directors

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

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall carry out the duties assigned to it by The Discipline (682) and shall be amenable to the National Conference, the General Board or Administration of The Wesleyan Church, and the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council.

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

ARTICLE VIII

78. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, the National Secretary, and the National Treasurer (700). These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by The Discipline for their offices.
Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the regular meeting of the National Conference in the manner prescribed and for the term required in the provisions of *The Discipline*.

**Article IX**

79. Meetings

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

**Article X**

80. Property

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

**Article XI**

81. Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Corporation shall include *The Discipline* as legislated from time to time, and no bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of *The Discipline*.

**Article XII**

82. Amendments

These articles may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members.
of the corporation at any regular quadrennial meeting, subject to the approval of the North American General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church with international offices at P. O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America.
Chapter Five

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH OF SIERRA LEONE

Introduction

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

Article I. Name

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

Article II. Articles of Religion

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

103. We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving. He has all power, and wisdom, and all goodness. He is the only one who makes and keeps all things seen and unseen. In the unity of God there are three Persons who are one in being, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 1:1; 17:1; Ex. 3:13-15; 33:20; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 90:2; Isa. 40:28-29; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-2; 4:24; 16:13; 17:3; Acts 5:3-4; 17:24-25; 1 Cor. 8:4,6; Eph. 2:18; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16-17; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; 1 John 5:20.

II. The Father

104. We believe the Father is the Source of all that exists, whether of matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made man in His image. By intention He relates to man as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward man. In love, He both seeks and receives penitent sinners.

Ps. 68:5; Isa. 64:8; Matt. 7:11; John 3:17; Rom. 8:15; 1 Peter 1:17.
III. The Son of God

105. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, completely God and completely man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original (or birth) sin and for all the actual sins of men, and to make us right with God. Christ rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and there intercedes for us at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all men at the last day.


IV. The Holy Spirit

106. We believe in the Holy Spirit who comes from the Father and the Son and is the same in being, honor, and glory, as the Father and the Son, truly and eternally God. He is the Administrator of grace to all mankind, and is particularly the effective Agent in conviction for sin, in regeneration, in sanctification, and in glorification. He is always present, to assure, preserve, guide, and enable the believer.

Job 33:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.

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

107. We believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments are the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired and infallible Word of God, written without error in the original form. They are superior to all human authority and have been passed along to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read in the Bible, nor may be proved by the Bible, 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. Both in the Old and New Testaments life is offered to mankind ultimately through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. The New Testament teaches Christians how to fulfill the moral principles of the Old Testament, calling for loving obedience to God made possible by the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job,

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

VI. God’s Purpose for Man

108. We believe that the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, summarize God’s law as it is revealed in the Bible. They are the perfect measure and standard of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, and for individual actions, 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. Therefore all men should so order all their individual, social, and political acts as to give to God entire and absolute obedience, and to assure to all men the enjoyment of every natural right. All who obey these laws will have God’s blessings.

VII. Marriage and the Family

109. We believe that man is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of self to the larger whole, and fulfillment. God’s Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme picture of His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore God’s plan for human sexuality is that it be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.
VIII. Man’s Choice
110. We believe that when God created man in His image this included the ability to choose between right and wrong. Therefore man was made morally responsible for his choices. But since Adam fell into sin, man is unable in his own strength to do what is right. This is due to original sin. Original sin is the corruption of the nature of every man, and is the sin with which we are born because of Adam’s sin. Because of original sin, man is far from original righteousness and his evil nature causes him to want to do acts of sin continually. On his own, man cannot even call on God or have faith for salvation. But through Jesus Christ, God provides special grace to make man able to do that which was impossible on our own. God’s special grace is given freely to all men, enabling all who will to turn and be saved.

IX. The Atonement
111. We believe that Christ offered himself through His suffering and death on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, one time, for the sins, both original sin and actual sins, of the whole world. There is no other way of salvation from sin. This atonement is able to save all persons when they repent and believe. The atonement also saves those infants and children who have not yet become responsible for sin, those who are not responsible mentally from birth, and saved persons who become mentally not responsible. The atonement is effective to save those who reach the age when they are responsible for sin only when they repent and put their faith in Christ.

X. Repentance and Faith
112. We believe that for man to appropriate what God’s special grace has made possible, he must voluntarily respond in repentance and faith. The ability comes from God, but the act is man’s. Repentance is prompted by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a willful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness, a godly sorrow for and a confession of past sins, proper restitution for wrongdoing, and a resolu-
tion to reform the life. Repentance is the precondition for saving faith, and without it saving faith is impossible. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins in the agreement of the mind and the consent of the will to the truth of the gospel, but grows into a complete reliance by the whole person in the saving ability of Jesus Christ and a complete trusting of oneself to Him as Saviour and Lord. Saving faith is expressed in a public acknowledgment of His Lordship and an identification with His church.


XI. Justification and Regeneration

113. We believe that when man repents of his sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, he in the same moment is justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God, and assured of his salvation through the witness of the Spirit.

We believe that we are considered righteous before God only because what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has done for us, being justified by faith alone, and not on the basis of our own works.

We believe that regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the forgiven sinner becomes a child of God. This new life is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and by it Christians 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 from the heart, receiving the Spirit of Adoption.


**Regeneration**: John 1:12-13; 3:3,5-8; II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:5, 10, 19; 4:24; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:3-4; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:1.

**Adoption**: Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5,7; Eph. 1:5.

**Witness of the Spirit**: Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 4:6; I John 2:3; 3:14,18-19.

XII. Good Works

115. We believe that good works are the fruit of faith and follow after justification. Good works cannot put away our sins, and they will not keep us from God's judgment. But good works are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ and come from a true heart of faith. Just as a tree is known by its fruit, so faith in God is known by our good works.
XIII. Sin After Regeneration

116. We believe that after we have experienced regeneration, it is possible to fall into sin. In this life 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 be restored.


XIV. Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

117. We believe that sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is made able to love God with all his heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Sanctification begins at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire or complete sanctification which happens instantaneously when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ. It is brought into effect by the baptism with the Holy Spirit who cleanses the heart from all birth or inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification perfects the believer in love and empowers him for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The life of holiness continues through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and is shown by loving obedience to God's revealed will.

Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:8; Isa. 6:1-6,35; Ezek. 36:25-29; Matt. 5:8,48; Luke 1:74-75; 3:16-17; 24:49; John 17:1-26; Acts 1:4-5,8; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; 26:18; Rom. 8:3-4; I Cor. 1:2; 6:11; II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:13,24; 5:25-27; I Thess. 3:10,12-13; 4:3,7-8; 5:23-24; II Thess. 2:13; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 10:14; 12:14; 13:12; James 3:17-18; 4:8; I Peter 1:2; II Peter 1:4; I John 1:7-9; 3:8,9; 4:17-18; Jude 24.

XV. The Gifts of the Spirit

118. We believe that the Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself. He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit which He in His wisdom gives to individual members of the church so that they are able to properly fulfill their function as members of the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although not the same as natural abilities, work through
them for the growth of the whole church. These gifts are to be used in love under the direction of the Lord of the church, not through human choice. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the church and not by the good feeling they give to the ones receiving them.


XVI. The Church

119. We believe that the Christian church is the complete body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the church. The church includes both those believers who have gone to be with the Lord and those who remain on the earth, having given up the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are dedicated to the work which Christ committed unto His church until He comes. The church on earth is to preach the pure Word of God, properly give the sacraments according to Christ’s command, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A local church is a body of believers formally organized on gospel principles. They meet regularly for the purposes of evangelism, teaching and growth, fellowship, and worship. The Wesleyan Church is a denomination made up of those members within district conferences and local churches who as members of the body of Christ hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing bodies.


XVII. The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

120. We believe that water baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith. They are signs of our profession of Christian faith. They are also signs of God’s gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us to strengthen and confirm our faith.

We believe that water baptism is a sacrament of the church, commanded by our Lord and given to believers. It is a symbol of the new covenant of grace and shows that the believer accepts the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ. By means of this sacrament, believers declare their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

We believe that the Lord’s Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ’s death and of our hope in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. To those that receive it humbly, with a proper spirit, and by faith, the Lord’s Supper is made a means through which God communicates grace to the heart.


XVIII. The Second Coming of Christ

123. We believe that the fact of the personal and soon return of Christ causes holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.


XIX. The Resurrection of the Dead

124. We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all mankind—of the just unto the resurrection of life, and of the unjust unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of the righteous dead will take place at Christ’s Second Coming, and the resurrection of the wicked will take place at a later time. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection of those who are believers in Christ. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be complete and recognized.


XX. The Judgment of Mankind

125. We believe that the Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all mankind, and the acts of His judgment are based on His knowledge 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 given.

XXI. Destiny

126. We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that there is a conscious, personal existence after death. The place where man will spend eternity is determined by God’s grace and man’s response to that grace. Where man will spend eternity results from the choices he makes, and those choices are shown by the kind of life he lives. Destiny is not determined by any arbitrary decree of God. Heaven with its eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ’s presence is the final home of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ. Hell with its everlasting misery and separation from God is the final place of those who neglect this great salvation.


Article III. Membership Commitments

135. To be a part of an organized church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins, and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. From the church’s beginnings in the New Testament age, it has been understood that such participation involves putting off the old ways of conduct and putting on Christ’s ways. In keeping this Christian idea of a changed life, The Wesleyan Church tries to bring together timeless biblical principles with the conditions of present society in such a way as to respect the integrity of the individual believer, yet keep the purity of the church and the effectiveness of its witness. This is done because we believe the Holy Spirit guides Christians to have a united belief and conscience. The following items (135) represent the standards of conduct practiced by The Wesleyan Church for many years. We do hope our people will, by the help of the Holy Spirit, gain a sensitivity to sin and evil that is stronger than merely following rules. But we do expect that those who make the agreement to be full members will carefully and sincerely follow these guides and helps to holy living. Disregard of the principles found in these membership commitments subjects a member to church discipline (137).

136. Those admitted to full membership in our churches commit themselves to demonstrate their new life in Christ in such ways as:

Toward God

(1) To reverence and respect the name of God and to keep the Lord’s Day holy by worshipping God and by doing those things which help them spiritually, by avoiding all unnecessary buying and selling, labours, travels, and pleasures which do not add to the moral and spiritual purposes of this Day.
Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:3,7-11; Deut. 5:11-15, Isa. 58:13-14; Mark 2:27; Acts 20:7; Heb. 4:9.

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


Toward Self

(3) To run with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily, submitting to scorn for Christ.


(4) To recognize their responsibility to God and the Church by careful use of their time, doing only such activities as may contribute to their spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical well-being and that of those who share in them.

Eph. 5:16; Col. 3:17.

(5) To make wise use of their material resources, keeping in mind their duty to Christ’s church (remembering the principle of tithing which is basic to the New Testament standard of stewardship), and the needs of their fellowmen, using strict self-discipline in the things they do for themselves and showing a Christian willingness to give to those whose distress they may help to lessen, in this way laying up treasure in heaven.

Prov. 3:9; Mat. 3:10; Matt. 25:34-40; Acts 20:35; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:7; James 2:15-16; I John 3:17.

(6) To dress as Christians should according to biblical standards, giving clear testimony to Christian purity and modesty by properly clothing the body and not wearing unnecessary adornments.

I Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4.

(7) To abstain from all forms of gambling.

Ex. 20:17; Rom. 14:21; I Cor. 6:12. Gambling violates the principle of Christian stewardship and the Tenth Commandment, is harmful to the individual in that it is emotionally habit forming, is a poor example to others, and spoils the moral climate of society.

(8) To refuse to produce, sell, or use any substances known to be destructive of physical and mental well-being, such as alcoholic beverages and tobacco, to refuse to use drugs for other than proper medical purposes.
Toward Family

(9) To respect all rightly appointed authority in the home, the church, and the state, except when to do so violates the clear teachings of the Scriptures.


(10) To observe the teachings of Scripture regarding marriage and divorce. We affirm that God's plan for marriage is that man should have only one wife (monogamy), and we regard sexual sin of the spouse, such as adultery, homosexual behavior, bestiality, or incest as the only biblical grounds for considering divorce, and then only when Christian counseling has failed to restore the relationship.

Ex. 20:14,17; Matt. 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18.

(11) To keep the home holy by honoring Christ in every phase of family life, to encourage the training and education of the 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.

Prov. 22:6; Mark 10:9; Eph. 5:28; 6:4.

Toward the Church

(12) To work together for the advancement of God's kingdom and for the spiritual growth of fellow believers, in holiness, knowledge, and love; to walk together in Christian fellowship, in carefulness, giving and receiving advice and correction with meekness and affection; to pray one for the other; to help one another in sickness and distress; to develop Christian sympathy, and to demonstrate purity, charity, and courtesy in all manner of life.

Rom. 15:1-2; Eph. 4; I Thess. 5.

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

Mark 2:18-20; Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; Rom. 12:12; I Cor. 11:23-28; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; I Tim. 2:1-2; II Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 10:25; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18.

(14) To take no part in nor become a member of secret societies and lodges which are oath bound. We believe that the near religious nature of such societies divides the Christian’s loyalty, and their secret nature is against the Christian’s open witness. The secret nature of their oaths is not acceptable to the Christian conscience.

Ex. 20:3; Matt. 5:34-36; John 18:20; Acts 4:12; James 5:12. These prohibitions do not restrict membership in labour, 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 keep the fellowship and witness of the Church in the use of languages. The Wesleyan Church believes in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. But it is against the clear teaching of the Word of God as understood by The Wesleyan Church to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or of that entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes (117-118); therefore only a language easily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. Furthermore, the use of a so-called ecstatic prayer language has no clear scriptural sanction, but tends rather to bring controversy and division; therefore there should be no seeking for, promoting of, or witnessing to a possession of such a prayer language among us.

Acts 8:14-17; I Cor. 12:1-14:40; Gal. 5:22-24.

Toward Others

(16) To do good of every possible sort and as far as possible to all men, especially to fellow Christians; to their bodies, of the ability which God gives, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison; to their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting them in love with all possible diligence, that the gospel be not blamed.


(17) To respect the inherent individual rights of all persons, regardless of race, color, or sex.

I Cor. 8:13; 12:13; Gal. 3:28; 1 Tim. 5:21.

(18) To live honestly, be just in all our dealings and faithful to all our commitments.
137. These are the Membership Commitments of our Church. We believe all these to be in agreement with the principles of Christ as taught in the Word of God, which is the only and sufficient rule both of our faith and practice. If any among us does not observe them, and/or habitually breaks any of them, we will warn him in love with the hope of restoring him to a life of harmony with the above Membership Commitments. If such efforts of restoration continue to prove fruitless, official action should be taken toward termination of said person's church membership. However, the church members are encouraged to continue efforts toward the spiritual restoration of this person.

Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:6-7,9-13; II Cor. 2:5-7; 5:18-20; 6:14-18; Gal. 6:1-10; Eph. 4:25-32; Titus 3:10-11.

Article IV. The First Principles of the Church

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

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

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

143. All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only, and no pastor or member should have church membership taken from him except for immorality, the teaching of false doctrines, or for neglect of duties which are commanded by the Word of God.

144. The pastor and his duties are appointed by God, and all pastors in the church of God are equal; but pastors are not to be masters over the church, or to have power over the faith of the Christians.

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

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

147. It is the duty of all pastors and members of the Church to live a holy life and to fight against all evil.
148. It is necessary that pastors be faithful in their pastoral duties, and it is necessary that
the members have proper respect to the pastors because of their work, and to give them
suitable payment for their labours.

Article V. Amendments

155. These Articles may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the National
Conference at any regular biennial meeting, subject to the approval of the North American
General Board of Administration.
Chapter Six

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

160. Because of the many evils in the world today and because the Christian is faced with many temptations to do wrong, The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone makes the following statements concerning moral issues (matters of right and wrong) of the day. These statements are for the purpose of guiding members in correct Christian living.

161. Statements on Marriage

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that Christian marriage is God's plan for beginning the Christian home, and affirms the scriptural teaching that the Christian should take only a fellow believer as a marriage partner (II Cor. 6:14).

(2) Christian marriage includes proper customary and traditional arrangements between the persons and families concerned, as well as a Christian marriage ceremony performed by a pastor in a separate marriage service (1480), or as a part of a regular service (1480, 1500), or as a ceremony included at the time of the traditional arrangements and announced publicly to the church (1490). A pastor shall not perform a marriage ceremony until he is satisfied that proper arrangements have been completed with the families involved. The Church expects the Christian man and woman to be joined together by a Christian marriage ceremony. Those who have already been married in the customary and traditional ways are encouraged to have a Christian marriage ceremony either in the home or church (1500). The Church does recognize, however, the practice of traditional customs as a legal marriage, and the pastor may be called on to give advice and prayer at such a time, although doing so does not constitute a ceremony (1495).

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

(4) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes the scriptural teaching regarding divorce—that the man and wife are bound together in marriage for life, no matter which ceremony brought them together—traditional, civil, or church. Only biblical grounds may be considered for divorce (136:10).

(5) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes that monogamy (having one wife) is God's plan for Christian marriage as taught in the Scriptures (Gen. 2:18, 24; Matt. 19:4-5; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:5, 6) (109). A Christian man who is a full or an associate member of the Church who enters into a polygamous marriage (takes more than one wife) commits an offense against God's Word and the rules of the Church. Such a person who
continues with a polygamous marriage and does not repent shall have his membership terminated.

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

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

162. Statement on Drunkenness and Harmful Drugs

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes the Scriptures plainly teach that drunkenness and the use of other drugs that harm the body are sins against God (Prov. 20:1; Prov. 23:29-35; Isa. 5:11; Luke 21:34; Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 3:11; Gal. 5:19-20; Eph. 5:17, 18). Persons who use any kind of strong drink which causes drunkenness and harmful drugs commit an offense against God's Word and the rules of the church (I Tim. 3:8), and such persons are not eligible for Church membership. Church members who are found to be guilty of using strong drink and harmful drugs shall be warned of the error of their ways; and if there is not repentance and evidence of change of life, their Church membership shall be terminated.

(2) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone affirms the power of the Holy Spirit to provide joy, peace, and happiness in life so that strong drinks and harmful drugs are not necessary (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:22).

163. Statements on Pagan Religious Practices

(1) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone believes the Scriptures plainly teach that the Christian is to worship God only and to put his faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (Ex. 20:3-6, Deut. 18:9-12; Acts 4:12; I Cor. 3:11; 10:21). The Church strongly condemns all forms of pagan religious practices, believing that they come from Satan. Pagan religious practices include the holding or use of fetishes and jujus, making sacrifices to spirits or ancestors, causing a "swear" to be put on people or things, and use of "medicine" purchased from a sorcerer or Mori man, and giving religious respect to idols, devils, ancestors, or other things connected with pagan worship.

(2) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone affirms God's protection and provision for Christians in personal and family situations dealing with health, land, and welfare (Isa. 41:10; Luke 12:4, 5; Phil. 4:6, 7, 19).

(3) No person can be a Christian and also hold to any form of pagan religious belief or practice; therefore a person is not eligible for either associate or full membership in the
church who holds any form of pagan belief or practice. Church members who return to any kind of pagan religious beliefs or practices commit an offense against God's Word and the rules of the Church (136:2), and they shall be warned of the error of their ways; and if there is not repentance and evidence of change of life, their Church membership shall be terminated.

164. Statements on Pagan Societies

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

(2) In the face of increased pressures put on the Christian regarding land disputes, politics, leadership, and community life, with many decisions in these areas being made by members of secret societies, The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone affirms that our help and security come from God, the Maker of heaven and earth, and from our loyal bonds to one another in the body of Christ, the Church (Psalm 46; John 16:33; Acts 2:42-47).

(3) Persons who are members of any pagan society shall not be eligible for either associate or full membership in the Church unless such membership in a pagan society is renounced. A Church member who joins a pagan society by his own choice shall be warned of the error of his ways, and if he refuses to repent and renounce such membership, his Church membership shall be terminated. A Church member who is forced to join a pagan society must renounce such membership or his Church membership shall be terminated.

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

165. Statements on Dancing

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

(2) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone affirms that the Christian is to glorify and represent Christ in all activities. It also affirms that the Christian life is full of wholesome joy and fellowship (John 10:10; Col. 3:17).
(3) The Church does not condemn traditional dancing, such as folk dancing or games, but does strongly condemn any form of dancing which includes drunkenness, immorality, pagan practices, or temptation toward the same.

166. Statement on Practical Honesty

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

(2) The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone opposes all forms of taking and receiving bribes as totally unscriptural and unchristian. God hates all forms of corruption and injustice, and warns that such things bring ruin to a nation. On the other hand, God promises to bring good to those who do what is honest, right, just, and pleasing to Him. God will supply all the needs of those who seek His kingdom above earthly things. (Ex. 23:8; 1Sam. 8:3; Ps. 26:10; 37:1-6; 84:11; Isa. 33:15; Amos 5:12-15; Matt. 6:33; Rom. 8:28.)

167. Statements on Baptism

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

(2) Candidates for baptism shall first receive instruction in the basic Christian beliefs (baptism classes) (310:12). Candidates for baptism may be baptized as soon as they meet the requirements of 167:1 and have completed the course of Christian instruction.
PART II. LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT
Chapter One

LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

A. Purpose of Local Churches

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

B. Kinds of Churches

1. Organized Church

204. Requirements for Organization: An unorganized church or preaching point may become an organized church when it meets these requirements:

(1) Town churches:

a) Twelve or more persons who are full members or are approved and ready to be received as full members (240) with at least eighteen associate members (246) when the church is ready to be organized (495:19; 524:14).

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

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

d) The ability to pay at least one-half of the pastor’s salary, with the understanding that within five years the church will become a fully self-supporting church.

e) The ability to assist with district support as assigned.

f) An organized town church shall be reclassified as an unorganized church if its full membership falls below ten people or if it is no longer able to meet one or more of the above conditions.

(2) Village churches
a) Eight or more persons who are full members or are approved and ready to be received as full members (240) with at least twelve associate members (246) when the church is ready to be organized (495:19; 524:14).

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

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

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

e) An organized village church shall be reclassified as an unorganized church if its full membership falls below six people or if it is unable to meet one or more of the above conditions.

205. **How a church is organized:** When an unorganized church (210) or preaching point (224) meets the requirements (204), it may become an organized church. An unorganized church or preaching point shall first be approved for organization by the district board of administration (495:19).

208. The organizational meeting shall be conducted by the district superintendent, or his representative (524:14) as follows:

1. The reading of the Articles of Religion, the Membership Commitments, and the Special Directions of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone by the district superintendent or his representative.

2. An examination of any new candidates for membership, conducted personally by the district superintendent or, in extreme emergencies, his representative (524:14). Each candidate shall be questioned concerning his Christian life, and concerning his obedience to the Membership Commitments and the Special Directions of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

3. The reading of the ritual for receiving new full members and the answer by the candidates (1450 ff).

4. The declaration of organization made by the district superintendent or his representatives:

   “On the basis of this examination in the presence of God, I give you each the right hand of fellowship, and declare by this act that you are a Christian church organized on the basis of The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and that you have all the rights, powers, and duties of an established, organized church.”

5. The first business meeting of the local church with the election of officers (280; 288:1).
(6) The report of the organization by the district superintendent to the next regular session of the district board of administration and the next regular session of the district conference (495:19; 524:14).

(7) The stationing of a pastor, if such has not already been done (495:9).

2. Unorganized Church

210. Any church group which has fewer than eight people in a village church and twelve people in a town church who are qualified to be full members (240) shall be an unorganized church.

211. An unorganized church shall become an organized church within a period of five years from the time a pastor is first stationed. If unable to become organized within this period of time, its situation shall be reviewed by the district board of administration (495:19).

214. An unorganized church shall meet the following requirements:

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

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

3. The ability to pay at least part of the pastor’s salary as specified by the district finance committee.

216. An unorganized church shall keep a membership roll. The pastor shall train candidates for membership. The district superintendent shall approve reception of members (240:7; 524:13).

217. An unorganized church may have church business meetings with the pastor as chairman. The pastor shall have the right to make the final decision in all matters concerning the local church, subject to the approval of the district board of administration (495:19).

218. An unorganized church does not have a local church board, but the pastor with the help of the district superintendent shall choose one or more laymen, who are full members, or in the absence of full members are faithful Christians, to help him and give advice in matters concerning the local church. The pastor with this advisory committee shall appoint a Christian layman to be the church treasurer. The pastor shall make certain that all church officers and Sunday school teachers are true Christians.
3. Preaching Point

224. A preaching point is a village or town which a pastor visits regularly and where he holds church services at least twice a month. Believers at the preaching points may become members of the mother church if they meet all requirements (240). All statistics of attendance and offerings at the preaching points shall be added to the statistics of the mother church.

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

226. A preaching point may become an unorganized or an organized church when it meets the requirements for such (204; 214).

4. Circuit

230. 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 specifically appointed them as a circuit. Each church on a circuit shall be either organized, unorganized, or a preaching point, and conduct its business and function according to its status as laid out in The Discipline.
Chapter Two

MEMBERSHIP

A. Kinds of Membership

1. Full Membership

240. Those persons shall be admitted to full membership in any Wesleyan church (200) who meet the following requirements:

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

2. Have attended baptism classes and been baptized (310:12).

3. Have attended membership classes (310:12).

4. Are willing to accept the Articles of Religion (103ff) and live by the Membership Commitments (135, 136) and the Special Directions (160ff) of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

5. Agree to support the church in spirit, attendance, and finance, and to live in fellowship with all the members of the church.

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

7. Have been approved to become members by the local church board (342:7). In the case of an unorganized church, have been approved by the district superintendent (216; 524:13).

241. Christians who want to become full members shall be examined by the local church board, or, in the case of an unorganized church, the district superintendent, to see if they meet the requirements for full membership (240; 342:7). The local church board shall give final approval for all candidates for full membership (342:7) with the action subject to review by the local church conference (288:6). Persons who have been accepted for full membership shall be received as full members in a public service. Their names shall be written in the list of full members in the church record book (254).

242. Candidates for membership in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall have two separate training sessions: First, they shall attend baptism classes prior to baptism. Secondly, they shall attend membership classes, preferably after baptism.
2. Associate Membership

246. Those persons who have been converted to Christ through new birth, have been baptized, attend church services regularly, and support the Church, but who may not meet all the requirements of full membership (240), shall be accepted as associate members.

247. Associate members may hold church offices except those where full membership is required (332; 342:12; 350; 353; 360; 366, 380). They have a voice but no vote in the local church conference (280). An associate member may become a full member at any time he is qualified and approved by the local church board (240; 342:7). It is expected that associate members will strive to become qualified for full membership.

3. Junior Membership

250. Those children and youth thirteen years of age and under who have been saved from their sins and baptized shall be accepted as junior members. Candidates for junior membership shall be approved by the local church board (342:7). When a junior member becomes fourteen years of age, he must either become a full member by meeting all the requirements for such (240), or be transferred to the associate membership list (246).

B. Record of Membership

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

C. Transfer of Membership

260. Any member who moves to another town or village where there is a Wesleyan church may transfer his membership. Upon request, the pastor shall write a letter of transfer, which shall be sent to the pastor of the church to which the member is transferring. In the church record book, after the person's name, the date of withdrawal of membership and the words “Withdrawn by letter of transfer” shall be written (254).

261. The local church board of the church receiving a member by letter shall have the right to approve the transfer after interviewing the candidate (240). The names of transfer members and the date of receiving shall be written in the church record book (254).

262. The membership of a pastor, and his family if any are members, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which he is appointed (1230).
D. Termination of Membership

270. Membership in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may be terminated (ended) only by one or more of the following ways:

1) Voluntary withdrawal.

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

3) Removal of membership after proper trial by the local church board and being found guilty of accepting false doctrines, or disobeying the rules of the church (1040:5).

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

5) Death.
Chapter Three
LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

A. Function and Composition

280. The local church conference is the chief governing body of the local church. The members of an organized local church called together to do business make up the local church conference. Only full members have the right to vote in the local church conference. Those full members which assemble for the meeting of the local church conference when it has been properly called shall make up a quorum.

B. Sessions

282. A local church conference shall be held in each organized church at least once each year, one month before the annual district conference with at least two weeks public announcement. Church meetings may be held at other times, called by the pastor or the local church board with at least one week public announcement.

C. Organization and Procedure

284. The district superintendent or his representative shall be chairman of the local church conference whenever he is present. In his absence, the pastor shall be the chairman except in those meetings in which matters concerning the pastor are discussed. At such times the vice-chairman of the local church board shall act as chairman. Whenever possible a secretary shall be elected annually who shall write a record of all business of the church. If there is no layman who can act as secretary, the pastor shall write the record of all church business.

D. Duties and Powers

288. The duties and powers of the local church conference shall be the following:

(i) To elect from among full members the following church officers at the annual meeting: the church treasurer, the church secretary, the Sunday school superintendent, and members-at-large of the local church board.

(ii) To receive reports from the pastor and church officers, auxiliaries, and church committees (such as auditing committee).

(iii) To remove from office, when such is in the best interests of the church, by a majority vote of those present and voting, any church officer except the pastor.
(4) To decide on plans and programmes for the growth of the church and for the interests of the church members, as long as such plans and programmes are in agreement with The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(5) To consider and vote upon items of business which are to be sent to the annual district conference for action (474; 495:7).

(6) To review the reception of members if necessary (241).

(7) To make recommendations to the district board of administration concerning renewal or change in the pastoral call (303, 304).

(8) To license local preachers upon the recommendation of the pastor and the local board of administration, and to withdraw the same (1200).
Chapter Four

PASTORS

A. Purpose of the Pastor

300. The pastor is a man who is called of God and stationed by the district board of administration (495:9) to serve as the spiritual leader of the local church. He is also the manager of local church affairs. The pastor is to preach the Word of God, lead the people in worship and church services, take the gospel to people in sin, and help those who are sick and in trouble.

B. Stationing of Pastors

302. The district board of administration shall station all pastors (495:9) with the approval of the annual district conference (480:12). This stationing shall normally be made at the time of the annual district conference.

303. When there is need for a change of pastor in a local church, the district superintendent shall bring a recommendation to the district board of administration (524:16). The district board of administration is not obligated to accept his recommendation, but shall give it due consideration (302).

304. When there is a pastoral change, any organized church shall have the right to recommend the name of the pastor they want to the district board of administration. This request should be sent to the district superintendent at least three weeks before the annual district conference. The district board of administration is not obligated to fulfill such a request but shall give it due consideration (302).

305. Any pastor shall have the right to ask the district board of administration for a change of station. A letter from the pastor asking for a change and giving the reasons for the request should be sent to the district superintendent and copied to the local church at least three weeks before the annual district conference. The district board of administration is not obligated to fulfill such a request but shall give it due consideration (302).

C. Transfer of Pastors

A pastor is normally liable to be transferred to another station after a period of one year.

D. Duties and Powers of the Pastor

310. The duties and powers of the pastor shall be the following:
(1) To give himself to the study of the Bible, to prayer, and to the work assigned to him.

(2) To try, by all means, to bring sinners to Christ, to lead believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to help all Christians to grow spiritually.

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

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

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

(6) To give the Lord's Supper, if an ordained or stationed and licensed pastor (1213:2), and to baptize new Christians, if an ordained pastor (1224:2).

(7) To have a Christian marriage service for the Christian man and woman who are to be married (161).

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

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

(10) To read and explain the Membership Commitments (135-136) and Special Directions (160ff) of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone at least once each year and to see that all full members obey the rules of the church, and to encourage all associate members to qualify for full membership (240).

(11) To accept new members into the church after being approved by the local church board (342:7).

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

(13) To be the chairman of all local church conferences, in the absence of the district superintendent or his representative (286), and of the local board of administration (332); and to be the manager of all local church affairs.

(14) To help organize and keep going men's meetings, women's meetings, and youth meetings in the church.

(15) To give leadership in the evangelistic outreach of the church.

(16) To encourage youth and children's work in the church and to regularly visit and
(17) To announce to the church all the plans for the local church made by the district board of administration and the annual district conference.

(18) To keep up to date the church record book (254).

(19) To promote tithing and good stewardship among the Christians both by faithful example and clear teaching, and to see that all financial agreements are paid in full.

(20) To help and encourage the Sunday school.

(21) To give reports to the local church (288:2; 342:4), and to the quarterly conference (428).

(22) To prepare and submit to the district superintendent a quarterly statistical report for the local church (524:20).

(23) To submit an annual service report to the district board of pastoral standing (555:5), and an annual statistical report to the district statistical committee (572:1).

(24) To attend quarterly conferences, the annual district conference, and other institutes and conferences planned to help the pastor and his work.

D. Duties and Powers of an Associate Pastor

314. The duties and powers of an associate pastor shall be the following:

(1) To be ready to perform any or all of the duties of the senior pastor with particular assignment to one or more specific aspects of ministry (300, 310).

(2) To serve as chairman of the local board of administration in the absence of the senior pastor (332).

(3) To be licensed or ordained following the guidelines for senior pastors (1210-1232).

(4) To be stationed in the same manner as senior pastors (302-305).

E. Duties and powers of an Assistant Pastor

318. The duties and powers of an assistant pastor shall be the following:

(1) To be ready to perform any or all of the duties of the senior pastor, but with a focus
upon a limited and specific ministry assignment (300, 310).

(2) To serve as chairman of the local board of administration in the absence of the senior pastor or associate pastor (332).

(3) To be licensed or ordained following the guidelines for senior pastors (1210-1232).

(4) To be stationed in the same manner as senior pastors (302-305).
Chapter Five

LOCAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. The Purpose of the Local Board of Administration

330. Each organized church shall have a local board of administration which serves as the chief governing body of the local church between sessions of the local church conference.

B. Membership of the Local Board of Administration

332. Members of the local board of administration shall be full members of the organized church. The membership of the local board of administration consists of the pastor as chairman (310:13), the associate or the assistant pastor (314, 318), the church secretary (360), the church treasurer (355), the Sunday school superintendent (366), and members-at-large. Churches which have fewer than 50 full members may have two members-at-large. Churches which have 50 or more full members may have up to five members-at-large. The members-at-large shall be elected at the annual church business meeting (288:1). One of the lay members shall be elected by the local board of administration as the lay leader of the church and vice-chairman of the board. In the absence of the pastor, the full-time associate or the assistant pastor may serve as chairman upon annual decision by the local board of administration.

333. Presidents of the women’s, men’s, and youth’s auxiliaries shall be nonvoting members of the local board of administration unless otherwise elected as members-at-large or other office.

334. It is recommended that no two persons from the same household should serve on the local board of administration.

C. Meetings of the Local Board of Administration

340. The local board of administration shall meet once each month, and it may be called for special meetings by the pastor or the district superintendent or his representative.

D. Duties and Powers of the Local Board of Administration

342. The duties and powers of the local board of administration shall be the following:

(1) To direct all activities of the local church to the spiritual growth of its people.
(2) To see that there is a place for worship, and to see that the place is kept clean and in good repair.

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

(4) To hear the reports of the pastor (310:21), the church treasurer (356:3), and other church officers that might have reports.

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

(6) To make a financial plan for the church, and to direct the church treasurer how the church money should be spent (356:1).

(7) To examine all those who want to become full members of the church (241) to see that they meet all the requirements (240), and to approve those who are qualified for full membership (240:7).

(8) To examine the church membership list each year and to make necessary changes (254; 270).

(9) To appoint a local judicial committee to hear and settle all cases between Christians in the church, to hold a trial for any member charged with an offense (925; 927), to suspend or terminate the membership of those found guilty of a serious offense and who do not repent and change their life, and to refer to the district superintendent any case which cannot be settled in the local church (524:23).

(10) To elect each year, Sunday school teachers (375), Sunday school secretary, church financial secretary (370), lay delegates to the annual district conference (380, 458), and other church positions as are necessary.

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

(12) To approve the nominations for presidents of the various auxiliaries (1326:6).

(13) To recommend, on the advice of the pastor, candidates for local preacher to the local church conference (288:8; 1200).
Chapter Six

LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

A. Vice-Chairman/Lay Leader

350. The local board of administration shall elect one of its own lay members to serve as the lay leader of the local church and vice-chairman of the board.

351. The duties of the lay leader shall be:

   (1) To assist and support the pastor.

   (2) To be the link between the congregation and pastor when matters of difference arise.

   (3) To chair the local board of administration when the pastoral staff is not present.

   (4) To chair the local board of administration and local church conference when discussing matters relating to pastors (286).

B. Church Treasurer

355. The local organized church, at its annual local church conference, shall elect a church treasurer from among the full members (288:1). He shall be a member of the local board of administration (332).

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

   (1) To receive, hold, and pay out all money of the local church, as ordered by the local board of administration (342:6).

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

   (3) To make a monthly report to the local board of administration of the finances of the local church (342:4).

   (4) To make the annual treasurer’s report to the local church conference (288:2).

C. Church Secretary

360. The local organized church, at its annual local church conference, may elect a church secretary from among the full members (288:1). He shall be a member of the local board
361. The duties and powers of the local church secretary shall be the following:

1. To write the minutes of all local church conference meetings and the meetings of
the local board of administration.

2. To help the pastor keep the church record book up to date (254).

3. To report actions of the local board of administration throughout the year to the
local church conference (288:2).

D. Sunday School Superintendent

366. The local organized church, at its annual local church conference, may elect a
Sunday school superintendent from among the full members (288:1). He shall be a mem­
er of the local board of administration (332).

367. The duties and powers of the Sunday school superintendent shall be the following:

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

2. To encourage interest in and attendance at the Sunday school.

3. To make a monthly report of the Sunday school statistics to the local board of
administration (342:4).

4. To report annually to the local church conference concerning the state of the
Sunday school over the year (288:2).

E. Church Financial Secretary

370. The local board of administration may elect a church financial secretary (342:10).

371. The duties of the church financial secretary shall be:

1. To count and record all tithes and offerings collected by the church, with the assis­
tance of at least one other person.

2. To make his records available to the auditing committee as needed and to assist
the treasurer in making monthly and annual reports (356:2, 3, 4).

F. Sunday School Teachers
375. The local board of administration shall elect teachers for each of the classes of the local Sunday school, making sure that each teacher is a true Christian (342:10).

G. Delegates to the Annual District Conference

380. The local board of administration shall elect, from among the full members, the lay delegates to the annual district conference (342:10). Each organized church shall have lay delegates elected to the district conference according to the following plan of representation (457; 458; 459):

(1) Churches with 12 to 50 full members shall be entitled to one delegate.
(2) Churches with 51 to 150 full members shall be entitled to two delegates.
(3) Churches with 151 or more full members shall be entitled to three delegates.
PART III. DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter One

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

A. Definition

400. A district is a specified geographical area created by authority of the National Conference, within which, churches, pastors, and members of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are organized according to The Discipline and are under its governing authority.

B. Pioneer District

401. Purpose. New work, or other work which does not meet the requirements for a provisional district (409), shall be provided for by establishing a pioneer district.

402. Authorization. The establishment of a pioneer district may be authorized by the National Conference (669:15) upon the recommendation of the National Board of Administration (682:29), or in the interim of the National Conference sessions by the National Board of Administration. The authorization act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the pioneer district. Any proposed boundaries that will change existing districts in the interim of National Conference sessions, must have the approval of such a district.

403. Administration. A pioneer district shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration (682:29) and shall be administered by the National Superintendent (740:18) in agreement with the Discipline and the policies of the National Board of Administration. The district superintendent of the pioneer district shall be responsible for developing the work as rapidly as possible to meet the status of a provisional district.

404. Organization. The pioneer district shall be organized and governed as follows:

1. The district superintendent shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration upon recommendation by the National Superintendent (682:29).

2. As soon as possible the district superintendent, in consultation with the National Superintendent, shall:
   (a) Appoint other officers such as a district evangelist.
   (b) Form a district advisory council comprised of 3-5 members, including the district superintendent, the secretary/treasurer, district evangelist and one to two members at large. The auxiliary presidents of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Young...
Adults, and Wesleyan Youth shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the council.

(3) The council shall exercise the duties and powers of the district board of administration (495), district board of pastoral standing (555) and other boards as deemed necessary. As a pioneer district all actions shall be subject to review by the National Board of Administration (682:29).

(4) The advisory council shall be responsible to assist the district superintendent in qualifying the district to the status of a provisional district as quickly as possible.

405. Annual District Conference

(1) The pioneer district shall have an annual district conference (452) at a place and date approved by the National Board of Administration (682:29).

(2) The conference shall conduct business like a provisional district with the following restrictions on its duties and powers:
   (a) Relating to pastors/commissioned workers: Granting of ordination, issuing of licenses and commissioning of workers shall be voted on by the National Board of Administration for which recommendations shall be submitted by the district advisory council (404:3).
   (b) Relating to election of officers, boards and committees: members of boards and committees shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:29) for which recommendations shall be submitted by the district advisory council through the district superintendent.

406. Representation to National Conference. The pioneer district shall be represented at the National Conference by the district superintendent and one lay person as voting members elected by the district conference. In addition, for each one hundred full members or major fraction thereof, the district conference shall elect one pastoral and one lay delegate to the National Conference.

C. Provisional District

408. Authorization. A provisional district is created by the National Conference on the recommendation of the National Board of Administration (660:15) or, in the interim of the National Conference, by the National Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the National Conference. The authorization act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the provisional district. Any proposed boundaries that will change existing districts in the interim of National Conference, must have the approval of such a district.

409. 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 pastors (1228).

(3) The holding of all property in trust for the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone or steps taken to do so.

410. Administration. A provisional district shall be under the administration of the National Board of Administration (682:29) and shall be under the oversight of the National Superintendent in agreement with The Discipline and the policies of the National Board of Administration. The National Superintendent shall be responsible for the developing of a provisional district to meet the requirements of an established district as soon as possible.

411. Organization. A provisional district shall be organized in the same way as an established district as set forth in The Discipline, as much as possible, 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 (480:16), however the National Board of Administration may, 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 National Superintendent concerning the important plans of the district, including the location of property, erection of buildings, and financial matters.

   (2) District Officers, Boards, and Committees. A provisional district shall first be concerned with the election of its district officials (480:18) and district board of administration (486:18). 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 National Superintendent (740:18), to meet the requirements for a complete district organization as soon as possible (416).

   (3) Appointments. The appointment of pastors, evangelists, and special workers for a provisional district shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration for which recommendations shall be received from the district superintendent.

   (4) Amenability. The minutes of a provisional district conference and its district board of administration shall be reviewed by the National Superintendent and shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee.

412. Representation to National Conference. The provisional district shall be represented in the National Conference by the district superintendent and one layman elected by the district conference. In addition, for each one hundred full members, or major fraction thereof, the district conference shall elect one pastoral and one lay delegate to the National Conference.
413. **Reclassification.** Whenever a provisional district falls below the minimum requirements in 409, it may be reclassified as a pioneer district by the National Conference (660:15) or in the interim of its sessions, by the National Board of Administration, subject to review and approval of the National Conference at its next session.

D. **Established District**

415. **Authorization.** An established district is created by the National Conference on the recommendation of the National Board of Administration (660:15; 682:28) or, in the interim of the National Conference, by the National Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the National Conference. The authorization act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the district.

416. **Requirements.** The minimum requirements for an established district are:

1. A minimum of fifteen churches and seven hundred fifty full members.

2. The holding of all property in trust for the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone or steps taken to do so.

3. A reasonable degree of spiritual, organizational, and financial stability.

4. The recommendation of the National Board of Administration (682:28).

417. **Organizing Conference.** When an established district has been authorized (415), an organizing session of the district conference shall be called by the National Superintendent (740:17, 18). The National Superintendent shall declare it to be an established district with all the authority and powers belonging to it according to The Discipline. After such, the district conference shall do business and elect officials.

418. **Representation to National Conference.** An established district shall be represented in the National Conference by the district superintendent and one lay delegate as voting members elected by the district conference. In addition, for each one hundred full members or major fraction thereof, the district conference shall elect one pastoral and one lay delegate to the National Conference (606).

419. **Reclassification.** If a district no longer meets the requirements of an established district, it may, by vote of its district conference, petition for reclassification as a provisional district. Reclassification is by the National Conference or by the National Board of Administration (660:15).

420. **Amenability.** An established district is amenable to the National Conference and to the National Board of Administration.
E. District Zone Organization

425. **Purpose.** A district may be divided into zones so churches which are near each other may be organized for the purpose of administration, fellowship, and in-service training. Zones may hold quarterly conferences (435-438).

426. **Boundaries.** The number of zones and their boundaries may be set by the district board of administration (495:11).

428. **Zone Supervisor.** The zone supervisor shall be a spiritual leader who is given supervisory responsibility within the zone, under the direction of the district superintendent. He shall be elected by the district board of administration from among the stationed ordained pastors within the zone. His term of service shall be for one year.

430. **Duties of the Zone Supervisor.** The duties of the zone supervisor shall be the following:

1. To be the chairman of the quarterly conference in the absence of the district superintendent or the assistant district superintendent (438).

2. To work under the direction of the district superintendent (524:6) as a supervisor of pastors and churches within the zone, being responsible to the district superintendent for the following:
   a. Visiting each church within the zone at least two times each year, carefully checking church records, the pastor’s work, and the progress of the church in its attendance, membership, stewardship, and spiritual life, making certain that all church records and pastoral reports are correct.
   b. Promoting evangelism and church extension within the zone, and encouraging pastors to hold baptism and membership training classes.
   c. Assisting churches to observe the Lord’s Supper, and to conduct baptismal services.

3. To inform the pastors of the zone regarding matters of importance from the district superintendent and the district board of administration.

4. To report to the district superintendent as may be required regarding any or all of the pastors or churches within the zone.

5. To submit a quarterly report of activities, pastors’ statistical reports, and financial statement to the district superintendent (524:10), and an annual report of activities, highlights, and finances to the district conference (480:6).

6. To be a nonvoting member of the district board of administration (486:2).

7. To perform any other duties assigned by the district superintendent or the district board of administration.

55
F. Quarterly Conference

435. **Purpose.** A district or zones within a district may hold quarterly conferences for the purpose of receiving pastors' quarterly reports, planning, fellowship, and in-service training. The quarterly conference is not a lawmaking body, but may make plans to help the growth of the churches within the district or zone. Recommendations regarding administrative and policy matters may be forwarded to the district board of administration for consideration.

436. **Membership.** The quarterly conference shall be made up of all stationed ordained and licensed pastors within the zone.

437. **Meetings.** A quarterly conference may be held quarterly during the district fiscal year, with the exception of the fourth quarterly meeting which is the annual district conference.

438. **Officers.** The district superintendent shall be the chairman of the quarterly conference (524:1), except in his absence in which event the assistant district superintendent shall be the chairman (527:1). When neither the district superintendent nor his assistant is present, the zone supervisor shall be the chairman (430:1). The quarterly conference may elect one of its members as secretary who shall keep a record of all pastoral reports and other actions and plans of the quarterly conference.

G. Interdistrict Cooperation

440. Two or more neighboring districts may unite their resources and personnel in cooperative efforts in such areas as evangelism, church planting, camps, exchange of pastors, or employing special workers. Such cooperative programmes shall be administered by an interdistrict board or committee composed of members from each district involved. The plan for such cooperative efforts shall be under the supervision of the National Superintendent, and not implemented until after authorization of each district conference.

H. Merger or Realignment

442. The National Conference shall have the authority to approve the merger or division of districts, or the realignment of any district boundaries. Negotiations for such a merger, division, or realignment shall be under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the National Board of Administration (682:28).

443. Whenever each district conference involved in a merger, division, or realignment of districts shall approve the proposed plan, the National Board of Administration shall have the authority to grant approval in the interim of the National Conference sessions (682:28).
Chapter Two

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. Purpose of the District Conference

450. A district conference is the chief governing body of a district. It has such powers as are given to it in the Constitution and by the National Conference as set forth in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (480).

B. Membership of the District Conference

1. Plan of Representation

452. The district conference shall be made up of pastors and lay delegates as voting members (453; 454), and other nonvoting members as listed in The Discipline (455).

453. Voting Members - Pastors. The pastoral members of the district conference with voting rights are the following:

   (1) All ordained pastors who are either stationed or retired (1155, 1165).

   (2) All licensed pastors who are stationed (1158), except for students in pastoral training (455:3).

   (3) All ordained missionaries serving in the area of the district conference after one year of service in Sierra Leone.

   (4) General Officials who are guests of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

   (5) National Superintendent Emeritus.

454. Voting Members - Laymen. The lay members of the district conference with voting rights are the following:

   (1) Those laymen who are elected by the local board of administration (342:10) as delegates from the organized churches (380; 457; 458; 459).

   (2) Those laymen who are elected as delegates from each organized auxiliary of the church: Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Young Adults, and Wesleyan Youth (1335:3).

   (3) Those laymen who are elected to the district board of administration (486).
(4) Those laymen who have been appointed as supply pastors (1206:3).

455. Nonvoting Members. The nonvoting members of the district conference, with a voice but without a vote, except by some other right, are the following:

1. Ordained pastors who are not on the stationed list (1167).
2. Ordained and licensed pastors who are in the process of transfer (1170).
3. Licensed pastors who are not on the stationed list (1167), and licensed pastors in pastoral training (453:2).
4. Non-licensed students in pastoral training.
5. Representatives from unorganized churches (462).
6. Commissioned special workers (1162).
7. Lay missionaries serving in the area of the district conference.
8. National Commissioned Special Workers

2. Lay Delegates

456. Loss of Representation. A local church or circuit which is under discipline as provided for in the Judiciary, shall lose all rights to representation by a lay delegate in the district conference (960:3).

457. Number of Lay Delegates. Each organized church shall have lay delegates elected to the district conference (380) according to the following plan of representation:

1. Churches with 12 to 50 full members shall be entitled to one delegate.
2. Churches with 51 to 150 full members shall be entitled to two delegates.
3. Churches with 151 or more full members shall be entitled to three delegates.

458. Election of Lay Delegates. The lay and alternate lay delegates of the district conference shall be elected by the local board of administration of the organized church (342:10, 380). A person accepting the election as a delegate shall agree to attend faithfully all the sessions of the district conference, unless unable to do so because of an emergency. In such cases an alternate delegate shall attend. The pastor shall give a certified list of the elected delegates to the district secretary before the first session of the district conference.

459. Qualifications of Lay Delegates. A lay delegate must be a full member and in good standing of the organized church he represents (204; 240). A lay delegate representing an
auxiliary organization of the church must also be a full member of an organized church. An ordained or licensed pastor may not be elected or serve as a lay delegate.

3. Representatives from Unorganized Churches

462. Each unorganized church to which a pastor is stationed shall be entitled to one representative to the district conference. Representatives from unorganized churches have a voice in the district conference, but cannot vote (455:5).

4. Observers

463. Churches may send observers to conference, if they desire to do so. These, along with any other observers and guests, may be introduced and greet conference, but normally shall be seated outside the bar of conference unless moved in by vote.

C. Meetings of the District Conference

465. **Annual Sessions.** The district conference shall meet annually. The place and time of meeting shall be decided upon by the district board of administration (495:5) in consultation with the National Superintendent (740:17). The district secretary shall notify in writing all churches of the district and all ordained pastors who are not stationed of the time and place not less than thirty day before the scheduled opening (531:3).

466. **Special Sessions.** The district conference may be reconvened at any time during the year by a two-thirds majority vote of the district conference or board of administration, subject to approval of the National Board of Administration (682:30). The district secretary shall notify in writing all churches of the district and all ordained pastors who are not stationed of the time, place, and purpose of the session, not less than thirty days before the scheduled opening (531:3).

D. Organization and Procedures

1. Officers

468. **The Chairman.** The National Superintendent shall be the chairman of the district conference (740:21). In the absence of the National Superintendent, the district superintendent shall be chairman (524:1). If none of the foregoing is present, the assistant district superintendent shall be the chairman (527:1), or if the need arises, the conference may elect from among its ordained elders a chairman pro tem.

469. **The Secretary.** The district secretary shall be the secretary of the district conference. He shall accurately record the proceedings and keep them in a permanent form, and perform any other duties as shall be required of him by the district conference (531:1).
2. Conference Sessions Committees

470. The district conference shall in its first session elect from nominations presented by the district conference planning and nominating committee (584) the conference sessions committees. Nominations may also come from the floor. Conference sessions committees shall include:

(1) Conference Courtesy Committee. This committee shall consist of a chairman and two other members who shall greet and introduce to the conference visitors, first-time delegates, and other guests of special interest.

(2) Conference Tellers. These shall consist of a chairman and at least four other members who shall distribute and count ballots in all elections held during conference.

3. Procedures

471. Quorum. A majority of all pastoral voting members (453) and lay delegates (454) of the district conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

472. Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the annual district conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in his place.

473. Voting. The pastoral and lay members of the district conference shall transact business as one body.

474. Resolutions. Resolutions to be voted upon by the district conference may be submitted to the district conference by a local church (288:5); the annual district meeting of the Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Young Adults, or Wesleyan Youth; a district board or committee concerning the work assigned to it; the district board of administration (495:7); or any other voting members of the district conference. These items of business shall be submitted in writing to the district board of administration or a resolutions subcommittee if the district board of administration wishes to appoint one, which shall be responsible to review each item as to its origin, clarity, and relationship to The Discipline, and to make recommendations concerning them. All properly submitted resolutions shall be reported to the district conference by the district board of administration and considered and voted upon, unless withdrawn by its authors or declared out of order by the chairman of the district conference as violating The Discipline (475). The district conference may by a two-thirds vote suspend the requirement that a resolution first be reviewed by the district board of administration (531:7) and immediately proceed to consider and vote upon said resolution.

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

476. Questions of Order. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an
appeal to the district conference body. If any matter is ruled out of order by the chairman on the basis that it is unconstitutional or in violation of The Discipline, the decision of the chairman may be appealed by any member of the district conference. A vote shall then be taken without debate and a two-thirds vote of the district conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chairman. If the chairman is overruled, the item shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the Executive Committee of the National Board of Administration or the Board of General Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church, whichever is appropriate (495:15).

E. Duties and Powers of the District Conference

480. The duties and powers of the district conference shall be the following:

Relating to The Discipline

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution by a majority vote, to be submitted to the National Conference as a resolution (660:1).

(2) To propose an amendment to the Statutory Law sections of The Discipline by a majority vote, to be submitted to the National Conference as a resolution (660:2).

Relating to the National Conference

(3) To elect delegates and alternate delegates to the National Conference as set forth in 606:1 and 609-611. (One lay and one pastoral delegate for every two-hundred (200) full members of the district.)

(4) To adopt resolutions to the National Conference (640).

(5) To review all procedures of the district and to bring them in harmony with The Discipline as currently revised or amended, and with other National Conference legislation that relates to the districts (660:10).

Relating to District Administration

(6) To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: the district superintendent (524:22), the assistant district superintendent (527:7), the district treasurer (535:5), the zone supervisors (430:5), and other persons as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration whose official duties are related to The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(7) To receive a report of all official actions of the district board of administration (495:8).
(8) To receive reports from other district boards, auxiliary organizations, and institutions related to the Church.

(9) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the district by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as prepared and submitted by the district statistical committee (572:1); to receive a report submitted by the district auditing committee (535:5; 575:2).

(10) To approve financial plans proposed by the finance committee which will provide for the support of all stationed pastors and payment of other district financial obligations (518:1, 2).

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

Relating to Pastors

(12) To approve the stationing of all ordained and licensed pastors, and lay supply pastors and commissioned workers, as recommended by the district board of administration (495:9).

(13) To elect for ordination (1221:5) a candidate the district conference deems qualified after receiving a report from the district board of pastoral standing (555:4), which has been referred to the district conference by the district board of administration (495:22), and which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(14) To grant license to pastor, commission to special service, and restore in full standing those who are qualified after receiving the report and recommendations from the district board of pastoral standing (555:4) which has been referred to the district conference by the district board of administration (495:24).

(15) To receive and pass on a written annual service report, through the district board of pastoral standing (555:5), from each ordained or licensed pastor, and commissioned special worker; to receive an explanation from each person whose report has been found unsatisfactory, and to vote on the continuation of such person for appointment which shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence for approval (555:7).

Relating to Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees

(16) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an ordained pastor to the office of district superintendent for a term of two years. Whenever a district superintendent is reelected, it shall be for a term of three years. (See 521:1, 2.)

(17) To elect, by a majority vote, members-at-large of the district board of administration (486:1), each for a term of one year (487).
(18) To elect, after having received nominations from the district nominating committee, with or without further nominations from the conference body, the members of all district standing boards and committees, which shall serve the district for one year beginning at the close of the conference session (504:2; 507).

(19) To elect, after receiving nominations from the district nominating committee, with or without further nominations from the conference body, the conference session committees (470), which shall serve only during the conference session in which they are elected.

(20) To exercise judicial powers according to the provisions of the Judiciary (940).
A. Purpose of the District Board of Administration

485. The district board of administration carries out the will of the district conference, promotes the interest of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and serves as the chief governing body of the district between district conference sessions.

B. Membership of the District Board of Administration

486. The district board of administration shall consist of:

1) District Officers and Members-at-Large. The district board of administration is composed of the district superintendent (524:1), the assistant district superintendent (527:2), the district secretary (531:2), the district treasurer (535:1), and a maximum of six members-at-large elected by ballot and majority vote by the district conference (480:18). Due regard shall be given to elect a proportionate number of pastors and laymen.

2) Nonvoting Members. The following district officers shall be ex officio, nonvoting members of the District Board of Administration, unless otherwise elected by the conference as voting members: chairman of the district finance committee (577), the auxiliary directors (1337:1), zone supervisors (430:6), and others as may be co-opted by the Chairman or the Board.

487. Regulations for Members. Each member of the district board of administration shall be a full member of an organized Wesleyan church, both at the time of his election and during the time he serves. The term of office for members-at-large shall be for one year (495:18), and members shall serve from the close of the district conference at which they are elected until the close of the next regular session of the district conference. The filling of a vacancy of a district board of administration until the next session of the district conference shall be by two-thirds vote of all the members of the district board of administration.

488. Amenity. The district board of administration is amenable to the district conference and the National Board of Administration.

C. Meetings of the District Board of Administration

490. The district board of administration shall meet immediately after the close of the district conference for an organizing meeting to make plans for the year and care for any business delegated to it by the district conference which requires immediate attention.
Regular meetings of the district board of administration shall be held four or five times a year, and special meetings may be called by the district superintendent when it is necessary. All members shall be notified in writing at least one week in advance of a special meeting, except when all members are able to meet on a shorter notice.

D. Organization and Procedures of the District Board of Administration

492. Chairman and Secretary. The district superintendent shall be the chairman of the district board of administration (524:1). The assistant district superintendent shall be chairman in the absence of the district superintendent (527:2). If neither is present, the board shall elect from among its members a chairman pro tem. The district secretary is the secretary of the district board of administration by virtue of his office (531:2).

493. Quorum and Voting. A majority of the voting members of the board make up a quorum. A majority vote of those voting members present shall be sufficient, except for those matters for which The Discipline requires a larger majority (495:14).

E. The Duties and Powers of the District Board of Administration

495. The duties and powers of the district board of administration shall be the following:

General Duties

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

(2) To promote the interests of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone through cooperation with the other districts and with the national church programmes and policies.

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

Related to the District Conference

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

(5) To fix the date and place for the annual meeting of the district conference (465). To call for a reconvened session of the district conference subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration (466; 682:30).

(6) To receive resolutions to be voted upon by the district conference, to review them or appoint a subcommittee to review them, and to submit other items of business which require district conference approval (474). To submit resolutions directly to the National Conference (640).
(7) To submit a report through the district secretary (531:3) of all official actions to the district conference (480:7).

(8) To serve the district conference as a committee on pastoral relations and appointments, being responsible to station pastors, subject to the approval of the district conference (480:12), for its approval of all recommendations from the district board of pastoral standing concerning ordination, licensing, commissioning, and restoration of pastors and special workers (555:4).

Related to District Officers, Boards, Committees, and Auxiliaries

(9) To elect by majority vote qualified persons for the following district positions (504:3): district secretary (530), district treasurer (534), district director of evangelism (538), district director of development (542), members of the district conference planning and nominating committee (583), and members of the district conference journal committee (586).

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

Related to District Administration

(11) To divide the district into administrative zones and determine the boundaries thereof (426).

(12) To provide for the preservation and security of all district records (524:8).

(13) To request a ruling on a point of Wesleyan Church law or an interpretation of The Discipline from the Executive Committee of the National Board of Administration or the Board of General Superintendents (476), through the General Secretary of World Missions.

(14) To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Wesleyan Church and district so require, any of its own members by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members; and any member of a board, committee, officer of an auxiliary organization, or an employee of the district, by a two-thirds majority vote (508).

(15) To fill the vacancies on any district boards or committees for the unexpired term, by a majority vote (510).

(16) To appoint, when necessary, full-time district employees and administrative officers to serve the district.

Related to Churches and Pastors

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

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

(19) To authorize the organization of a church (205), and to receive a report from the district superintendent on the effecting of such organization (208:6; 480:11); to reclassify an organized church when its number of full members drops to less than the required number (204), and to declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (480:11).

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

(21) To consider and refer to the district conference for approval (480:13) a recommendation for the election of a candidate for ordination, after receiving a report from the district board of pastoral standing (555:4), which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(22) To consider and refer to the district conference for approval (480:14) recommendations from the district board of pastoral standing concerning the licensing, commissioning, or restoration of pastors and special workers (555:4).

(23) To make all pastoral appointments, subject to the approval of the district conference (480:12), and to make all pastoral appointments between district conference sessions (495:1).

(24) In case of an emergency, to elect for ordination a candidate who has been recommended by the district board of pastoral standing (555:4) in the interim of the sessions of the district conference (1221:5).

(25) To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by a pastor, or to remove a pastor by majority vote.

(26) To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation or trial, for any ordained or licensed pastor, commissioned special worker, local church member (342:9; 943) or other worker or employee under the jurisdiction of the district, and to impose just penalties upon those found guilty of an offense (943). (See also 524:23)

(27) To recommend candidates for pastoral training institutions, and to recommend and submit names of candidates for advanced training to the National Board of Training.

Related to the Wesleyan Mission

(28) To work with missionaries within the district by advising and cooperating with them. To advise the National Board of Administration in regard to the stationing of missionaries, making sure they are assigned to those tasks that will be in the best interest of
the district and will best promote the growth of the church (682:36).

F. Executive Committee of the District Board of Administration

498. The district board of administration may establish an executive committee which shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, and two other persons from its own members.

499. The executive committee shall have full authority to act in those matters committed to it by the full district board of administration. It shall also have power to act in emergencies, said action subject to review and ratification by the district board of administration.
A. List of District Officers, Boards, and Committees

500. The following are the officers, boards, and committees of an established or provisional district:

(1) **District Officers**:
   - District Superintendent (520-524)
   - Assistant District Superintendent (526-527)
   - District Secretary (529-531)
   - District Treasurer (534-535)
   - District Director of Evangelism (538-539)
   - District Director of Development (542-543)
   - District Auxiliary Directors (545)

(2) **District Boards**:
   - District Board of Administration (485-499)
   - District Board of Pastoral Standing (553-555)
   - District Board of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (557-559)
   - District Board of Christian Education (562-567)
   - District Board of Appeal (569)

(3) **District Committees**:
   - District Statistical Committee (571-572)
   - District Auditing Committee (574-575)
   - District Finance Committee (577-578)
   - District Building Committee (580-581)
   - District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (583-584)
   - District Conference Journal Committee (586-587)

501. The following are the officers, advisory council, and committees of a pioneer district:

(1) **District Officers**:
   - District Superintendent (520-524)
   - District Secretary/Treasurer (529-531, 534-535)
   - District Director of Evangelism (538-539)

(2) **District Advisory Council**: (404:2b)

(3) **Committees**:
   - District Statistical Committee (571-572)
   - District Auditing Committee (574-575)
502. The District Conference or District Board of Administration or District Advisory Council may elect other committees which are deemed necessary for the administration of the pioneer district.

B. Regulations for District Officers, Board, and Committees

504. Election. District officers and members of district boards and committees are elected as follows:

(1) Elected by the district conference, by ballot (480:16-18):
   - District Superintendent (521:1)
   - Assistant District Superintendent (526)
   - District Board of Administration, Members-at-large (486:1)

(2) Elected by the district conference, by nomination (584:2):
   - District Board of Pastoral Standing (554)
   - District Board of Evangelism (558)
   - District Board of Christian Education (565)
   - District Statistical Committee (571)
   - District Auditing Committee (574)
   - District Finance Committee (577)
   - District Building Committee (580)

(3) Elected by the district board of administration (495:9):
   - District Secretary (530)
   - District Treasurer (534)
   - District Director of Evangelism (538)
   - District Director of Development (542)
   - District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (583)
   - District Conference Journal Committee (586)

(4) Elected by the auxiliary:
   - District Director of Wesleyan Women (1335:5)
   - District Director of Wesleyan Men (1335:5)
   - District Director of Wesleyan Young Adults (1335:5)
   - District Director of Wesleyan Youth (1335:5)

506. Qualifications. A district officer, or member of a district board or committee, must be, at the time of election and throughout his term of service, a full member of a local Wesleyan church. It is expected of members of the district board of administration and chairman of district boards that they exemplify their support of the church and their positions of leadership by affirming that they pay their tithe to the church.
507. **Term of Office.** District officers, other than the district superintendent (521:2), and members of district boards and committees, other than the district board of pastoral standing (554), shall be elected or appointed for a term of one year and re-election, thereafter, for a term of two years. All district officers and board and standing committee members, shall assume office at the close of the district conference or district board of administration session at which they are elected or appointed, and shall serve until the close of the next district conference session, or until their successors are elected and qualified. In cases involving the incoming and outgoing of district officials, the incoming district official shall assume office thirty (30) days after the close of the conference session at which he was elected or appointed. District officials may voluntarily retire at age 60 and shall be required to retire at the district conference immediately following their 68th birthday.

508. **Amenability.** The district board of administration and the district superintendent are amenable to the district conference (450) and the National Board of Administration of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (670). All other district officers, boards, and committees shall be amenable to the district board of administration (495:10), and shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent (524:6). Members may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the Church and district so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration (495:14).

509. **Reports and Records.** A district officer shall report to each session of the district conference concerning his office duties and to the district board of administration as may be required. The minutes of the meetings of all district boards and committees shall be kept with the permanent records of the district (495:12).

510. **Vacancies.** The position of a district officer, or a board or committee member, may become vacant by death, by termination of full membership in a local, organized Wesleyan church, by resignation, or by removal. In all cases other than that of the district superintendent (521:3), the filling of a vacancy for the unexpired term shall be by two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration (495:15).
Chapter Five

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

A. List of District Officials

515. The following are the district officials for a district in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) District Officers:
   District Superintendent (520-524)
   Assistant District Superintendent (526-527)
   District Secretary (529-531)
   District Treasurer (534-535)

(2) District Directors:
   District Director of Evangelism (538-539)
   District Director of Development (542-543)
   District Auxiliary Directors (545)

(3) District Board of Administration (495:1)

516. Regulations. The general regulations for district officials are those set forth in paragraphs 504-510.

B. District Superintendent

520. The district superintendent is the spiritual and administrative leader the district.

521. Regulations:

   (1) Election. The district superintendent shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the ordained pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (480:16).

   (2) Term of Office. The first election of the district superintendent shall be for a term of two years, and reelection thereafter shall be for a term of three years (480:16). In cases involving the election or appointment of a new district superintendent to a district, the incoming district superintendent shall assume office thirty (30) days after the close of the conference or National Board of Administration meeting at which he was elected or appointed. He may voluntarily retire at age 60 and shall be required to retire at the district conference immediately following his 68th birthday.

   (3) Vacancy. Whenever the office of the district superintendent is vacated, the assistant district superintendent shall become the district superintendent and serve until the
next session of the district conference or until a successor shall be elected and qualified (527:8).

(4) Amenability. The district superintendent is amenable to the district conference (450) and the National Board of Administration for both his official duties and moral character (682:1). He may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the district conference or the National Board of Administration (682:14).

524. Duties and Powers of the District Superintendent:

Ex-Officio Duties

(1) The district superintendent may be chairman of the district conference (468), is chairman of the district board of administration (492), chairman of the quarterly conference (438) and is an ex-officio member of the National Conference (606:1,2), and a member of the National Board of Administration (672:2).

General Duties

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

(3) To give special attention to beginning and promoting an active programme of evangelism and church extension, as approved by the district conference or the district board of administration.

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

District Administrative Duties

(5) To be the chairman of the district board of administration (492), and to submit recommendations to the district board of administration that will provide a more efficient administration.

(6) To exercise administrative supervision over all district officers, boards, committees, auxiliary organizations, churches, pastors, and other workers of the district, and to see that the plans and policies of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are carried out (508).

(7) To meet with any district board, committee, auxiliary organization or other district agency at his discretion, and to make such recommendation as he deems advisable, and to counsel with the various officers, board or committee members, and others serving the district, concerning their work.
(8) To preside over the district or zone quarterly conferences and to provide leadership for district or zone activities, including pastors’ in-service training and fellowship.

(9) 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 (495:12).

(10) To receive and approve quarterly financial reports from departments, zone supervisors (430:5), and auxiliaries, or authorize another district official to do so, before quarterly payments can be made from the district funds by the treasurer (535:3).

Duties Related to Local Churches

(11) To visit each church in the district at least once each year, or to appoint the assistant district superintendent (527:5) or other representative to visit, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church, and seeking to advance its spiritual life.

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

(13) To examine and approve the reception of members into unorganized local churches (216).

(14) To recommend that the district board of administration authorize the organization of an unorganized church or preaching point, or the reclassification of a church; and to preside over the organization of a church or appoint a representative to do so (208), and to report the organization of the new church to the district board of administration and to the district conference (208:6; 495:19).

(15) To preside over local church business meetings whenever present, and to convene a local church board in times of emergency and preside over the same (286).

(16) To recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a pastor for a local church (303. 495:23), the removal of a pastor whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it (495:25), and the appointment of a supply, if necessary, until another pastor has been appointed (495:23).

(17) To perform all the functions of a pastor for a local church when such a church is without a pastor, or to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply pastor until another pastor has been appointed.

Duties Related to Pastors

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

(19) To conduct the ritual of ordination (1221:6; 1530), except when a General Superintendent is present; to sign with the district secretary ordination certificates and
pastoral licenses, or other official forms as are required by his office (1211:7; 1221:7).

(20) To receive a quarterly statistical report from each church prepared by the pastor (310:21) and to request any special reports from the pastors and churches that will help him to give better oversight of the district.

Duties Related to the American Wesleyan Mission

(21) To give advice to individual missionaries and to evaluate their work to see that it is in the best interest of the district, as well as to act as administrative consultant to the mission director of the American Wesleyan Mission, making sure that the plans and programmes of the Mission are coordinated with those of the district.

Reports

(22) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties and personal ministry (480:6), and to submit other reports to the National Board of Administration as required.

Judicial Duties

(23) To receive any complaint or accusation against any pastor, church worker, church member (342:9; 950:1), or local church, and to give such his prompt and careful attention, and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the district board of administration (495:26).

C. Assistant District Superintendent

526. The assistant district superintendent shall be elected by the district board of administration upon recommendation of the District Superintendent. His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district officer as set forth in The Discipline (504-510).

527. Duties and Powers of the Assistant District Superintendent.

(1) To serve as chairman of the district conference and the district or zone quarterly conference in the absence of the district superintendent (468; 438).

(2) To serve as a member and vice-chairman of the district board of administration (486:1), presiding over the board whenever the district superintendent is not present or appoints him to do so (492).

(3) To convene the district board of administration in time of emergency when the district superintendent is not able to act.
(4) To serve as member and chairman of the district board of pastoral standing (554).

(5) To assist the district superintendent and to serve as his representative to local churches or district organizations as the district superintendent may request (208; 286; 340; 438; 524:9).

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

(7) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties (480:6), and to the district board of administration as required.

(8) To become the district superintendent in the event of a vacancy in that office (521:3).

D. District Secretary/Treasurer

529. A pioneer, provisional or established district shall have the option of appointing a district secretary/treasurer who will perform the duties of both the district secretary (531) and the district treasurer (535).

E. District Secretary

530. The district secretary shall be appointed by the District Board of Administration subject to approval by the district conference (504:3). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those for district officers (504-510).

531. Duties of the District Secretary.

(1) To be the secretary of the district conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and keeping them in permanent form (469).

(2) To serve as a member and as secretary of the district board of administration (486:1; 492), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and keeping them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each member of the board.

(3) To write official notices and communications from the district conference and the district board of administration, and to keep file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.

(4) To sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by the district conference, the district board of administration, and The Discipline (1211:7; 1221:7; 1226:2).
53. To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration.

(6) To serve as a member and secretary of the conference journal committee (586).

F. District Treasurer

534. The district treasurer shall be appointed by the District Board of Administration subject to approval by the district conference (504:3). The appointment of the treasurer shall not take place until after the adoption of the audited report of the district treasurer for the previous year (575:1). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district officer as set forth in the Discipline (504-510).

535. Duties of the District Treasurer:

(1) To serve as a member of the district board of administration (486:1).

(2) To serve as member ex officio of the district finance committee (577).

(3) To have custody of all district funds; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plan of the district (578:1,2), or as directed by the district board of administration (495:1).

(4) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, and at any other time as may be requested by the district board of administration (575:1).

(5) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in his care, certified by the auditing committee (575:1), to each regular session of the district conference (480:6), and to submit quarterly reports to the district board of administration and the district superintendent and at other times as they may require.

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

G. District Director of Evangelism

538. The district director of evangelism shall be elected by the district board of administration, subject to approval by the district conference (504:3). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those for district officers (504-510).

539. Duties of the District Director of Evangelism

(1) To serve as a member of the district board of administration (486:1).
(2) To promote and coordinate evangelistic endeavors in the district, such as local church revivals and evangelistic campaigns.

(3) To provide for the training of both pastors and laymen in personal witnessing and discipleship of new Christians.

H. District Director of Development

542. The district director of development shall be elected by the district board of administration, subject to approval by the district conference (504:3). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those for district officers (504-510).

543. Duties of the District Director of Development:

(1) To serve as a member of the district board of administration (486:1)

(2) To provide leadership to the district in regard to income generating projects.

(3) To motivate and train laymen to greater involvement in the local church and its ministries.

I. District Auxiliary Directors

545. The regulations for and the duties of district auxiliary directors are set forth in the constitution for district auxiliary organization, Part VIII, Chapter Three, paragraphs 1335, 1337 of the Discipline.
Chapter Six

DISTRICT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of District Boards and Committees

550. The following are the boards and committees of an established district of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) District Boards:
   - District Board of Administration (485-499)
   - District Board of Pastoral Standing (553-555)
   - District Board of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (557-559)
   - District Board of Christian Education (562-567)
   - District Board of Appeal (569, 945)

(2) District Committees:
   - District Statistical Committee (571-572)
   - District Auditing Committee (574-575)
   - District Finance Committee (577-578)
   - District Building Committee (580-581)
   - District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee (583-584)
   - District Conference Journal Committee (586-587)

B. District Board of Administration

552. The regulations for and the duties of the district board of administration are set forth in Part III, Chapter three, paragraphs 486-495.

C. District Board of Pastoral Standing

553. Purpose. The district board of pastoral standing shall be responsible for examination of pastors' annual service reports, and for the examination and recommendation to the district board of administration and to the district conference of all candidates for ordination, license, special commission, restoration, or transfer from another denomination.

554. Membership. The board of pastoral standing shall consist of the assistant district superintendent as chairman (527:4) and six other members, two of whom shall be ordained pastors, two licensed pastors, and two laymen. Members of the board shall be nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2), and election is made by the district conference (480:19). The term of office for the elected members shall be for three years, with the election so arranged that two members shall be elected each year. (See Regulations 504-510.)
Duties of the District Board of Pastoral Standing

Related to Ordination, Licenses, and Commissions

(1) To examine carefully each candidate for ordination (1181; 1221:4), and each pastor who is to be licensed (1181; 1211:4), and each special worker who is to be commissioned; to interview each candidate, and to make any other investigation deemed necessary, in regard to his personal experience of salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit, his full agreement with Articles of Religion, the General Rules and Special Rules of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and acceptance of its authority, his call and qualification for the Lord's work.

(2) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received as a pastor into the district from another denomination (1222:2), evaluating especially his programme of study in terms of equality to the approved programme of the district and National Church (1264).

(3) To consider and examine any person applying for restoration as a pastor in full standing in the district (1225; 1256; 1257).

(4) To present, as a separate report, to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference for approval, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination (480:13; 495:21); and to present to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference for its approval another report of all other recommendations concerning the licensing, commissioning, and restoration of pastors and special workers (480:14; 495:22)

Related to the Annual Service Reports

(5) To receive, on behalf of the district conference (480:15), a written annual service report from each ordained and licensed pastor (1215:2; 1225:1), and commissioned special worker; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows:

a) A report which shows that the work has been done according to The Discipline and that the annual statistical report has been properly submitted (572:1), shall be marked as approved and returned to the person submitting it.

b) A report in which there are unsatisfactory answers, or shows that the work has not been done according to The Discipline that the annual statistical report has not been properly submitted (572:1), shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the district of pastoral standing, the report shall be marked as unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it.

(6) To investigate the reason for the failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (1226:3).
(7) To present a report to the district conference concerning the results of the examination of the annual service reports, listing all members of the district responsible to submit such reports as to whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory, or not received. A person whose annual service report has been found unsatisfactory shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the district conference to be approved for continued appointment (480:15).

Related to Appointments and District Conference Relations

(8) To submit a report to the district board of administration concerning the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment, as recorded on the annual service reports (495:8).

D. District Board of Evangelism, Church Growth and Missions

557. The district board of evangelism, church growth and missions shall be responsible for the promotion of evangelism, church growth, and missions throughout the district, and to coordinate the evangelistic activities of the district.

558. Membership. The board of evangelism, church growth and missions shall consist of nine members, the chairman of which shall be an ordained pastor. Members of the board are nominated by the district nominating committee (583:2), with due regard for lay representation, and the election is made by the district conference (480:19). (See Regulations, 504-510.) The nominating committee should take into consideration including members such as a district evangelist, hospital and school chaplains, and youth staffs, as well as Muslim converts.

559. Duties of the District Board of Evangelism, Church Growth and Missions.

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

(2) To make recommendations to the district conference and the district board of administration as to ways in which the district can promote evangelism, church growth and missions.

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

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

(5) When the district is called on to send delegates to such committees as New Life for All, Islam in Africa, and others, this committee is to select representatives.

(6) To submit a report to the district conference concerning the plans and schedules of evangelistic and church extension activities throughout the district (480:8).
To perform other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration in the interests of evangelism, church growth and missions.

E. District Board of Christian Education

562. Purpose. The district board of Christian education shall be responsible to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a programme of Christian education throughout the district.

563. Departments of Christian Education. The following are the departments of responsibility for the board of Christian education:

(1) Local Church Training
(2) Sunday Schools
(3) Literacy
(4) Lay Institutes
(5) Auxiliaries (as they relate to Christian education).

564. Membership of the Board of Christian Education. The board of Christian education shall consist of ten members, seven of whom are elected by the district conference (480:19). The district director of Christian education (538) shall serve as executive secretary. The members of the board shall be:

(1) Chairman/Secretary of Christian Education
(2) Secretary of Literacy
(3) Secretary of Lay Institutes
(4) (5) (6) Presidents of District Auxiliaries
(7) (8) (9) Members-at-Large

565. Election of the Board of Christian Education. The secretaries of the departments of Christian education and the members-at-large are nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2) and election is made by the district conference (480:19). The presidents of auxiliaries are elected by their respective groups and are members of the board by virtue of their office (1337:1).

566. Duties of the Board of Christian Education.

(1) To develop, supervise, and coordinate the work of Christian education within the
(2) To review and coordinate plans of each department and its secretary for which the board is responsible.

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

(4) To elect subcommittees as deemed necessary to assist the secretaries with their work.

(5) To present recommendations to the district board of administration and the district conference for the growth of the financial plans and other interests of the work under their care (480:8).

(6) To perform such other duties related to Christian education as are assigned by the district board of administration or the district conference.

567. Duties of the Secretaries of the Departments of Christian Education.

(1) Secretary of Christian Education.

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

b) To assume the duty of coordinating and prompting local church Christian education in the following areas: Sunday school, membership training, theological education by extension, literature, discipling. To train pastors, Sunday school teachers, and laymen in cooperation with programmes and assistance offered by the National Director of Christian Education. To promote use of Sunday school, membership, and discipling materials supplied by the National Director and to coordinate their distribution.

c) To submit an annual report to the district conference, outlining what has been accomplished by each department of the board of Christian education, other than the auxiliaries, which make their own reports to conference (480:6).

(2) Secretary of Literacy. To plan and direct a programme of literacy classes under the local pastors or churches; to cooperate with other agencies in promoting literacy; to alert the district and National Board of Christian Education of needs in vernacular literature; to assist in distributing and promoting new translations of the Scripture; to attend each meeting of the board of Christian education, giving reports as requested; to submit an annual report to the executive secretary.
(3) Secretary of Lay Institutes. To plan and coordinate an annual lay institute(s) for the district; to involve key district and National church educators, pastors, and teachers; to focus on lay leadership in churches and circuits; to attend each meeting of the board of Christian education, giving reports as requested; to submit an annual report to the executive secretary.

F. District Board of Appeal

569. The regulations and duties of the district board of appeal are set forth in paragraph 945-946.

G. District Statistical Committee

571. Membership. The district statistical committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2), and election is made by the district conference (480:19). (See Regulations, 504-510.)

572. Duties:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, complete statistical and financial reports from all organized and unorganized churches (310:23), and other persons and agencies as the district board of administration shall designate, on forms approved by the district board of administration and made available by the district superintendent; and to compile and submit to the district conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the district as a whole (480:9).

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

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

H. District Auditing Committee

574. Membership. The district auditing committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2), and election is made by the district conference (480:19). (See Regulations, 504-510.)

575. Duties:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the district fiscal year, and before the finan-
cial reports are presented to the district conference, the records and funds of the district treasurer (534:553:4), and any other treasurer of a district board, auxiliary, or agency having custody of district funds, including the educational secretary; and to perform such audits at other times as may be requested by the district board of administration.

(2) To submit a written report to the district conference concerning the results of the audit (480:9). A financial report may not be accepted as approved until certified as correct by the auditing committee.

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

I. District Finance Committee

577. Membership. The district finance committee shall consist of eight members, one being designated as chairman, who shall also serve as a nonvoting member of the district board of administration (486:2) with the district treasurer as a member ex officio (535:2). Members of the committee shall be nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2), and election is made by the district conference (480:19). (See Regulations, 504-510)

578. Duties:

(1) To prepare and submit to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference for approval, a financial budget for the next fiscal year, showing expected sources of income and the expected disbursement of funds (480:10).

(2) To prepare and submit to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference for approval, a plan for the pastoral support of all stationed pastors in the district (480:10).

(3) To receive and approve requests submitted by churches through the district building committee for church building loans from the district funds, if such are available (581:3).

(4) To promote tithing as the biblical standard of stewardship for the church, and to submit plans for fund raising to the district board of administration for approval (480:10).

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

(6) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration or the district conference in relation to district financial matters.
J. District Building Committee

580. Membership. The district building committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be designated chairman. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the district nominating committee (584:2), and election is made by the district conference (480:19). Due consideration should be given to elect those persons who are capable and experienced in the construction of buildings. (See Regulations, 504-510.)

581. Duties:

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

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

(3) To recommend to the district finance committee those churches it deems qualified to receive a building loan from district funds, if such funds are available (578:3).

(4) To submit a report in writing to the local church and to the district board of administration (495:10) concerning its plans and recommendations for church or parsonage construction.

(5) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration or the district conference in relation to the construction of the district or local church buildings.

K. District Conference Planning and Nominating Committee

583. Membership. The district conference planning and nominating committee shall consist of the district superintendent as chairman and six other members elected by the district board of administration (495:6), giving due regard to lay representation. The elected members of the committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be reelected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chairman at such time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the district conference session. (See Regulations, 504-510.)

584. Duties:

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

(2) To submit nominations to the annual district conference for all district standing boards and committees, except the district board of administration and the district conference planning and nominating committee (504:2), and for all conference session commit-
tees (470). The district conference shall also have the right to make nominations from the floor (480:19).

L. District Conference Journal Committee

586. Membership. The district conference journal committee shall consist of the district secretary as chairman (531:6) and two other members elected by the district conference or the district board of administration (504:6).

587. Duties:

(1) To collect all district conference minutes, reports, and statistics.

(2) To edit, produce, and distribute the district conference journal.
PART IV. NATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

600. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is one of several national or regional conferences of The Wesleyan Church located worldwide and is a member of the Wesleyan World Fellowship (1100).

Chapter One

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A. Purpose of the National Conference

602. The National Conference is the chief governing body of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It has such powers, rights, and restrictions as given to it by the Articles of Incorporation (71-82) and The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

B. Membership of the National Conference

1. Plan of Representation

606. The National Conference shall be composed of voting and nonvoting members as follows:

Voting Members

(1) The voting members shall consist of an equal number of ordained or licensed pastors (615) and lay members (617) of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

a) The district superintendent of each district and a lay delegate elected or appointed on his behalf at the same time and in same manner as other delegates (480:3; 609-612).

b) The total number of pastoral and lay delegates shall be determined by the National Board of Administration, according to a formula that provides proportional representation from each district in reference to the total number of full members. The pastoral delegate must be either ordained or a stationed and licensed pastor (615).

c) The National Officials: the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent; National Secretary; National Treasurer, National Director of Christian Education, National Director of Evangelism, National Director of
Planning and Development, National Director of Communications, National Directors of Auxiliaries, Education Secretary, Medical Coordinator, Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School, and other members of the National Board of Administration who are not voting members by some other right.

d) Ordained missionaries serving in the area of the National Church.

e) General Officials who are guests of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

f) National Superintendent Emeritus.

Nonvoting Members

(2) The following, when they are not voting members by some other right, shall be seated as nonvoting members: former National Superintendents, principals of secondary schools, former national missionaries, lay missionaries, district auxiliary directors, and other delegates as provided for by the National Board of Administration.

2. Loss of Representation

608. A district which has been suspended or otherwise disciplined as provided for in the Judiciary (980) shall lose all rights to representation in the National Conference. The delegates, including the district superintendent, shall not be seated until the district is reinstated or restored (985).

3. Election of Delegates

609. The delegates to the National Conference shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, at its last annual session prior to the National Conference (480:3). 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 National Conference Delegates (606:1). A certified list of all delegates to the National Conference shall be promptly forwarded by the district secretary to the National Secretary.

610. A person accepting election as a delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire National Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances.

611. Alternate Delegates. Each district conference shall also at the same session elect by ballot, and by majority vote, a sufficient number of alternate pastoral and lay delegates (480:3), not to exceed the number of delegates, and shall fill vacancies in the order of their election.

612. Whenever the district superintendent, who is an ex officio member of the National Conference (606:1), is unable to attend, his place shall be filled by the assistant district
superintendent. If the assistant district superintendent is an elected delegate, his place shall then be filled like any other vacancy by an alternate pastoral delegate.

4. Qualifications of Delegates

615. Pastoral Delegates. A pastoral delegate must be an ordained pastor or a licensed and stationed pastor who is a member of the district he represents, both at the time of the election and at the time of the National Conference (606:1b).

616. Whenever a pastoral delegate-elect shall transfer his membership to another district, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate pastoral delegate certified in his place.

617. Lay Delegates. 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 National Conference (606:1b).

618. Whenever a lay delegate-elect shall cease to meet the requirements in 617, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate lay delegate certified in his place.

C. Meetings of the National Conference

1. Regular Meetings

620. The National Conference shall meet quadrennially at a time and place selected by the National Board of Administration (682:4).

621. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans of the National Conference for the time and place of the next regular session, the National Board of Administration may, by two-thirds vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes.

2. Special Meetings

622. A special session of the National Conference shall be called by the National Superintendent whenever authorized to do so by a two-thirds vote of the National Board of Administration (682:4). The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference.

623. A special session of the National Conference may also be called by the General Board of Administration through the General Director of Wesleyan World Missions. The time and place shall be indicated in the call which shall be communicated through the
National Superintendent. The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference.

624. Any duly called special meeting of the National 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

630. The Chairman. The National Superintendent shall be chairman and preside over the National Conference (740:5). In the absence of the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent shall preside (746:1). In the absence of any of the above, the Conference shall elect by ballot an ordained elder as chairman pro tem.

631. The Secretary. The National Secretary shall be the secretary of the National Conference (751:1). He shall accurately record the proceedings, keep them in a permanent form, and perform any other duties as shall be required of him by the National Conference.

2. Procedure

633. Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the National Conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in his place (cf. 610).

634. Quorum. 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.

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

636. Rules of Order. National Conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when formally suspended by the National Conference or when other procedures are required by The Discipline.

637. Appeals on Questions of Order. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the National Conference. In case of such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate, except that the chairman may state the grounds of his decision, and the appellant may state the grounds of his appeal. A two-thirds vote of the National Conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chairman. If the chairman is overruled, the item shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the General Board of Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church.

638. Suspension of Rules. The National Conference may suspend for a particular session
any Statutory Law set forth in The Discipline governing the procedures of the National Conference by a two-thirds majority vote.

3. Resolutions

640. Resolutions to the National Conference, including proposed changes in The Discipline, other than the Essentials and Constitution, may be submitted by a district conference, a district board of administration, the executive committee of a national auxiliary, the National Board of Administration, a national board or committee, the board of managers of a church related agency or institution, or any ten members of the National Conference (682:6).

641. Resolutions proposing an amendment to the Constitution may be submitted to the National Conference only by a district conference (480:4) or the National Board of Administration (682:7).

4. National Conference Committees

643. List of National Conference Committees

- Resolutions Committee (646)
- National Conference Planning Committee (648)
- Nominating Committee (650)
- National Conference Journal Committee (652)
- National Auditing Committee (654)

644. The National Conference or the National Board of Administration may have other committees as it may deem necessary. National Conference committees shall be elected or appointed and function prior to the National Conference meeting.

a. Resolutions Committee

646. The National Board of Administration shall serve as the Resolutions Committee. It shall be the duty of the committee to receive all resolutions for the Conference, classify them, take action on each of them, and submit such resolutions to the National Conference, together with the Committee's recommendation, and in such order as the Committee shall determine (682:6).

b. National Conference Planning Committee

648. The Executive Committee of the National Board of Administration shall serve as the National Conference Planning Committee. It shall work under the supervision of the National Superintendent and shall be responsible to arrange all matters for the Conference, including lodging, meals, program, and others.
c. Nominating Committee

650. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, and one lay and one pastoral member from each district or sub-committee, who shall serve only one term successively, appointed by the National Board of Administration. Their duties shall be:

1. To present to the National Conference two or more nominations for each national official to be elected, other than the National Superintendent or the Assistant National Superintendent.

2. To present nominations for members of national committees, boards, and agencies.

3. To present such other nominations or fulfill such duties as may be assigned to them by the National Conference.

d. National Conference Journal Committee

652. The Journal Committee shall consist of the National Secretary, as chairman (751:2), and two other members elected by the Conference. The duties of the Journal Committee shall be:

1. To arrange the journal as far as possible according to the table of contents and general format approved by the National Board of Administration.

2. To include the minutes of proceedings and all reports given in Conference.

3. To include a directory for the National Conference, including officers both national and district.

4. To approve final format as a committee or have it approved by the National Superintendent.

5. To print and distribute the journal, including sending copies to the General Church.

e. National Auditing Committee

654. The National Auditing Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the National Board of Administration, one of whom is designated chairman. Duties shall be:

1. To audit annually, after the close of each financial year, the records and funds of the National Treasurer and all other treasurers and books in all national departments, agencies, and auxiliaries and to report such to the National Board of Administration.

2. To submit a written report at the National Conference concerning the results of the audits for the previous years. A financial report may not be accepted in Conference until
it is certified as correct by the Auditing Committee.

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

E. Duties and Powers of the National Conference

660. The duties and powers of the National Conference are:

Related to the Constitution and the Discipline

(1) To adopt, subject to approval by the General Board of Administration through the General Secretary of World Missions, an amendment to the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation, by a two-thirds majority vote of the National Conference (82).

(2) To adopt by a majority vote, subject to approval by the General Board of Administration through the General Director of Wesleyan World Missions, changes in the Statutory Law of The Discipline (65), which are in keeping with the Constitution.

Related to General Conference and Wesleyan World Fellowship

(3) To elect delegates to the General Conference by ballot and majority vote. The number of delegates representing the Conference shall be assigned by the General Board of Administration. Pastoral delegates shall be elected from among the ordained pastors of the district, and lay delegates shall be full members of a local Wesleyan church.

(4) To elect delegates to the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council by ballot and majority vote, guided as to the number and qualifications of the delegates by instructions from the secretary of the Wesleyan World Fellowship.

(5) To submit resolutions to the General Conference through the General Secretary of World Missions, if approved by majority vote of the National Conference.

Related to National Administration

(6) To receive written reports concerning their official duties from the following National Officials: The National Superintendent; the Assistant National Superintendent; the National Secretary; the National Treasurer; the National Directors of Christian Education, Evangelism, Planning and Development, Communications; the Education Secretary; the Medical Coordinator; Director of the Conference Centre; Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School; the National Directors of Auxiliaries; the secondary school principals; chief officers of affiliates; and other persons as may be required.

(7) To receive from the National Secretary a report of all the official actions of the National Board of Administration (685-8).
(8) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the Church by receiving a complete statistical report prepared and submitted by the National Secretary (751:3).

(9) To receive a report and approve financial plans proposed by the National Board of Finance and Pension which will provide for the work of the National Church in its various ministries (780:1).

(10) To adopt plans and legislation for the advancement of the Church in all phases of its ministry.

(11) To establish special agencies and affiliations to administer and promote the work of the Church in various institutions and ministries (830:890).

Related to Districts

(12) To receive written reports from the district superintendent of each established and provisional district and each pioneer district supervisor, highlighting major advancements and concerns.

(13) To organize the work into districts and to determine their boundaries.

(14) To determine the dates for the financial year for the districts which shall be binding on all churches, boards, committees, and organizations within the Church for the keeping of records and reports, and to delegate this duty to the National Board of Administration if it so desires.

(15) To authorize the establishment of pioneer, provisional, and established districts, and to reclassify districts according to their meeting requirements (402, 408, 415, 419).

Related to Elections

(16) To elect by ballot and majority vote from among the ordained pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, the National Superintendent and the Assistant National Superintendent (735, 745).

(17) To elect by ballot and majority vote the Members-at-Large of the National Board of Administration (672:3).

(18) To elect other officials, board members, and committee members as required by The Discipline, or as the Conference deems necessary (715).

Related to Judiciary

(19) To exercise authority in matters of judicial discipline as set forth in the Judiciary (970).
Chapter Two

NATIONAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Purpose

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

B. Membership

672. The National Board of Administration is composed of the following members:

1) National Officials. The National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, National Secretary and National Treasurer.

2) District and Mission Representatives. Each district shall be represented by the district superintendent, or if he is already a member for some other reason, by the assistant district superintendent. The mission director shall also be a member.

3) Members-at-Large. Additional members-at-large, sufficient in number to bring the total number of board members to twenty, shall be elected by the National Conference (660:17) with due regard to both equal lay and pastoral representation, and geographic distribution.

4) Nonvoting Members. The following officials shall be ex officio, nonvoting members of the National Board of Administration unless already members for other reasons: the National Directors of Christian Education, Evangelism, Planning and Development, and Communications; the Education Secretary; the Medical Coordinator; Director of the Conference Centre; the National Directors of Auxiliaries; Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School; and Director of Wesleyan Investment and Development.

C. Meetings

674. Organizing Meeting. The National Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the National Conference for an organizing session:

1) To care for any business assigned to it by the National Conference which requires immediate attention.

2) To set the dates for its regular meetings between National Conferences.
(3) To elect two of its lay members as members of the Executive Committee of the National Board of Administration (686, 722).

(4) To appoint members of the various national boards as provided for in The Discipline (715).

(5) To care for any other necessary business.

675. Regular meetings. The National Board of Administration shall meet twice a year at times and places designated by the Board at its organizational meeting (674:2). The Executive Committee may change the time and place by a two-thirds vote if circumstances so require. Notice of the change of meeting shall be sent in writing to all members at least two weeks in advance.

676. Special meetings. A special meeting of the Board may be called by the National Superintendent with Executive Committee approval (740:6). All members shall be notified at least two weeks before the opening of the special meeting.

D. Organization and Procedures

678. Chairman and Secretary. The chairman shall be the National Superintendent (740:5) unless a General Superintendent or General Director of Wesleyan World Missions, or his representative, is present. The National Secretary is secretary of the National Board of Administration by virtue of his office (751:4).

679. Quorum and Voting. A majority of all the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present shall be sufficient, except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline. The Board shall adopt its own bylaws and procedures in harmony with The Discipline.

E. Duties and Powers

682. The duties and powers of the National Board of Administration shall be the following:

General Duties

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

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

Related to National Conference

(3) To carry out the plans and objectives of the National Conference.
(4) To fix the date and place for the quadrennial meeting of the National Conference (620) and to approve special meetings of the National Conference (622).

(5) To elect from among their members one lay and one pastoral member from each district to serve with the National Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent as the Nominating Committee (650).

(6) To receive resolutions to be voted upon by the National Conference, to review them, and to submit them to the National Conference with recommendations (646).

(7) To originate resolutions and recommendations to the National Conference, including proposed amendments to the Constitution and Statutory Law.

(8) To submit a report of all official actions to the National Conference through the National Secretary (660:7).

(9) To cure for any business delegated to it by the National Conference (674:1).

Related to the National Board of Administration

(10) To refer such matters to the Executive Committee as shall be deemed wise; to review such actions of the Executive Committee as are not final; and to receive and act upon its recommendations.

(11) To fill for the unexpired term vacancies among the National Officials or the members of the National Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the National Board of Administration (708), in such a manner as to fulfill all the requirements for such offices.

(12) To appoint a National Secretary (750) and a National Treasurer (755), or if it seems wise, to appoint one person to hold both positions. These officers may or may not be full-time employees of the Church.

(13) To elect by majority vote, from among its own lay members, two Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee (686).

(14) To remove for cause or whenever the best interest of the Church so requires, any of its own members by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members; and any member of a board, committee, officer of an auxiliary, or employee of the district, by a two-thirds majority vote.

Related to the Church in General

(15) To serve as the Board of Directors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone according to the Constitution (76).
(16) To provide for the preservation and security of all Church records (740:14).

(17) To request a ruling on a point of Church law or an interpretation of The Discipline from the Board of General Superintendents through the General Director of Wesleyan World Missions.

(18) To recommend to the National Conference all matters related to interdenominational relationships and cooperation. In the interim of Conference to care for appointing fraternal delegates and other representatives, and approving inter-church or inter-agency relationships.

(19) To receive, hold, and appropriate all National Church funds, in accordance with the financial plans adopted by the National Conference (660:9).

Related to National Officials and Boards

(20) To have general oversight of all National Officials, boards, committees, employees, and agencies (706, 718); to approve their plans and to coordinate their work; and to see that their work is carried out according to The Discipline and the directives of the National Conference. To receive annual reports from each official, board, and committee (707, 723).

(21) To appoint when necessary full-time National Church employees and administrative officers.

(22) To appoint or employ all directors of National Church departments, auxiliaries, agencies, or related institutions (701:1,2,3,4), or to remove any National Official from office for cause or when the best interest of the Church so requires by a two-thirds majority vote (706).

(23) To appoint two of its own members to each of the five National Boards, no one serving on more than one Board (715, 779, 786, 796, 815, 826).

Related to Agencies and Affiliations

(24) To give general oversight to all Church agencies, and providing approval and authorization for their by-laws (834).

(25) To appoint the executive secretaries of agencies, such as directors, principals and managers (836).

(26) To receive annual reports from each executive secretary of an agency (836).

(27) To appoint school managers in various areas, and to appoint church members to various boards of governors of secondary schools and Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital (895).
(28) To recommend to the National Conference the establishment or alteration of district boundaries, and in the interim of the National Conference sessions, to approve the merger, division, or other realignment of districts when each district conference involved has approved the plan (400, 440, 442).

(29) To provide supervision for a pioneer or a provisional district (403), to authorize church planting in a pioneer district, and to appoint the district superintendent and other district officers of the same (404:1).

(30) To request, as it deems necessary, the reconvening of a district conference (466) or a special session of a district board of administration; and to assist a district board of administration when it shall request such assistance through the National Superintendent.

(31) To review annually the district budget allocations to the National Treasury and to adjust the allocations as necessary, in conjunction with the advice and plans of the National Board of Finance (780:2).

(32) To receive and keep on record all minutes of district boards of administration.

Related to Students in Training

(33) To assign students in training to a district of the National Church upon completing their course.

Related to Judiciary

(34) To exercise authority in matters of judicial discipline as set forth in the Judiciary (972, 973).

Related to the American Wesleyan Mission

(35) To elect for a term of four years, five representatives to the Church/Mission Commission (892).

(36) To meet annually with the Church/Mission Commission in order to set mutual long-range goals, to review missionary stationing, to evaluate the progress of the work, and to make recommendations to both the mission and the Church. The Church shall advise the mission so that missionaries are assigned to those tasks that will be in the best interest of the Church and that will promote the growth of the Church and spread of the gospel (892).

Related to Interchurch Organizations

(37) To appoint members to such national co-operative organizations as New Life for All, Christian Council of Sierra Leone, Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone, and Project for Christian/Muslim Relations in Africa.
E. The Executive Committee

1. Purpose

685. **Purpose.** The Executive Committee carries out the will of the National Board of Administration, serving as necessary in the interim of the National Board sessions.

2. Membership

686. **Membership.** The Executive Committee is composed of the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, the Mission Director, two members-at-large appointed or elected by the National Board of Administration at its organizational meeting (674:3). The National Secretary and the National Treasurer shall also be ex-officio, voting members (751:4, 756:1).

3. Meetings

687. **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman or when requested to do so by the National Board of Administration.

4. Organization

688. **Chairman.** The National Superintendent shall serve as chairman (740:5) with the Assistant Superintendent serving in his absence. If both are absent, the Committee may elect a chairman pro tem from among its members.

689. **Secretary.** The National Secretary shall serve as the secretary of the Executive Committee by virtue of his office (751:4).

690. **Quorum.** A majority of all the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

691. **Voting.** A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Discipline.

5. Duties

692. The Executive Committee shall have full authority to act in those matters committed to it by the full National Board of Administration. It shall also have power to act in emergencies in the interim of the Board sessions. It shall make recommendations to the National Board of administration. Minutes of all its meetings shall be forwarded to, read by, and approved by the full National Board of Administration (682:10).
Chapter Three

NATIONAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

A. List of National Officials

700. The following are the national officers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) National officers elected by the National Conference (660:16)
   National Superintendent (734-740)
   Assistant National Superintendent (745-746)
   Members-at-large of the National Board of Administration (670, 672:3)

(2) National officers appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:12)
   National Secretary (750-751)
   National Treasurer (755-682)

701. The following are the national directors and other principal officials of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) Directors of National Church departments appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22):
   National Director of Christian Education (793-794)
   National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (806-807)
   National Director of Planning and Development (815-817)
   National Director of Communications (825-826)

(2) Directors of National Church related agencies appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22):
   Director of Educational Ministries (Education Secretary) (840-841)
   Director of Health Care Ministries (Medical Coordinator) (850-851)
   Director of Wesleyan Conference Centre (860-861)

(3) Directors of National Church auxiliaries appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22, 1347):
   National Director of Wesleyan Women
   National Director of Wesleyan Men
   National Director of Wesleyan Youth

(4) Principal officials of National Church related institutions and subsidiary corporations appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22):
   Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (870-871)
   Director of Wesley Investment and Development, Inc. (WIDE) (880-881)
B. General Regulations for National Officials

704. Qualifications. A national official must be, at the time of election or appointment and throughout his/her term of office, a full member of a local Wesleyan church. It is expected that all national officials faithfully support the Church through systematic tithing.

705. Conditions of Service
   (1) Term of Office: A national official shall be elected or appointed for a term of four years. Re-election or re-appointment thereafter shall be for a term of four years in each instance.
   (2) Assumption of Office:
      (a) When a national official is elected or appointed to succeed an incumbent, there shall be a period of transition to be determined by the National Board of Administration. Such period of transition shall not be later than the first Monday of September of the year in which the national officials were elected or appointed.
      (b) When a national official is elected or appointed to fill a vacancy between national conferences he/she shall assume office in accordance with the terms of his/her appointment.
   (3) Retirement: A national official may voluntarily retire at age 60, but shall be required to retire at the National Conference immediately following his/her 68th birthday.

706. Amenity. The national officials are amenable to the National Board of Administration (682:20) for their official conduct, and to their districts for moral conduct, unless otherwise stated in The Discipline. They are subject to direction from the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, and its Executive Committee. They may be removed from office for cause or when the best interest of the Church so requires by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the National Board of Administration (682:22).

707. Reports. The national officials shall report to each session of the National Conference (660:6) concerning their official duties and annually to the National Board of Administration (682:20) concerning their duties and personal ministry. They shall report quarterly to the National Superintendent concerning their use of finances, and at other times as required (740:11).

708. Vacancies. The position of a national official may become vacant by death, by termination of full membership in a local Wesleyan church, by resignation, or by removal. In all cases other than that of the National Superintendent (737), the filling of a vacancy for the unexpired term shall be by two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the National Board of Administration (682:11).

709. Church and District Membership. An ordained pastor who serves as a national official may hold his membership in any district and local church he may choose. His responsibilities to the National Church take precedence over his responsibilities to his district or local church.
710. Residence. The national officials shall reside in or near the place where the national headquarters of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is located, unless an exception is made by the National Board of Administration.

C. General Regulations for Members of Boards and Committees

715. Election. Elected members of national boards and committees are nominated by the National Nominating Committee (650) and elected by the National Conference (660:18). Additional members may be appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:18).

716. Qualifications. A national board or committee member must be, at the time of election and throughout his term of service, a full member of a local Wesleyan church. It is expected that such officials are faithful and exemplary Christians in life, stewardship, tithing, and conduct.

717. Term of Office. National board and committee members shall be elected and/or appointed for a term of four years, unless otherwise specified by the National Board of Administration. They shall assume office at the close of the National Conference session at which they are elected, and shall serve until the close of the next National Conference. No member shall serve in any one post for more than eight consecutive years.

718. Amenity. All boards and committees shall serve under the general supervision of the National Superintendent (740:4) and are amenable to the National Board of Administration (682:20). Members may be removed for cause, or when the best interests of the Church so requires, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the National Board of Administration (682:22).

719. Minutes and Records. The minutes of the meetings of each national board and committee shall be accurately kept by the secretary and copies forwarded to the National Superintendent, the National Secretary, and members of the National Board of Administration.

720. Vacancies. Positions may become vacant by death, by termination of full membership in a local church, by resignation, or by removal. In all cases, the filling of a vacancy for the unexpired term shall be by two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the National Board of Administration (682:11).

721. Meetings. National boards shall meet as many times as necessary to fulfill their tasks, especially prior to each session of the National Board of Administration. Committees shall meet as necessary to fulfill their tasks.

722. Organization. After the National Board of Administration has appointed its own members to each Board (two to each) it shall appoint a chairman from among all the board members. It shall likewise appoint a chairman for each national committee (674:3;
682:23). Boards may appoint subcommittees and may co-opt additional members to sit on their boards as advisors.

723. Reporting. Reports of boards and committees shall be prepared and presented to the National Board of Administration (682:20) by the full-time director, or the part-time secretary, or by the chairman where a full/part-time person is not available.

C. Official Listing

728. The official list of boards, departments, agencies, institutions, subsidiary corporations, auxiliaries, and affiliated bodies of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is:

(1) National Church Boards
   National Board of Administration (670-682)
   National Board of Finance and Pension (778-779)
   National Board of Training (785-787)

(2) National Church Departments
   National Department of Christian Education (790-801)
   National Board of Christian Education (796-797)
   National Department of Communications (824-829)
   National Board of Communications (828-829)
   National Department of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (804-811)
   National Board of Evangelism and Communications (810-811)
   National Department of Planning and Development (814-821)
   National Board of Planning and Development (820-821)

(3) Church Related Agencies
   National Educational Ministries (Primary and Secondary Schools) (840-848)
   National Board of Education (844-845)
   National Health Care Ministries (850-856)
   National Health Care Ministries Board of Managers (855-856)
   Wesleyan Conference Centre (860-866)
   National Conference Centre Board (865-866)

(4) Church Related Institutions
   Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (870-876)
   GWBS Board of Governors (875-876)

(5) Church Related Subsidiary Corporations
   Wesley Investment and Development, Inc. (WIDE) (880-884)
   WIDE, Inc. Board of Managers (883-884)

(6) Church Related Secondary Schools
Birch Memorial Secondary School
Kalangba Secondary School
Kamabai Secondary School
Kamakwie Wesleyan Secondary School
Kamasassa Secondary School

(7) Church Related Affiliations (890)
American Wesleyan Mission (892-893)
The Evangelical College of Theology (897)
Chapter Four

NATIONAL CHURCH OFFICERS

A. List of Officers

730. The following are the national officers of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

(1) National Church Officers:
   National Superintendent (734-740)
   Assistant National Superintendent (745-746)
   National Secretary (750-751)
   National Treasurer (755-756)

B. National Church Officers

734. Function. The National Superintendent is the spiritual and administrative leader of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

   a. Specific Regulations for the National Superintendent

   735. Election. The National Superintendent shall be elected by the National Conference by ballot and majority vote, from among the ordained pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (660:16). He must be at least thirty-five years old.

   736. Term of Office. The National Superintendent shall serve a term of four years. He shall not serve for more than eight consecutive years or two terms. He must retire by age 68.

   737. Vacancy. Whenever the office of the National Superintendent is vacated, the Assistant National Superintendent shall become the National Superintendent (746:7) until the next meeting of the National Conference or until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

   738. Amenity. The National Superintendent is amenable to the National Conference (660:6) and the National Board of Administration (682:20) both for his duties and moral character. He may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the National Conference.
b. Duties and Powers of the National Superintendent

The National Superintendent shall normally devote his full time to supervising, coordinating, and promoting the various branches of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. His duties are:

**General Duties**

1. To provide spiritual and administrative leadership for The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

2. To encourage soul-winning and evangelism in all phases.

3. To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, both teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programmes of the Church, and promoting the interests of the Church as the need demands and opportunity affords.

**Related to Administration**

4. To exercise general administrative supervision over the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, in harmony with *The Discipline*, and to see that the plans and policies of the Church are carried out.

5. To serve as Chairman of the National Conference (630), Chairman of the National Board of Administration (678), and Chairman of the Executive Committee (680).

6. To issue the call for special sessions of the National Conference with National Board of Administration approval (622), a special session of the National Board of Administration with Executive Committee approval (673), and special sessions of the Executive Committee (687).

7. To make recommendations to the National Board of Administration and the Executive Committee concerning any part of the Church in order to provide for a more efficient administration and the advancement of the work.

8. To arrange, in cooperation with the General Director of World Missions, for a visit of the General Superintendent over the area during the quadrennium, and for additional visits of the General Director of World Missions or his representative.

9. To report to each session of the National Board of Administration concerning his official duties; to report annually to the National Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (682:20); and to make other reports as necessary.

10. To carry out such special assignments as the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, or the Executive Committee may assign from time to time.

11. To receive and approve quarterly financial reports from the National Treasurer,
department directors, auxiliary directors, and all who receive national funds, authorizing quarterly payments from the treasurer only when such reports are satisfactory (707).

(12) To meet with any national board, committee, auxiliary, or agency at his discretion, and to make such recommendations as he deems advisable; and to counsel with various officers, board and committee members, and others serving the Church, concerning the work.

(13) To be present or send his representative to all official ceremonies at Church institutions.

(14) To have the custody, under the direction of the National Board Administration (682:16), of property and legal records for the National Church and its districts.

(15) To report quadrennially to the National Conference concerning duties, plans and goals of the Church (660:6).

(16) To direct the National Secretary (751:10) and National Treasurer (756:7) in their official duties, assigning them special duties as necessary.

Related to Districts

(17) To arrange the dates for district conferences, in consultation with each district board of administration (465).

(18) To provide administrative leadership for a pioneer district (403), and to recommend a provisional district for the status of an established district to the National Board of Administration (416:4; 682:28).

(19) To exercise general supervision over the districts and their superintendents; to counsel with district leaders and build and maintain proper flow of communications between the districts and the National Church.

(20) To meet with district boards of administration at his discretion, when invited, offering advice and assistance as needed.

(21) To preside over district conferences (468) and determine a method which upholds the secrecy of the ballot.

(22) To rule on questions of order in district conferences (475), to interpret The Discipline when properly requested to do so or whenever deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Church.

(23) To preside, in the absence of the General Superintendent or the General Secretary
of World Missions (or his representative), over the ordination of pastors (1530) and the commissioning of workers when present, deliver the ordination address if so requested; and to sign all credential certificates, and other forms incidental to his office.

(24) To work closely with district officials in promoting evangelism, church planting and growth, and stewardship. To cooperate with each district in planning and conducting conventions, institutes, and seminars for pastors and other workers in the district for spiritual refreshment and greater skills and efficiency.

Related to the Judiciary

(25) To carry out judicial responsibilities as set forth in The Discipline (970; 975:1).

Related to the American Wesleyan Mission

(26) To act as an administrative consultant to the mission director of the American Wesleyan Mission, making sure that the plans and programmes of the mission and Church are harmonized.

(27) To give advice to individual missionaries and to evaluate their work to see that it is in the best interest of the Church.

2. Assistant National Superintendent

745. The Assistant National Superintendent shall be elected by ballot and by majority vote by the National Conference from among the ordained pastors of the Church (660:16). His qualifications, terms of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a national official as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

746. The Duties and Powers of the Assistant National Superintendent:

(1) To serve as Chairman of the National Conference in the absence of the National Superintendent (630).

(2) To serve as a member and Vice-chairman of the National Board of Administration (672:1) and Executive Committee (686), presiding whenever the National Superintendent is not present or appoints him to do so.

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

(4) To assist the National Superintendent, and to serve as his representative to district functions, institutional functions, and to churches as the National Superintendent may request.
(5) To perform such duties as may be required of him by the National Conference or
the National Board of Administration.

(6) To report quadrennially to the National Conference concerning his official duties,
and to the National Board of Administration as may be required (660:6).

(7) To become the National Superintendent in the event of a vacancy in that office
(737).

3. National Secretary

750. The National Secretary shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration
(682:12) at its first session after each National Conference. His qualifications, term of
office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a national official as set forth in
paragraphs 700-710.

751. Duties of the National Secretary

(1) To be the secretary of the National Conference (631), recording accurately and
completely, the proceedings of each session and keeping them in permanent form.

(2) To be chairman of the National Conference Journal Committee (652).

(3) To be responsible to compile a report of Church statistics for the National
Conference enlisting the help of district secretaries and reports from district conferences
(660:8).

(4) To serve as voting member and secretary to the National Board of Administration
and the Executive Committee (672:1, 686, 689). He shall record accurately and com­
pletely the proceedings of each session and keep them in permanent form, forwarding a
copy of the minutes to each member of the Board.

(5) To report the official actions of the National Board of Administration to the
National Conference (660:7).

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

(7) To receive and file all minutes and other official documents from various nation­
al Church boards, agencies, and affiliated bodies.

(8) To sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by
the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, and The Discipline.
(9) To be responsible for the administrative flow and maintenance of headquarters.

(10) To perform other duties as may be required by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, or the National Superintendent.

4. National Treasurer

755. The National Treasurer shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration at its first session after each National Conference (682:12), bearing in mind the outcome of the audit report of the National Conference. His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a national official as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

756. Duties of the National Treasurer

(1) To serve as a voting member of the National Board of Administration and the Executive Committee (672:1, 686).

(2) To serve as an ex-officio member of the National Board of Finance and Pension (779).

(3) To have custody of all National Church funds, to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the National Church budget, and as directed by the National Board of Administration (682:19). Disbursements to departments, agencies, and auxiliaries shall be made only upon an approved quarterly financial report from each body (746:11).

(4) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of each fiscal year, and at any other time as may be requested by the National Board of Administration (654).

(5) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in his care, certified by the Auditing Committee (654), to the regular session of each National Conference (660:6), and to submit reports to the National Board of Administration (682:20) at each session and to the National Superintendent as may be requested (740:11).

(6) To supervise any full-time clerical or accounting employee of the Church, being responsible for his faithful and satisfactory service.

(7) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, or the National Superintendent.
Chapter Five

NATIONAL BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

A. List of National Boards and Departments

770. The following are the national boards and departments of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

1. National Church Boards:
   - National Board of Administration (670-682)
   - National Board of Finance and Pension (778-780)
   - National Board of Training (785-787)

2. National Church Departments, with Directors and Boards:
   - National Department of Christian Education (790-801)
   - National Director of Christian Education (793-794)
   - National Board of Christian Education (796-797)
   - National Department of Communications (824-829)
   - National Director of Communications (825-826)
   - National Board of Communications (828-829)
   - National Department of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (804-811)
   - National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (806-807)
   - National Board of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (810-811)
   - National Department of Planning and Development (814-821)
   - National Director of Planning and Development (815-817)
   - National Board of Planning and Development (820-821)

771. The National Conference or the National Board of Administration may provide for additional departments and boards which are deemed necessary for the administration of the Church (660:10, 682:1).

772. The regulations for departmental directors and agency heads shall be those of the national church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

B. National Church Boards

1. National Board of Administration

776. The regulations for and the duties of the National Board of Administration are found in Part IV, Chapter Two of the Discipline (670-682).

2. National Board of Finance and Pension
778. **Purpose.** To plan, supervise, and advise in the area of finances in all phases of the Church.

779. **Membership.** The National Board of Finance and Pension shall be composed of four voting members elected by the National Conference (660:18) and two members appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:23). The National Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member and secretary (682:2). The chairman shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration.

780. **Duties:**

1. To submit a quadrennial budget to the National Conference for approval, which shall include proposed district support and pay scales for workers (660:9).

2. To submit an annual working budget to the National Board of Administration for approval with proposals for district budget allocations (682:31).

3. To meet at least twice a year to evaluate the status of finances, and to report the same to the National Board of Administration.

4. To oversee and manage the pension scheme for The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, setting policies, scales, benefits, insuring safekeeping and investment of funds, and approving disbursements.

5. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

3. National Board of Training

785. **Purpose.** To be responsible to plan, supervise, and advise the Church in matters of pastoral training, and in general, advanced training for church workers.

786. **Membership.** The National Board of Training shall consist of four members elected by the National Conference (660:18) and two members appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:23). The chairman shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration.

787. **Duties.**

1. To approve the course of study for pastors in the Church's own Bible School and affiliated college, and to approve a programme of study outside The Wesleyan Church (1264, 1266).
(2) To formulate, provide, and administer a study course for local preachers and for pastoral license (1264, 1266, 1622).

(3) To interview candidates for pastoral and other training on college level and upwards. To recommend scholarship grants to the National Board of Administration.

(4) To set, evaluate, and administer a national plan for advanced training in all phases of church work.

(5) To assist districts with plans and suggestions for in-service training in order to raise the quality of workers.

(6) To make recommendations to the National Conference and the National Board of Administration concerning training.

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

C. National Church Departments

1. National Department of Christian Education

a. Function

790. The National Department of Christian Education is responsible to plan, coordinate, and promote Christian education throughout the Church at the local, district, and national level. The department is under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration (682:20) and is administered by the National Director of Christian Education (794:1). The Christian education programme of the Church may be carried out by the following means:

1. Sunday schools
2. Vacation Bible schools
3. Leadership training
4. Discipleship and membership training
5. Music ministries
6. Literacy
7. Bible knowledge materials for schools
8. Promotion of Christian family life

b. National Director of Christian Education

793. Regulations. The regulations for the National Director of Christian Education shall be the same as those for national church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

794. Duties.
(1) To plan, coordinate, and promote the Christian education ministry of the Church at the local, district, and national levels (790).

(2) To direct and promote a programme of Christian education through the Sunday schools of the Church.

(3) To direct and promote a programme of membership and leadership training which can be administered by pastors and church leaders in the local church.

(4) To direct and promote a programme of Christian family life development, and other phases of Christian education as may be carried on through local churches and districts.

(5) To provide for Christian education materials in all phases of Christian education, including Sunday schools, baptism and membership classes, and Bible knowledge classes in schools.

(6) To carry out other duties related to Christian education as may be directed by the National Board of Administration, the National Superintendent, or the National Board of Christian Education.

c. National Board of Christian Education

796. Membership. The National Board of Christian Education shall consist of four members elected by the National Conference (660:18) and two members appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:23). The National Director of Christian Education shall be an ex-officio member and secretary. The chairman shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration.

797. Duties:

(1) To develop, supervise, and coordinate the work of Christian education in the Church through the work of the National Director of Christian Education (794:1) and other secretaries over departments in Christian education

(2) To appoint various subcommittees and secretaries to assist the National Director of Christian Education by concentrating on specific departments of the work.

(3) To review and coordinate the plans and work of these departments, receiving reports from the various secretaries.

(4) To present recommendations to the National Conference and the National Board of Administration for the areas related to Christian education.

(5) To perform such other duties related to Christian education as are assigned by the National Conference or Board of Administration.
d. Secondary School Chaplains

800. The National Board of Administration may appoint chaplains to the Wesleyan secondary schools, upon the recommendation of the National Board of Christian Education. The chaplains shall be affiliated with their local districts as either licensed pastors or commissioned workers, according to recommendation of district boards.

801. Regulations for Secondary School Chaplains:

1. Appointment. By the National Board of Administration on recommendation of the National Board of Christian Education.

2. Qualifications. Should possess high Christian character, post secondary school education with a Bible college education preferable, and the ability to teach and organize youth.

3. Amenability. Under the supervision of the National Director of Christian Education, but amenable to the National Board of Administration.

4. Duties. To oversee the spiritual life of the school; to provide daily devotions and weekly chapel programmes; to counsel students and staff; to promote Wesleyan Youth, Scripture Union, and other similar groups in school and church; to cooperate and work with the local pastor; to submit quarterly financial report forms to the district superintendent; and to submit an annual report to National Board of Christian Education.

2. National Department of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions

a. Function

804. The National Department of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions is responsible to plan, promote, supervise, and advise in the area of gospel outreach, church growth, and missions throughout the Church at the local, district, and national level. The department is under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration (682:20) and is administered by the National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions (811:1).

b. National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions

806. Regulations. The regulations for the National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions shall be the same as those for national church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

807. Duties.
(1) To plan, coordinate, and promote evangelism and outreach at the local, district, and national levels by such means as personal soul-winning, local church evangelistic meetings, evangelistic crusades, and by various media, including radio, audio and video tape recording, film, and print (808).

(2) To provide for training in personal soul-winning, church and crusade evangelism, and other methods of evangelism throughout the Church.

(3) To advise districts in developing aggressive programmes of church growth, and to carry on cooperative programmes or projects with the districts as approved by the National Board of Administration.

(4) To recommend to the National Board of Administration the authorization of a special ministries project or a missions outreach of the Church.

(5) To make available evangelistic and promotional materials that will aid local churches or districts in their evangelism programmes and in introducing and promoting the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(6) To report every four years to the National Conference (660:6) and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(7) To submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

(8) To carry out other duties related to evangelism and the outreach of the Church as assigned by the National Board of Administration, the National Superintendent, or the National Board of Evangelism and Communications.

c. National Board of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions

810. Membership. The National Board of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions shall consist of four members elected by the National Conference (660:18) and two members appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:23). The National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions shall be an ex-officio member and secretary. The chairman shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration.

811. Duties:

(1) To stimulate interest in and provide oversight of evangelism, church extension, and mission programmes at the local, district, and National Church levels.

(2) To make recommendations to the National Conference and the National Board of Administration in ways and means of promoting evangelism, church growth, and missions; and to formulate a growth strategy, including personal evangelism, evangelistic
campaigns, and the use of communications media.

(3) To coordinate the evangelistic work of various media and agencies, such as radio, films, literature, and medical outreach, seeing that different demographic areas get a share of these tools to witness.

(4) To work with district evangelists and full-time workers, providing planning, training, and materials that will be useful for evangelism and for promoting the Church.

(5) To supervise the National Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions.

(6) To receive reports and recommendations from the Director of Evangelism, Church Growth, and Missions regarding the work and concerns of evangelism throughout the Church.

(7) To recommend national evangelists to the National Board of Administration or the National Conference for approval.

(8) To approve an annual budget for the various means of evangelism, such as radio and literature distribution, making recommendations to the National Board of Administration regarding needs.

(10) To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

3. National Department of Planning and Development

a. Function

814. The National Department of Planning and Development is responsible to plan, supervise, and advise in the area of planning and development throughout the Church and in church related agencies and institutions. The department is under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration (682:20) and is administered by the National Director of Planning and Development (823:1,2).

b. National Director of Planning and Development

815. Regulations. The regulations for the National Director of Planning and Development shall be the same as those for national church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

817. Duties.

To work with the national directors and district superintendents in planning, monitoring, and evaluating their departmental programmes.
To serve as advisor/consultant to the national church and the districts in development programmes and projects.

To promote biblical stewardship in the churches.

(4) To promote a biblical and holistic approach to development within the church.

To organize programmes (workshops, seminars, etc.) in order to train and build awareness in pastors and laymen in community development, appropriate technology, self-reliance, and income generation.

To serve as official representative of the church in development related matters.

To report to the National Conference every four years, and to the National Board of Administration regularly.

To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the National Board of Administration, the National Superintendent, or the National Board of Planning and Development.

c. National Board of Planning and Development

820. Membership. The National Board of Planning and Development shall consist of four members elected by the National Conference (660:18) and two members appointed by the National Board of Administration from among its own members (682:23). The National Director of Planning and Development shall be an ex-officio member and secretary. The chairman shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration.

821. Duties.

(1) To promote holistic development in the church.

(2) To enforce a balanced approach to development which lays emphasis on the whole man (body, soul, mind and spirit) and his environment and encourages strong church involvement and good stewardship.

(3) To formulate development plans and policies for the church.

(4) To generally supervise and monitor the plans and activities of development committees of districts and auxiliaries.

(5) To make recommendations to the National Conference or the National Board of Administration on development related matters.

(6) To supervise the work of the National Director of Planning and Development.
(7) To establish a budget for development projects.

(8) To receive reports and recommendations concerning ongoing projects.

To perform such other duties as are assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

4. National Department of Communications

a. Function

824. The National Department of Communications is responsible for the planning, supervision, and use of various types of media for communicating the gospel and promoting the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. The department is under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration (682:20) and is administered by the National Director of Communications. (826).

b. National Director of Communications

825. Regulations. The regulations for the National Director of Communications shall be the same as those for national church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

826. Duties:

To provide leadership for the operations of the communications department.

To coordinate the various aspects of the communications ministry of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

To recommend the employment of staff to the Board of Communications.

To initiate policies and programs for the communications ministry for the consideration of the Board of Communications.

To report every four years to the National Conference (660:6) and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

c. National Board of Communications

828. Membership. The National Board of Communications shall consist of five members. The chairman and three members-at-large shall be elected by the National Conference (660:18), with due regard to equal lay and pastoral representation. The fifth member shall be the National Director of Communications, who shall serve as Board secretary.
829. **Duties:**

To formulate policies and approve programmes and services of the radio station.

To employ staff within the limits of the budget and with approval by the National Board of Administration.

To formulate a yearly budget for the radio station.

To receive reports and recommendations from the Station Manager.

To make recommendations regarding the use of various media to the National Board of Administration.

To supervise the Director of Communications.

To perform other duties related to communications as assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.
Chapter Six

NATIONAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

A. Authorization

830. The National Conference of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may establish special agencies or institutions, on the recommendation of the National Board of Administration, to carry out specific ministries in areas such as education, health, theological training, and community development (660:11).

B. List of Agencies and Institutions

832. The following are agencies and institutions of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone:

1. Church Related Agencies:
   - National Educational Ministries (Primary and Secondary Schools) (840-848)
   - Director of Educational Ministries [Education Secretary] (840-841)
   - National Board of Education (844-845)
   - National Health Care Ministries (850-856)
   - Director of Health Care Ministries [Medical Coordinator] (850-851)
   - National Board of Health Care Ministries (855-856)
   - Wesleyan Conference Centre (860-866)
   - Director of Wesleyan Conference Centre (860-861)
   - Conference Centre Board (865-866)

2. Church Related Institutions:
   - Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (870-876)
   - Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School (870-871)
   - Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School Board of Managers (875-876)
   - Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital

3. Church Related Subsidiary Corporations:
   - Wesley Investment and Development, Inc. (WIDE) (880-884)
   - Director of WIDE (880-881)
   - WIDE Board of Directors (883-884)

C. Organization of Agencies

834. Boards: Agencies and institutions of the Church shall each be governed by a board of managers whose members, other than the executive secretary, shall be elected by the National Conference for four-year terms of duty. Each board shall operate under bylaws approved by the National Board of Administration and is amenable to the National Board.
of Administration. The chairman of each board shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration, unless otherwise specified in the Discipline. Regulations for members of the boards are those set forth in paragraphs 715-723.

836. **Executive Secretary.** The executive secretary of each board shall be the director, manager, principal, or other appointed official of the agency or institution. He shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:25). The executive secretary shall act as recording secretary of the board of managers, carry out the policies of the board, direct the agency, make recommendations and reports to the board of managers, and report to the National Board of Administration annually (682:26) and National Conference quadrennially (660:6). He shall submit minutes of all board of managers meetings to the National Superintendent and National Secretary (751:1). He shall submit funds and financial records for annual audit (654).

D. **National Educational Ministries**
   (Primary and Secondary Schools)

840. **Regulations.** The regulations for the Director of Educational Ministries (Education Secretary) are those of national Church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

841. **Duties.**

   (1) To act as the chief primary school administrator of the Church, supervising all aspects of primary school education and working directly with the Ministry of Education's representative of the area, as well as with school managers and head teachers.

   (2) To serve as the Executive Secretary for the National Board of Education, fulfilling the duties thereof.

   (3) To make appointments, transfers, and terminations of teachers and staff, in keeping with the regulations of the Ministry of Education, and ensuring that all employees are fit and qualified to be in charge of children and to instruct them. The Wesleyan Teachers Code of Ethics is to be promoted and enforced.

   (4) To seek to maintain high spiritual standards for teachers and schools, ensuring that pastors are involved in school life, and that Religious Knowledge materials are provided for teachers.

   (5) To keep a register of teachers with qualifications and other particulars.

   (6) To work closely with the school managers in order to ensure that school buildings
and supplies are adequate and suitable.

(7) To visit schools and communities to ensure that proper instruction is going on, and to maintain friendly and constructive relations with the community.

(8) To receive and disburse teachers' and staff's salaries and school running costs from government, development grants, and other funding. To keep accurate and up-to-date financial records and statistics.

(9) To submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

(10) To report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) on the state of the primary schools, and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(11) To organize seminars and meetings for managers, head teachers, and teachers for growth and enhancement of education, and to attend and encourage attendance at the annual Teachers Institute.
To represent the Church in all educational matters.

(13) To submit statistics and periodic reports on the schools to the Ministry of Education.

2. National Board of Education

844. Membership. The Board of Education shall consist of eight members, including the Education Secretary, one representative from principals of secondary schools, one representative from managers of primary schools, and five members at large elected by the National Conference (660:18). The chairman of the Board shall be appointed by the National Conference. Government education officials may be invited to attend the meetings of the Board.

845. Duties: The duties of the National Board of Education shall be divided into two subsections:

a. Relating to Primary Schools

(1) To oversee and supervise the primary school operations of the Church under guidelines of the Ministry of Education and the spiritual priorities of the church.

(2) To receive reports from the Education Secretary concerning his duties in administering the schools and approve his plans and programmes.

(3) To approve the budget of the education office, making recommendations to the Board of Pension and Finance when need arises.
(4) To interview and approve applications for new teaching appointments, transfers and dismissals.

(5) To meet two times a year, sending minutes to the National Secretary and the National Superintendent.

b. Relating to Secondary Schools

(6) To oversee the Church's interests and responsibilities as proprietor of its secondary schools, under the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and with the spiritual priorities of the Church in mind.

(7) To keep lines of communication open with the principals.

(8) To assist in recruiting fine, qualified Christian teachers.

(9) To keep records and report to the National Board of Administration.

(10) To meet two times a year or in special sessions as needed.

(11) To make recommendations to the National Conference and National Board of Administration regarding secondary schools.

3. Wesleyan Education Alumni Association

848. In harmony with the purpose of community development as stated in paragraph 830, there may be an organization known as the Wesleyan Education Alumni Association. The association shall be under the administration of the Education Secretary and the National Board of Education, which shall appoint a chairman and an advisory committee for the association. All projects proposed by the association shall be submitted to the National Board of Education for approval.

E. National Health Care Ministries

1. Director of Health Care Ministries (Medical Coordinator)

850. Regulations. The regulations for the Director of Health Care Ministries (Medical Coordinator) are those of national Church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

851. Duties.

(1) To administer and coordinate the medical ministries of the Church.
(2) To serve as the executive secretary of the Health Care Ministries Board of Managers, fulfilling all the duties thereof.

(3) To recruit and hire staff for each aspect of Health Care Ministries.

(4) To be responsible for the order and procurement of medicines and medical supplies.

(5) To keep financial and statistical records for Health Care Ministries, and to submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

(6) To report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) on the state of Health Care Ministries, and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(7) To represent the Church in all matters related to its medical ministries.

2. National Health Care Ministries Board of Managers

855. Membership. The Board of Managers shall consist of seven members: the National Superintendent as chairman, the National Secretary, the Director of Planning and Development, the Mission Director, two members at large appointed by the National Board of Administration (one of whom shall be a medical person), and the Medical Coordinator.

856. Duties.

(1) To establish hospitals, clinics, and other health care ministries of the Church, and approve the policies and protocols for such.

(2) To develop long-range plans for the Health Care Ministries of the Church.

(3) To approve the employment of staff, as recommended by the Medical Coordinator and within the limits of the budget, and senior staff with National Board of Administration approval.

(4) To give guidance, direction and support to the Medical Coordinator.

(5) To approve and oversee all building construction on Health Care Ministries complexes.

(6) To develop budgets for the overall Health Care Ministry operation.

F. Wesleyan Conference Centre
1. Director of Wesleyan Conference Centre

860. Regulations. The regulations for the Director of Wesleyan Conference Centre are those of the National Church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

861. Duties.

(1) To administer the Conference Centre, including maintenance of buildings and grounds, booking of reservations, and the general operation of the Centre.

(2) To act as executive secretary of the Conference Centre Board, fulfilling all the duties thereof.

(3) To recommend employment of staff to the Conference Centre Board.

(4) To report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(5) To submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

2. Wesleyan Conference Centre Board

865. Membership. The Wesleyan Conference Centre Board shall consist of seven members: the chairman, appointed by the National Board of Administration; the Director of Wesleyan Conference Centre; one other member appointed by the National Board of Administration and four members elected by the National Conference (660:18).

866. Duties.

(1) To establish policies and programmes for the best utilization of the Conference Centre.

(2) To develop and periodically review a long-range master plan for the Conference Centre.

(3) To approve the plans for and give oversight to the construction and renovation of any building on the Conference Centre grounds.

(4) To work with and support the Director in the administration of the Conference Centre.

(5) To approve the employment of staff, as recommended by the Director of the Conference Centre and within the limits of the budget, and senior staff with National Board of Administration approval.
To approve a yearly budget for the Conference Centre, making recommendations to the National Board of Administration regarding needs.

To receive reports and recommendations from the Director of the Wesleyan Conference Centre.

G. Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School

1. Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School

870. Regulations. The regulations for the Principal of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School are those of the national Church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

871. Duties.

(1) To be the chief administrative officer of the Bible school, giving oversight to the academic, social, spiritual, and fiscal aspects of the school.

(2) To serve as the executive secretary for the Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School Board of Managers, fulfilling all the duties thereof.

(3) To report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(4) To submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

2. Board of Managers

875. Membership. The Board of Managers of Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School shall consist of seven members: the chairman, appointed by the National Board of Administration; the National Superintendent or his representative; five members-at-large elected by the National Conference (660:18); and the principal, appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22). The five members-at-large shall include two pastoral and three lay representatives, including a representative of the local community.

876. Duties:

(1) To formulate the policies of the school, to be approved by the National Board of Administration (682:24).

(2) To approve the financial budget for the school, making recommendations to the National Board of Administration.

(3) To approve the employment of staff, as recommended by the Principal and subject
(4) To regulate the course of study in the school, keeping in line with the regulations of the Church’s study program (1264, 787:1).

(5) To screen and approve applicants for the student body.

(6) To receive reports and recommendations from the principal on a regular basis.

(7) To make recommendations to the National Board of Administration regarding the school.

(8) To perform other duties as may be required by the National Board of Administration.

H. Wesley Investment and Development, Inc. (WIDE)

1. Director of Wesley Investment and Development, Inc.

880. Regulations. The regulations for the Director of WIDE, Inc. are those of the national Church officials as set forth in paragraphs 700-710.

881. Duties.

(1) To administer the approved investment and development programmes in keeping with the policies and objectives of WIDE and the Church.

(2) To serve as the executive secretary for the Board of Managers, fulfilling all the duties thereof.

(3) To report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) and to report regularly to the National Board of Administration (682:20).

(4) To submit all financial books and corresponding records to the National Board of Administration for annual audit (654).

2. Board of Directors

883. Membership. The Board of Directors of Wesley Investment and Development, Inc. (WIDE) shall consist of seven members: the chairman, appointed by the National Board of Administration; the National Superintendent or his representative; five members-at-large elected by the National Conference (660:18); and the Director of WIDE, appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:22). The five members-at-large shall include two pastoral and three lay representatives.
884. **Duties.**

(1) To establish policies and approve investment and development programmes which are in keeping with the objectives of WIDE and the Church.

(2) To approve the employment of staff, as recommended by the Director of WIDE and within the limits of the budget, and senior staff with National Board of Administration approval.

(3) To approve an annual budget for WIDE, making recommendations to the National Board of Administration regarding needs.

(4) To receive reports and recommendations from the Director of WIDE.
Chapter Seven

NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

A. Authorization

890. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may have relations with affiliated institutions or bodies. These institutions may have separate and independent boards or councils, but shall either have representation from the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, or the two shall meet on joint commissions to link programmes. The affiliates shall report quadrennially to the National Conference (660:6) and annually to the National Board of Administration (682:20). Reports may also be made available to each district conference.

B. American Wesleyan Mission

892. Church/Mission Commission. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and the American Wesleyan Mission shall cooperate and serve together as affiliates and members of the Wesleyan World Fellowship. The Church/Mission Commission shall be made up of five members of the Church, appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:35), and the members of the Missionary Council Executive Committee. The commission shall meet once a year to share progress, discuss future plans, coordinate programmes, and gain better understanding (682:36). It is open to other members of the Church and missionaries as observers.

893. Regulations for the American Wesleyan Mission:

1. The American Wesleyan Mission shall be constituted and organized as provided for in the Policy of the North American General Board of Administration for World Missions. The full members of the American Wesleyan Mission may also hold membership in any local organized Wesleyan church in Sierra Leone and be eligible for election to any position to which a member may be elected, either in the local church, the district conference, or in the National Conference.

2. The Mission Director of the American Wesleyan Mission shall be an ex-officio member of the National Board of Administration and a voting member of the National Conference (606:1; 672:2).

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

897. Sierra Leone Bible College shall be an affiliate of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, but operates independently with its own board of governors. As one of the cooperating proprietors, the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall have three members on the Board of Governors: the National Superintendent, the Mission Director, and one other appointed by the National Board of Administration.
PART V. JUDICIARY

Chapter One

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Meaning and Purpose of Church Discipline

900. 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, pastors, congregations, and official bodies.

901. 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 Church 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, pastors, 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; 1 Cor. 5:1-5). The purpose of judicial discipline is the finding out of the truth, the preservation of the good name of the body, the restoration and salvation of the guilty, and the warning of the careless.

902. Subjects of Discipline. All members and pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are subject to its administrative discipline, and, if charged with an offense, are subject to its judicial discipline.

B. The Administration of Judicial Discipline

905. In order that the purposes of Church discipline may be realized, judicial discipline for the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

(1) A prayerful and Christlike spirit shall be maintained at all times by all parties (Eph. 4:15; 11 Tim. 4:2; 1 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 spiritual 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 kept without favoring anyone. 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) Special law practices 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. 142).

(7) 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 (1000).

C. The Fundamental Rights and Duties for Judicial Discipline

908. 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, pastor, local church, district, or official body of The Wesleyan Church. No one shall be set aside without due consideration for both his spiritual welfare and his rights to request a trial or to appeal, even when placed under discipline.

909. Rights of the Accused: Any member or pastor 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 choice, 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 have the right to cross-examine any witness for the prosecution.

(3) Objection. The accused shall have the right to challenge the qualifications of any member of the judicatory, the validity of which shall be determined by the presiding officer.

(4) Limitation. A pastor or member shall not be required to answer charges for any act which occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges.
910. **Right of Investigation:** The Church has a right to investigate the character of its members and pastors in order to maintain the purity of its doctrines and practices, and can therefore, through its officers, official bodies, and judicatories, require any member or pastor under investigation to testify, under penalty of dismissal if they refuse.

911. **Duty of Cooperation:** It shall be the duty of every member, pastor, and church body to cooperate and to witness when properly requested to do so for an official investigation or trial.
Chapter Two
OFFENSES

A. Individual

918. Any member, pastor, supply pastor, commissioned worker, district or national official, of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for any of the following offenses:

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

(2) Disobedience to the provisions of The Discipline or tolerating disobedience.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize Church authority.

(4) Conduct unbecoming of a member or pastor of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) Immorality or crime.

(6) Serious or persistent neglect of duty.

B. Local Church, District, or Official Body

919. Any local church, district, official body, or other agency of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for 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 disobedience.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize Church authority.
925. Jurisdiction: Original jurisdiction over a lay member belongs to the local church of which he is a member.

(1) Accusations against a lay member shall be submitted to the pastor. If there is no pastor, or if the pastor does not attend to the matter, the accusation shall be presented to the local board of administration. Inquiry shall be made (995) and the local board of administration shall have charge of ordering an investigation (1002) or trial (342:9), if necessary, as set forth in this Judiciary. 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 an unorganized church shall be exercised by the district superintendent.

(3) The district superintendent, when requested to do so by the local board of administration, 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.

(4) When a lay member, who resides away from the church 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 (995, 1002). 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.

927. 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, which shall be selected by the local board of administration as the occasion may arise, from its membership or the membership of the local church (342:9). The committee shall serve from the time of its appointment until it shall hear and determine the case, including any reopening (1030).

(2) The local board of administration shall designate the chair 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 accordance with this judiciary, and shall notify the accused of his rights (908, 909).

(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 rec-
mend the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1040). A two-thirds majority vote of all mem-
ers 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 warning, rebuke, suspension, removal, or dismissal, and said body may
require repentance, apology, or restitution as judged necessary (1040).

(4) Whenever the accused lay member is serving the church under the jurisdiction
of the National Board of Administration (972), a certified copy of the findings of the local
judicial committee shall be forwarded to the chairman of the National Board of
Administration, and whenever the accused is licensed or commissioned by the district, a
certified copy of the findings shall be forwarded to the district superintendent.

(5) An appeal may be made concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused,
and concerning the verdict by the local church board, to the district board of appeal with-
in thirty days (946:1; 1032-1035).

928. 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 sus-
pension. If the suspension has been for an indefinite period, the local church board shall
be responsible to declare an end to the suspension (342:9). 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 dis-
missal of the accused from the church or vote for such dismissal itself if such power has
been delegated.

929. Reinstatement: After being dismissed from the church, a lay member may be rein-
stated by the local church when such a person evidences a genuine repentance and amend-
ment of life, and meets the requirements for membership.
Chapter Four

DISTRICT JURISDICTION

A. Jurisdiction

940. The district conference shall have original jurisdiction as set forth in 942 over the following members and local units of the district:

1. An elder or licensed pastor.
2. A commissioned worker.
3. A supply pastor.
4. A pioneer church, local church, or preaching point within the bounds of the district.

942. The jurisdiction of the district conference and, in the interim of its sessions, the district board of administration (495:1), over those persons listed in 940:1-3 shall be over their standing in the ministry or as special worker, as the case may be, and their district conference relations and appointments with the exception of those who are first answerable to the National Board of Administration for their official duties (972-973). 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.

943. The district conference, when in session, shall receive any complaint or accusation against any person or local unit under its jurisdiction, appointing an investigative committee (1002), and if necessary, referring charges against a person to a district judicial committee appointed by the district conference and referring charges against a local unit to the district board of appeal (945). If the judicatory 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 (1040, 1042). If the investigative committee or the judicatory completes its work after the close of the district conference sessions, 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 (495:28).

B. District Board of Appeal

990. Each established district shall have a district board of appeal consisting of four elders and three lay members, elected annually by the district conference (450:19). They shall be members of The Wesleyan Church and of the 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 (1022) and shall also fill any vacancies in the order of their election. The district board of appeal shall organize itself
and elect its own officers, and shall see that complete records of all proceedings and cases are kept. The board shall meet annually at the time of the regular district conference session and at other times and places as judged necessary. The chairman shall see that proceedings are conducted in keeping with the rules of procedure (990-1035) and other provisions of The Discipline. The board shall also be authorized to notify any member(s), pastor(s), or local church(es) through their officials to appear and to testify concerning matters brought before the district board of appeal. The records of the district board of appeal shall be in the custody of the district secretary (531:3).

946. The duties and powers of the district board of appeal are:

(1) To hear and determine the appeal of a lay member or of a local church board concerning the result of a local church trial (927:5); to sustain, modify, or revoke, in the whole or in part, the verdict and/or the penalty as set forth in (1040-1042); by a majority vote of all members of the district board of appeal, provided that if the accused has been previously found innocent, it shall require a two-thirds majority of all members of the district board of review to find him guilty.

(2) To hear and determine the appeal of a member(s) concerning an action of a local church conference or a local board of administration when such member(s) is aggrieved or adversely affected by such action, to determine the legality of such an action in regard to The Discipline and district regulations, and to report their findings to the district board of administration for appropriate action.

(3) To hear any charges against a local church alleging an offense as set forth in (919) presented by the district conference (480:19) or the district board of administration (495:28); to determine the guilt or innocence of the local church with reference to such charges, with a two-thirds vote of the district board of appeal required for a verdict of guilty; and to report its findings and recommendations to the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, to the district board of administration.

(4) To hear and decide any complaint by a local church against another local church within the district, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the local church conference, and further provided that sincere efforts have been made for a mutually agreeable settlement through the district board of administration, to report its findings and recommendations to the district conference, or between its sessions, to the district board of administration.

(5) To hear and decide any other cases as shall be referred to it by the district conference (495:28) or the district board of administration (524:23).

947. Appeals: Appeals concerning a decision of the district board of appeal shall be made to the National Board of Review (960:4; 1064:?).
C. Pastors and Special Workers

1. Procedure

950. Accusations or complaints against those under the jurisdiction of the district as set forth in 940 shall be cared for as follows:

(1) Accusations shall be submitted to the district superintendent who shall make inquiry (524:23), and the district conference, or in between its sessions, the district board of administration shall decide on any official investigation (1002) or trial, if necessary, as set forth in the rules procedure. Any charges alleging an offense as set forth in 918 shall be heard and determined by a district judicial committee (954:1-4). 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 warning, rebuke, suspension, or removal (1040:1-5).

(2) If the accused is the district superintendent, a national official, or other person answerable to the National Board of Administration (972), the accusation shall be given to the National Superintendent and handled as set forth in 975.

(3) If an accusation alleges an offense committed by a person under the jurisdiction of the district (940:1-3) 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 (1002). If a bill of charges is to be drawn up, it shall be submitted through the National Superintendent to the district in which the accused holds membership.

2. District Judicial Committee

954. A district judicial committee shall be constituted and shall carry out such duties as provided below:

(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 (495:28), 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 national officer. The National 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 National 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 (990-1035) and The Discipline, shall notify the accused of his rights (908-911), and shall decide on the admissibility of evidence (998).
(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 (1040). A two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district judicial committee shall be required for a verdict of guilty. The penalty may take the form of warning, rebuke, suspension, or removal as set forth in 1040 and 1042. The body having jurisdiction may also require repentance, apology, or restitution as judged necessary.

(4) The records of a district judicial committee shall be filed with the district secretary (531:3). Whenever the accused is a district superintendent, a national official, or one who is serving under the National Board of Administration, a copy of the findings of the committee shall be forwarded to the National Superintendent.

(5) An appeal may be made concerning the verdict and/or penalty by the accused and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration to the National Board of Review within thirty days (1064, 1066).

3. Special Regulations for Pastors and Special Workers

956. The administration of judicial discipline and penalties to those persons under the jurisdiction of the district (940:1-3) shall be in accord with the following regulations:

(1) Indiscreet Conduct. Whenever a pastor or special worker has been charged with an offense alleging immorality or crime (918:5) and is not found guilty of such actions but rather of “high imprudence or indiscreet conduct,” the offender shall be subject to warning, rebuke, suspension, or removal, according to the seriousness of the offense.

(2) Suspension. Whenever a pastor shall be suspended from the pastorate, or a special worker shall be suspended from such office, his credentials shall be surrendered to the custody of the district superintendent. 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 National Secretary.

(3) Immorality and Crime. Whenever a pastor, 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 removed from the ministry or from the office of a 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 removed for such an offense may be reinstated as provided for in 1060.
(4) **Removal.** An elder or licensed pastor that has been removed from the ministry, or a commissioned or licensed pastor or special worker that has been removed from such office, shall immediately surrender his credentials to the district superintendent, shall cease to exercise any of the functions of the ministry or of a commission, or special worker that has been deposed from such office, shall immediately surrender his credentials to the district superintendent, 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, and 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.

(5) **Reinstatement.** Provisions for the reinstatement of an elder or licensed pastor are set forth in 1257, and shall be the same for a special worker.

**D. Local Churches**

1. **Procedure**

960. The procedure for the discipline of a local church (or circuit) shall be:

(1) Any complaint against a local church by a lay member, or group of lay members, pastor, or another local church shall be submitted in writing to the district superintendent (524:23), who, together with the district board of administration (495:28) shall endeavor to make peaceful settlement. If such a settlement cannot be realized, the complaint shall be referred to the district board of appeal who shall hear and decide the complaint (946:2,4).

(2) Whenever a local church shall be charged with an offense as set forth in 918, the district superintendent (524:24) and the district board of administration shall have the authority to notify the offending church, in the person of its pastor and local church officials or local board of administration, to appear before it to settle the matter or to show why it shall not be placed under discipline. Such a notice 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 reached, a bill of charges and specifications against the local church shall be submitted to the district board of appeal who shall hear and determine the case (946).

(3) Whenever a local church has been declared guilty of an offense as set forth in 918 by the district board of appeal, it shall be suspended by the district conference (480:21), or in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration (495:28), from all the rights and privileges of a local church as set forth in (288:1-8). 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 (962).

(4) An appeal may be made concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused
church, and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration to the National
Board of Review (1064:7).

2. Reorganization

962. Whenever a local church, through its pastor and/or local church officials or local
board of administration, shall refuse to answer the notifications of the district board of
administration to appear for making a settlement (960:2) or notification of the district
board of review to appear for the hearing of the case (1009), or whenever a local church
that has been placed under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance as
set forth in 960:3 and does not exercise the right of appeal, the district board of adminis-
tration shall authorize the district superintendent and any two of its other members to reor-
ganize 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 per-
sons 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 twelve or fewer, the church shall be automatically
classified as a pioneer church and shall be under the supervision of the district superin-
tendent and the district board of administration.

963. 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 Five

NATIONAL CHURCH JURISDICTION

A. National Conference

970. The National Conference, as the chief governing body, exercises supreme judicial authority within The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. The National Conference shall hear appeals from rulings of the National Board of Review (1066), 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 National Conference for final action (660:19); 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 National Board of Review (980-983) and upon hearing the findings and recommendations of the National Board of Review fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed. In between National Conference sessions, the National Board of Administration shall hear the findings and recommendations of the National Board of Review and fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1064:5c).

B. Officials

1. Jurisdiction

972. The National Board of Administration shall have jurisdiction over the following persons in regard to their official duties (660:34)

   (1) A national official.
   (2) A member-at-large of the National Board of Administration.
   (3) A district superintendent.
   (4) A member or pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone who is serving under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration, including any who are elected or employed by the National Board of Administration for full-time service for the national church, members of a board elected by the National Board of Administration, and any others amenable to the National Board of Administration.

973. National Board of Administration shall have the authority to remove from office, for cause, any person under its jurisdiction as listed in 972, but shall not have authority to remove anyone from the ministry or dismiss anyone from the Church. 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 national 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

975. Administrative or judicial discipline against persons listed in 972 shall be administered as follows:

(1) If the accused is a national official, a member-at-large of the National Board of Administration, or a district superintendent, any accusation alleging an offense set forth in 918 shall be submitted in writing (992) to the chairman of the National Board of Administration (740:25) and must be sustained by at least three responsible members of The Wesleyan Church. If the accused is a National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent shall make inquiry as required in (995-996). The Executive Council shall have the authority to order an official investigation (1002), if such is judged necessary, in between National Board of Administration 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 National Board of Administration shall be called into special session, which shall be within thirty days of such suspension.

The National Board of Administration shall dispose of any charges or accusations as set forth in 919. Whenever it is judged necessary, the National Board of Administration may remove a national official or a district superintendent from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, and shall also decide whether charges shall be submitted to the official body having jurisdiction over the accused concerning his pastoral standing or membership in the Church.

(2) If the accused is a member or pastor under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration as stated in 972:3, an accusation or complaint shall be submitted to the national official to which the accused is answerable or to a National Superintendent. The National Board of Administration or its Executive Council shall decide on the best way of dealing with such accusations or charges as set forth in 973. If it is judged necessary, the National Board of Administration may remove such a person from office by a majority of all its members.

3. Power of Removal

977. The National Board of Administration, and other governing boards shall have full power and authority to discharge in their judgment any officer or employee thereof (with the exception of those in 972:1-3 which shall be limited to the National 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 judge sufficient to warrant discharge. The action of such board in removing such officer or employee in the circumstances above set forth shall be final. Any governing board, or of an educational or benevolent institution, shall have the right to recommend the removal of any of its members to the National Board of Administration, who shall have power to sustain or reject such a recommendation.
C. Districts

1. Procedure

980. Any charge or complaint against an established district alleging an offense set forth in 919 shall be heard and determined by the National Board of Review (1064:5c). The National Superintendent over the involved district(s), together with the National Board of Administration or its Executive Council shall make every effort to clear up such accusations or charges to effect a mutually agreeable settlement before any district, through its officials or district board of administration, shall be brought to trial before the National Board of Review, unless a hearing is requested by the accused district.

981. The National Board of Administration, or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Council, shall have the authority to notify a district, through its officials or its district board of administration, to appear before it to show cause, if it has any, 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 919. Such a notification shall set forth a clear and definite statement of the charge and any supporting facts or evidence and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the National 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 National Board of Administration or the Executive Council result in a satisfactory adjustment of the charges, with the accused district pledging its loyalty to the denomination, no further steps shall be taken. When it is impossible to reach a mutually agreeable settlement, in the opinion of the National Board of Administration or should the notified district officials fail or refuse to appear, a bill of charges and specifications for offenses as listed in 919 shall be prepared and submitted to the National Board of Review.

982. After receiving the report of the findings of the National Board of Review, the National 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 appoint the National Superintendent or national official to have charge of the district. 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, after which the National Board of Administration shall end the suspension and reinstate the district. 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 national official appointed to have charge of the district.

983. An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused district, and concerning the verdict by the National Board of Administration to the National Conference.
2. Reorganization

985. Whenever a district under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance of loyalty or whenever the district officials refuse to answer a notice to appear (981), the National Board of Administration or its Executive Council may authorize the National Superintendent to reorganize the district. The National Superintendent shall ask for an affirmation of loyalty. Those members and pastors of the district who affirm such 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 National Superintendent as having withdrawn from the district and from The Wesleyan Church, and all offices held by such persons shall be vacated. Those who are thus declared to be the members of the district shall be entitled to hold and 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 National Board of Administration as a pioneer district or provisional district as the case may be.

986. If a pastor who has been declared withdrawn from the district shall desire to be reinstated, he may be reinstated as provided for in 1257.
RULES OF PROCEDURE

A. Procedure

990. The procedure for handling accusations or complaints, investigations, and trials by
the various official bodies and judicatories of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall
be as hereinafter provided, with the exception of the Board of Review which shall provide
its own rules of procedure. Additional rules of procedure for such matters as evidence,
testimony, and other technicalities shall be issued with the approval of the National Board
of Administration and be available upon request from the National Secretary.

B. Accusation

992. 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

995. 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 a trial. Whenever an alleged
offense involves an error in doctrine, disobedience to the order and Discipline of the
Church, the indulging in sinful temper or words, the sowing of disagreement, or other
similar matters, the official having jurisdiction, or other designated representatives, 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 discreet members
or pastors of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone and give further instruction and
reproof. If the offense continues, the offending member shall be brought to trial.

996. If an aggrieved person shall allege a personal offense, he shall be first required to
follow the Lord's direction in Matt. 18:15-17 before filing accusations or charges against
the offending party.

D. Evidence

998. 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 find out the truth and determine accurately the substan-
tial rights of the parties involved. The presiding officer of the judicatory shall decide on
the admissibility of evidence.
999. 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.

1000. Proof of Charges: The accused shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. 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

1002. A trial may not be ordered until a proper inquiry is made by a committee of investigation.

(1) Such a committee shall be appointed by the official body having jurisdiction, and shall consist of two or more members or pastors of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone 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 accusations exist or that there is insufficient evidence, it shall so report, and if its finding are otherwise, the committee shall draw up charges and specifications accordingly.

(3) The appointing body shall receive and pass on the report and recommendations 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 of Sierra Leone. When guilt is confessed, the official body may pass on the offense and decide on the penalty to be imposed, if any, without 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 dates and place for such trial; appointing the members of the judicatory and prosecutor, unless otherwise 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.
F. Charges

1005. 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 pastors of The Wesleyan Church sustaining the charge, and must clearly define the alleged offense by its proper term as stated in 918, 919, 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 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 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 filing of such charge.

G. Counsel

1007. 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, or to present his own defense, but where this right is not exercised a defense counsel may be appointed by the chairman of the judicatory. Both the prosecutor and the counsel for the accused shall be members or pastors of The Wesleyan Church in good standing.

H. Notices

1009. All notices 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 notification 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 specification 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 pastors of The Wesleyan Church shall be notified to appear, but others may only be requested to appear.
1. Participants

1011. Only those who are members or pastors of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone 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 the judicatory during the hearing of the case.

J. Request for Withdrawal

1014. 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 pastor, 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.

K. Postponements

1016. 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 judged 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

1018. Whenever an accused member or pastor refuses to obey a properly issued notice 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 notice, it shall be considered as sufficient reason for summary dismissal from the Church. A member or pastor of The Wesleyan Church who refuses a properly issued notice to appear as a witness shall likewise be deemed guilty of contempt and shall be liable to censure.

M. Status of the Accused

1020. 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

1022. 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 who 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

1024. 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, when requested to do so by the chairman of the appellate body.

P. The Order of a Church Trial

1026. 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 (1022), 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. Prosecution gives any counter-proofs or answers to the statement of the case and/or evidence presented by the defense.
11. Defense gives any counter-proofs or answers to the statement of the case and/or evidence presented by the prosecution.
12. Summary of the case by the prosecution.
(13) Summary of the case by the defense.

(14) Should it be judged 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 bring or produce 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 bring or produce a verdict of guilty. Members of the judicatory who have been absent for 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

1030. If within thirty days after his conviction under the provisions already mentioned, 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 important 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 therefore take action to 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 considered.

R. Appeals

1032. 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 adjudicatory, refusing to abide by the decision of the adjudicatory, or by refusing to appear in person or by counsel if given notice to appear by the appellate body, or by resorting to a suit in a civil court concerning the matter involved in the charges. Misconduct shall be decided upon by the appellate body. If, on the other hand, the accused is found innocent, the official body which ordered his trial has the right to appeal the verdict.

1033. 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 state 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 costs of the appeal, including the cost of preparing a transcript of the records. Upon adjustment 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.

1034. Status of the Accused During The Appeal: While the appeal is pending, the penalty shall not be put into effect. 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 have authority to buy, sell, or transfer any real property, except with the approval of the National Superintendent over the area.

1035. Judgment of the Appellate Body: The appellate body shall promptly consider the case and the grounds for appeal and shall bring or give judgment within thirty days, with the exception of the Board of Review. The appellate body may support, adjust, or reverse the findings of the lower judicatory in whole or in part, or may recommend the case for a new trial, provided 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 finish when the case has been heard once on its own worth in the proper court, with the exception as provided for in 978. The appellate body shall also have the right to give notice to the accused or his counsel to appear. Whenever a case is recommended for a new trial, a new judicatory shall be formed 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 official body having jurisdiction, it shall return to the official body having jurisdiction, or to the judicatory, a statement of the grounds of its action.
Chapter Seven

PENALTIES

A. Definition of Penalties

1040. There shall be five levels of penalty for the administration of discipline which are:

1. **Warning.** The warning is the mildest penalty and consists of a gentle correction and counseling to make the offender more aware of what he is doing.

2. **Rebuke.** Rebuke is a stronger penalty for a more serious offense and consists in stating 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 certain rights and privileges are taken away for a period of time.

   (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 district may be suspended from the rights and privileges of a church and a district, respectively, as stated in the Constitution and The Discipline.

   (b) Suspension may be of a definite or indefinite length of time. 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 change of attitude 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. **Removal.** Removal is that penalty by which a person is removed from an official position or appointment, or expelled from the ministry, from the office of 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 (270:3, 288:3, 495:27), which automatically includes all lesser penalties. Dismissal should be used only for the most serious offenses, or for unwillingness to stop doing a serious offense and can only be imposed by the local church (342:9). The purpose of dismissal is to awaken the offender, deliver the Church from scandal, and to warn others.

B. Assignment of Penalties
1042. 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 (918:1) shall be punished with removal and/or dismissal (1040:4-5), unless the official body is of the opinion that the offense has ceased, in which case the penalty shall be either that of warning, rebuke, or suspension.

(2) Disobedience to The Discipline, or tolerating such disobedience shall be punished with such penalty as deemed advisable.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority (918:3) shall be punished with such a penalty as deemed advisable.

(4) Conduct unbecoming a member or pastor (918:4), such as dishonesty, sowing dissension by trying to influence people against the officials or pastors of the Church, shall be punished with removal and/or dismissal (1040:4-5), unless the official body believes the offender is truly penitent, in which case he shall be rebuked or indefinitely suspended (1040:2-3) 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 depravity, or crime, may be punished by immediate dismissal from the Church (918:5, 131:10, 956:3).

(6) Serious or persistent neglect of duties (918:6) shall be punished by suspension or removal, unless corrected, in which case a lesser penalty may be imposed.
Chapter Eight

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

A. Membership

1050. Members: The National 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 of Sierra Leone:

(1) Their term of office shall be for four years. They shall serve from the close of the session of the National Conference at which they are elected 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 National Board of Administration.

(3) The National Conference shall elect by ballot and by majority vote the members of the Board of Review (660:18, from two or more nominations for each member of the Board of Review presented by the Nominating Committee (650) and additional nominations from the floor of the National Conference.

(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 (1052), provided that such appointment shall be in the order of election (1051) and shall maintain the membership of the Board of five elders and four laymen.

1051. Alternates: The National Conference shall elect, by ballot and by majority vote, from the nominees remaining after the election of the members of the Board of Review (1050:3) four elders and three laymen to serve as alternate members of the Board of Review, with the same qualifications (1050:2) and term of office (1050:1) as the members.

1052. 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 is stated in 1050. Whenever a vacancy occurs between National Conference sessions, an alternate shall be appointed to serve until the close of the next National Conference. An alternate shall also be appointed to serve for a particular case whenever a member of the Board of Review is disqualified (1050:4), or for a temporary vacancy created by the
absence of a member at the session of the board of review held during the National Conference.

B. Sessions

1055. Regular Sessions: The Board of Review shall meet at the time and place of the National Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body. If the National Conference is not held annually, the Board shall meet in yearly 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 business for the Board to consider.

1056. Special Sessions: The Board of Review shall meet at other times and places of its own choosing as considered necessary, or as requested by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

C. Organization and Procedure

1058. 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 considered necessary.

(2) Procedure. The Board of Review shall decide on its own methods and rules of procedure and shall adopt such bylaws as considered necessary, provided such do not go beyond, ignore, or go around 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 National 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.

1059. 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 National Secretary.

1060. 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 and distributed to all pastors and missionaries. A decision of the Board of Review which is not overruled by the National Conference shall be incorporated in The Discipline, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration.
1061. **Finances.** Expense allowances for members of the Board of Review shall be the same as for members of the National Board of Administration, when the members of the Board of Review are engaged in official business, and payment therefore shall be made by the National Treasurer. The party making appeal shall be responsible for the expenses involved in attending to the appeal.

D. **Duties and Powers**

1064. The jurisdiction and duties of the Board of Review are provided for herewith:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the National Conference, upon the appeal of the National Board of Administration or one-fifth of the members of the National Conference. An act of the National Conference that is declared as unconstitutional by the Board of Review shall be null and void.

2. To judge the constitutionality of any proposed legislation to be acted upon by the National Conference, when the National Conference shall so request, by a majority vote, and to notify the National Conference, when the National Conference shall so request, by a majority vote, and to notify the National Conference immediately of such judgment.

3. To hear and determine any appeal from a ruling of the National Superintendent on a point of Church law, an interpretation of The Discipline, or the validity of an action by a district.

4. To hear and determine any appeal concerning the legality of any action by any National Church Board upon appeal of one-third of the members thereof or by request of the National Superintendent.

5. To have jurisdiction over the issues arising between a district and the National Conference, or, between National Conference sessions, between a district and the National Board of Administration, as follows:

   (a) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the National Conference, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the district conference.

   (b) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the National Board of Administration in between National 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, 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 stated in 867 provided that such charges are brought by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration; to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused district; and, if necessary, to recommend to the National Conference, or if between National
Conference sessions, to the National Board of Administration the placing of the district under discipline.

(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.

(7) To hear and determine any appeal from the judgment of a district judicial committee or district board of appeal (947).

(8) To hear and determine such cases as shall be referred to it by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

E. Appeals

1066. A decision of the Board of Review shall be final until overruled by the National Conference by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. An appeal may be presented to the National Conference by either party involved in the judgment. The National Conference may hear and determine such appeals or may create a special judicial committee to hear the appeals and present its recommendations to the National Conference for final determination.
Chapter Nine

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS FOR THE JUDICIARY

1070. 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 of Sierra Leone (992).

(2) **Charge.** A written statement alleging an offense accompanied by specifications, for which a trial may be conducted.

(3) **Church.** The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(4) **Complaint.** A written representation of a grievance by 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) **Discipline.** The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as currently legislated and declared from time to time.

(6) **Judicatory.** 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 appeal, National Conference Judicial Committee, and the National Board of Review.

(7) **Minister.** An ordained elder or licensed pastor of The Wesleyan Church.

(8) **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 National Conference and the National Board of Administration.

(9) **Special Worker.** A member of The Wesleyan Church commissioned or licensed as a special worker by the district conference.

(10) **Member.** A full member of The Wesleyan Church, and unless otherwise specified includes all elders, licensed pastors, licensed ministerial students, and others commissioned or licensed by a district.
1100. The Wesleyan World Fellowship exists for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, (51-53) 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.

1102. The Wesleyan World Fellowship consists of those bodies which have originated in or which have affiliated with The Wesleyan Church which adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and subscribe to the provisions of its Charter.

1104. The Wesleyan World Fellowship functions through its General Council composed of representatives from each General Conference, each Provisional General Conference, and each mission unit functioning under a missions department. The number of representatives from each unit shall be determined according to the number of members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation.

1106. The Wesleyan World Fellowship is organized and governed in accord with its Charter.
PART VII. THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Chapter One

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

1150. Ministry in the Christian context means service, modeled upon the life and work of the Lord Jesus. God calls all Christians to service, but He also calls some to a specialized type of ministry within the Church. As Christ called 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 ministering servants. Those specialized Christian workers who maintain a relationship with the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone shall be appointed to an area of Christian service as set forth in 1155-1170.

A. Stationed Ordained Pastors

1155. An ordained pastor (1220) is one 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, and thus has been fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry. An ordained pastor is qualified to be appointed or elected to the following positions:

1. District superintendent or other full-time officer of the district
2. Pastor of a local church
3. District evangelist
4. Staff member of a pastoral training institution
5. Missionary employed and sent by the district
6. Military chaplain
7. Hospital chaplain
8. School chaplain
9. Interchurch service
B. Stationed Licensed Pastors

1158. A licensed pastor (1210) is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by a district conference and has been granted a pastoral license as authorization for and appointment to ministry, subject to supervision and evaluation, as a step toward ordination. A licensed pastor is qualified to serve the Church in the following capacities:

(1) Pastor of a local church
(2) Missionary employed and sent by the district
(3) Hospital chaplain
(4) School chaplain
(5) Interchurch service
(6) Student in pastoral training

C. Stationed Local Preachers

1160. A local preacher (1200) is a layman or laywoman in a local church who is recognized as having gifts of leadership and ministry. A local preacher is formally authorized by a district conference for the following:

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

D. Commissioned Special Workers

1162. A layman who serves the Church in some form of Christian service other than as a local preacher may be commissioned as a special worker (555:1,4).

E. Retired Pastors

1165. A stationed ordained or licensed pastor, because of age or because of sickness that prevents him from continuing pastoral duties, may be placed on the retired list.
F. Unstationed Pastors

1167. An ordained or licensed pastor who is not available for appointment shall be placed on the unstationed list. A licensed pastor shall not be listed as unstationed for more than two years, after which time he shall either accept appointment by the district board of administration or be declared withdrawn and his name so entered in the minutes of the district conference.

G. Ordained or Licensed Pastor in Process of Transfer

1170. A pastor with similar qualifications from another denomination or group who has been given recognition as an elder or pastor in process of transfer, during which time he shall make up any deficiencies in requirements in order to be fully recognized (1215:4; 1222:3).
Chapter Two

QUALIFICATIONS AND CALL OF THE PASTOR

1180. As Christ chose and ordained His twelve apostles "that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends out His messengers. The Holy Spirit calls some Christians to the official and public work of the Christian ministry, and the church endeavors to confirm the call by providing for their training and employment.

1181. The Wesleyan Church believes that there are four marks that will be seen in the person whom God has called. Each candidate for pastoral license or for ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks. (See 555:1; 1211:4; 1221:4.)

1. **New Life in Christ**
   - Does he know Jesus Christ as his own Saviour?
   - Can everyone see that he has a new life in Christ?
     - Is he holy in life and conduct as well as in heart?
     - Is he a good example to the church and to the world?

2. **Gifts for Service**
   - Does he have the gifts for the work of the pastor?
     - Does he have a clear and right understanding of God's Word?
     - Does he understand the doctrines of the Church?
     - Is he able to tell plainly the plan of salvation by faith?
     - Is he able to preach the Word rightly and clearly?

3. **Fruit From His Work**
   - Has he any fruit because of his service to Christ?
     - Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God?
     - Are Christians strengthened by his preaching?
(4) Call of God

Does he continue to feel God's call to the Christian ministry?

1182. Any person who has a marriage relationship which is against the Scriptures and the rules of the Church shall not be given a pastoral license or ordained in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (136:10; 161).
Chapter Three

KINDS OF PASTORS AND THEIR REGULATIONS

A. Local Preacher

1200. A local preacher is a layman who is a full member of a Wesleyan church, and who
is licensed by the local church conference to help the pastor, preaching and holding serv­
ces as the pastor directs. Students in pastoral training, who have not before been licensed,
shall be considered local preachers (1170).

1201. Regulations for a Local Preacher:

(1) A local preacher is amenable to the local church pastor and to the local board of
administration. His license is to be renewed annually (288:8).

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

(3) A local preacher has no vote in the district conference unless he is appointed as a
supply pastor by the district board of administration (454:4).

(4) A local preacher must enroll in the National Course of Study (1266:1).

B. Supply Pastor

1204. A supply pastor is a layman who is a full member of a Wesleyan church, who serves
under appointment of the district board of administration and district conference in a local
church (480:12; 495:23).

1206. Regulations for a Supply Pastor:

(1) A supply pastor is amenable to the district board of administration.

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

(3) A supply pastor has a vote in the district conference as long as he is stationed under
appointment by the district conference (454:4; 480:12).

(4) A supply pastor must enroll in the National Course of Study (1266:1)
C. Licensed Pastor

1210. A licensed pastor is a person who has been called by God to do the work of a pastor, who meets all the qualifications of a licensed pastor, and who has been appointed and given a pastoral license by the district conference (1158).

1211. Requirements for Pastoral License. A person who is called by God to be a pastor may be given a pastoral license by meeting the following requirements in order:

1. A full member of an organized Wesleyan church (240).

2. Satisfactory completion of an approved pastoral training course (1264; 1266:3).

3. Willingness to be stationed by the district board of administration (495:8).

4. Examination by the district board of pastoral standing as to his qualifications for pastoral work and license, including his personal Christian experience, pastoral call, matters of education and training, and personal matters concerning his family and business life (555:1; 1181).

5. Recommendation by the district board of pastoral standing for the granting of a pastoral license, to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference for approval (555:1, 4; 495:22; 480:14).

6. Stationed by the district board of administration to service in the Christian ministry (495:8).

7. Issuance and signing of the licenses by the district superintendent and the district secretary (524:19; 531:4).

1212. Renewing a Pastoral License. The district pastoral license is effective for one year only and must be renewed annually by the district conference until such a time as the holder of the license is qualified for ordination. A pastor may be granted renewal of his pastoral license by meeting the following requirements:

1. Satisfactory service in his last appointment.

2. Acceptance of his annual service report by the district board of pastoral standing and the district conference. A licensed pastor who fails to hand in his annual service report, unless such failure is due to sickness or other emergency, shall not have his license renewed (480:15; 555:5).

3. Agreement to continue under district appointment.

4. Willingness to pursue requirements for ordination (1221; 1215:3).
1213. **Rights of Licensed Pastor.** As long as a pastor is qualified for and receives a district license, he shall have the following rights:

1. To preach the gospel and to perform the duties of a pastor of a local church (310).
2. To give the Lord's Supper, perform marriages, and conduct funerals.
3. To be a voting member of the district conference, if stationed as a pastor of either an organized or unorganized church (453:2).
4. To present his case to the district board of administration in any matters involving complaint against his character or pastoral conduct (495:26; 1246).

1214. **Duties of a Licensed Pastor.** A person holding a pastoral license shall be responsible for the following:

1. To serve the district faithfully under whatever appointment he may receive.
2. To report annually to the district conference on the service report form (555:5), and to the district superintendent and the board of pastoral standing as required.
3. To continue his study and improve his ministry as there is opportunity by attending institutes, seminars, refresher courses, and other pastoral training courses and programmes (1212:4; 1264).

1215. **Regulations for a Licensed Pastor:**

1. A licensed pastor is amenable to the district conference and the district board of administration, and his license may be taken away by the district board of administration after being found guilty of an offense (1240).
2. A licensed pastor's credentials shall consist of his license, signed and issued annually by the district superintendent and the district secretary, and an annual pocket certificate of standing.
3. A licensed pastor does not have authority to baptize.
4. A pastor from another denomination who has been licensed or authorized to pastor a church, but has not been ordained, and wishes to join the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as a pastor, may present his letter of standing, license, or other credentials, and records of pastoral training, to the district superintendent for consideration. He must join a local Wesleyan church and serve at least one year as a licensed pastor in process of transfer (1170), after which if he meets all the requirements as set forth in 1211, he may be granted a pastoral license.
5. If a pastor's license is not renewed by the district board of administration or by the
district conference, and he is not under charges nor under discipline, he may be con­
dered as a local preacher.

D. Ordained Pastor

1220. An ordained pastor is a person who has been called by God and has the proper train­
ing and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of the district conference and by the act of ordination (1155).

1221. Qualifications for Ordination. A licensed pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone who knows that he has been called by God may be ordained to the Christian min­
distry by meeting the following requirements in order:

(1) A full member of an organized Wesleyan church (240).

(2) For those who are graduates of an approved Bible college or seminary (1264:1,2), satisfactory service for two years as a licensed pastor. 
   For those who have completed an approved Bible school or other pastoral train­
ing programme (1264:3,4), satisfactory service for four years as a licensed pastor.

(3) A diploma, certificate, or other credentials showing completion of an approved course of pastoral training.

(4) Examination by the district board of pastoral standing concerning his qualifica­
tions for the Christian ministry and for ordination, including his personal Christian expe­
rience, pastoral call, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the Christian ministry; and after examination, a report by the district board of pastoral standing to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference (555:1; 1181).

(5) A vote of election for ordination by the district conference (480:13). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the district board of pastoral standing may be elected for ordination by the district board of administration in the inter­
im of the sessions of the district conference (495:24).

(6) A public service of ordination at which time he shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the church through the laying on of hands in the person of the district superin­
endent and the ordained pastors of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (524:19).

(7) Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the district superint­
dent and the district secretary (524:19; 531:4).

1222. Receiving an Ordained Pastor from Another Denomination. An ordained pastor from another denomination who wishes to join the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may present his letter of standing or other credentials, and records of pastoral training, to the
district superintendent. Before being accepted as an ordained pastor in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone he must meet the following requirements:

(1) He shall join a local organized Wesleyan church as a full member (240).

(2) He shall be examined by the district board of pastoral standing regarding his Christian experience, call and qualifications for the Christian ministry, pastoral training, and the nature of his ordination which he received from another denomination (555:2).

(3) If the district board of pastoral standing so recommends the district board of administration may appoint him as an ordained pastor in process of transfer (1170), which relation shall continue for at least one year. While serving under district conference, and shall be a nonvoting member of the pastoral training, particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and policies (1266:3). If at any time the district board of administration shall feel that it is not in relation, they may be majority vote terminate the relation and any supply appointment, and this way dismiss him from all pastoral relations to the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(4) If his year of service is satisfactory and all deficiencies are corrected, the district board of pastoral standing may recommend to the district board of administration for its consideration and referral to the district conference that he be recognized as an ordained pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (555:4).

(5) There must be a vote of acceptance as an ordained pastor of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone by the district conference (495:8; 480:13).

1224. Rights of an Ordained Pastor. As long as an ordained pastor maintains his spiritual life, moral character, and faithful service which first qualified him for ordination, and as long as he is neither under discipline nor expelled from the Christian ministry, he shall have the following rights:

(1) To preach the gospel and to perform the duties of a pastor of a local church (310).

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

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

(4) To be a voting member of the district conference (453:1) if on the stationed or retired list (1155, 1165), or a nonvoting member of the district conference (375:1) if on the unstationed list (1167).

(5) To present his case to the district board of administration in any matters involving complaint against his character or pastoral conduct (495:26; 1246).

1225. Duties of an Ordained Pastor. An ordained pastor shall be responsible for the following:
(1) To give himself completely to the Christian ministry as he is led by the Holy Spirit and fulfills the appointment of the district board of administration.

(2) To report annually to the district conference on the service report form (555:5), and to the district superintendent and the district board of administration as required.

(3) To surrender voluntarily his credentials if he is guilty of an offense (1246) which would disqualify him from service in the Christian ministry.

1226. Regulations for an Ordained Pastor.

(1) An ordained pastor is amenable to the district conference and the district board of administration, and he may be dismissed from the Christian ministry and ordered to surrender his credentials by the district board of administration after being found guilty of an offense (495:26).

(2) An ordained pastor's credentials shall consist of his certificate of ordination, and annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (531:4).

(3) An ordained pastor who fails to give his annual service report for two successive years shall be notified by the district board of pastoral standing (555:6), and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If he then fails to report, he shall be declared withdrawn from the district and his name so entered in the minutes of the district conference.

E. General Regulations for Ordained and Licensed Pastors

1230. Local Church Membership. Each ordained or licensed pastor shall be a full member (240) of a Wesleyan church. His membership is automatically transferred to the church he pastors (262).

1231. Relationship to Other Pastors and Churches. Each pastor shall respect the rights of each of his brother pastors, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone against any pastor or district officer. If a pastor shall leave the district to serve another denomination or religious body, the district board of administration may order that he be declared withdrawn.

1232. The Pastor and Marriage. Any pastor who enters into a marriage relation which is against Scripture and the general rules and special rules of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall be dismissed from his pastoral standing (131:10; 161).
Chapter Four

JUDICIARY FOR PASTORS
(See also 956)

A. Offenses

1240. A licensed or ordained pastor, commissioned special worker, or district officer of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall be liable to disciplinary proceeding and trial for any of the following offenses:

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

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

3. Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize church authority

4. Conduct which is wrong for a pastor of The Wesleyan Church

5. Immorality or crime

6. Serious or persistent neglect of duty.

B. Judicial Proceedings

1245. Accusation. An accusation or complaint against any pastor, commissioned special worker, or district officer shall be made in writing and submitted to the district superintendent (524:23).

1246. Investigation and Trial. The ordering of an investigation and trial of a pastor, commissioned special worker, district officer or church member shall be the responsibility of the district board of administration (495:26). Each person accused shall have the right to a fair hearing with the privilege of counsel and calling of witnesses for his defense.

C. Penalties

1250. Just penalties shall be imposed upon those persons found guilty of an offense after proper trial. There shall be five degrees of penalty for the administration of discipline which are as follows:

1. Admonition. Admonition is the mildest penalty and consists of a gentle warning and an exhortation to greater watchfulness by the offender.
(2) **Rebuke.** Rebuke is a stronger penalty for a more serious offense and consists in publicly stating the offense with an official warning to the offender.

(3) **Suspension.** Suspension is that penalty by which the offender is placed "under discipline" and is deprived of certain rights and privileges for a period of probation. Suspension may be applied to rights and privileges of membership, the rights and privileges of the Christian ministry, or the exercise of an office. Suspension may be for a definite period of time, or it may be indefinite until the offender shows genuine repentance and reformation of life to the proper authorities.

(4) **Deposition.** Deposition is that penalty by which a person is removed from an official position or appointment, or expelled from the Christian ministry. Such a person may continue to hold membership in a local Wesleyan church unless such membership has been suspended.

(5) **Dismissal.** Dismissal is the strongest penalty and is the termination of membership in the church (270:2,3,4). Dismissal should be used only for the most serious offenses, such as reversion to pagan practices and immorality, and for those persons who continue with a serious offense without genuine repentance and reformation of life. Dismissal can only be used by the local church board (342:9) and the district board of administration (495:26), and is for the purpose of correcting the offender, freeing the church from sin, and to warn others.

### D. Restoration

1255. A licensed pastor who is not stationed or voluntarily resigns from the district, if he was neither under charges nor under discipline, may at a later time again be recommended by the district board of pastoral standing (555:4) and qualify for and be granted a pastoral license (1211).

1256. An ordained pastor who has voluntarily resigned from the district, or who has been declared withdrawn when neither under charges nor under discipline, may at a later time again be accepted as an ordained pastor of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, if such is approved by the district conference (480:13) after examination and recommendation for restoration by the district board of pastoral standing (555:3,4).

1257. An ordained or licensed pastor who has been expelled from the Christian ministry, either through voluntary surrender of his credentials because of guilt or through judicial process and disciplinary action, may be restored to the work of a pastor provided that he shall have shown evidence of repentance and a change of life, and provided that such restoration is approved by the district conference (480:13), after examination and recommendation for restoration by the district board of pastoral standing (555:3,4). In case of immorality, such restoration shall not be made until three years after the person has shown evidence of repentance and change of life.

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1258. An ordained or licensed pastor who has been expelled from the ministry because of a marriage that is against the Scriptures and the general rules and special rules of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, shall not be restored to the Christian ministry as long as he continues in the wrong marriage relationship. If he has divorced and remarried, he shall not be restored as long as his later wife and present wife are both living. If he has married more than one wife, he shall not be restored until he has put away and made proper arrangements for all wives except his first wife. Such restoration shall be made only after meeting the requirements as set forth in 1257.
Chapter Five

PASTORAL TRAINING

A. Importance of Pastoral Training

1260. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone recognizes the importance of training for the Christian ministry, and even as Christ trained His disciples, so the Church provides for the training of its pastors through approved institutions and programmes of pastoral education. The Church expects each person who answers the call to become a pastor, to prepare himself by completing an approved course of study for pastoral training.

B. Administration of Pastoral Training

1262. The institutions and programmes of pastoral training which are completely the responsibility of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone are under the administration of the National Board of Training (787:1), and the course of study used shall be approved by this Board (1266). Candidates for the Christian ministry may be accepted who have completed their pastoral training in other institutions and programmes that have been approved by the National Board of Training (787:1; 1264:5).

C. Approved Programmes of Study

1264. The following are the approved programmes of study for meeting the pastoral training requirements of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone (787:1):

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

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

3. Graduation from the three-year pastoral training course of the Gbendembu Wesleyan Bible School.

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

5. Completion of a pastoral training programme outside The Wesleyan Church which has the approval of the National Board of Training (787:1). Candidates for the Christian ministry who have completed a pastoral training programme outside The Wesleyan
Church must complete additional courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and government in order to meet all requirements (1266:3).

D. Approved Courses of Study

1266. Courses of study for pastoral training which are approved by the National Board of Training shall include the full range of pastoral training subjects, including Bible, theology, church history, evangelism, homiletics, pastoral theology, and Christian education. In addition, they shall include, especially for the Christian ministry in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, subjects in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and church government (787:1). Courses of study shall include:

1. Local Preacher Study Course. This course shall include basic Bible survey, Wesleyan beliefs, and practical training to equip the layman for local leadership (1201:4).

2. Independent Pastoral Study Course. This course shall include more in-depth study of Bible beliefs and practical training similar to what one would receive in an institution. It would include Theological Education by Extension texts and other materials. It will prepare a candidate unable to attend an institution for meeting qualifications to be licensed by a district (1264:4).

3. Ministerial Transfer Study Course. This course shall concentrate on Wesleyan beliefs, history, and policies for those ministers transferring from other denominations or groups. It must be available at various levels according to the background of the student (1222:3).
PART VIII. THE AUXILIARIES

Chapter One

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1300. Other organizations (called auxiliaries) may be established within the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone at the local church and district levels. All such organizations shall be established according to The Discipline.

1301. Other organizations (auxiliaries) within the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may be: Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, and Wesleyan Youth. Other groups wishing to organize as an auxiliary of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, both on the local church or district levels, shall first get approval from the district board of administration for such organization (495:1,10).

1302. All organizations within the local church shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor and the local board of administration (310:14; 342:1).

1303. All auxiliary organizations established at the district level shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent and the district board of administration (495:10; 524:6).
Chapter Two

CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL CHURCH AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

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

1320. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be ________ of ________ Wesleyan Church. (The first blank may be either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth. The second blank should have the name of the local church. For example: Wesleyan Women of Kamakwie Wesleyan Church).

1321. Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of this auxiliary shall be to build up its members in Christian experience and holy character and to give the members opportunities to work together for the growth of the church through evangelism, service, stewardship, Christian education, and fellowship.

1322. Article 3. Relationship. The local organization of ________ (write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank) shall act as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (310:14; 1302), and shall be amenable to the local church board (342:1).

1323. Article 4. Membership. Membership in the ________ (write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank) shall be open to all ________ (write either men, women, or youth in the blank) who are interested in the church and who attend regularly the meetings of the organization.

1324. Article 5. Finance.

(1) The local auxiliary organization shall have the right to raise money by regular and special offerings and by other ways which are approved by the local church board (342:1). Money shall be spent in cooperation with the plans of the district auxiliary organization and according to the plans of the local auxiliary which have been approved by the local church board (342:1).

(2) The local auxiliary organization shall submit an annual financial report to the local church business meeting (288:2).


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

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

1326. Article 7. Local Auxiliary Officers.

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

2. Executive Committee. The executive committee of the local auxiliary shall be made up of the executive officers and the pastor of the local church. Each local Wesleyan Youth organization shall also have an adult sponsor who shall be a member of the local executive committee (1327:6).

3. Delegates. The president of each local auxiliary organization is a member of the district auxiliary business meeting by virtue of his (or her) office. Also each local auxiliary organization may have at least one additional delegate to the district business meeting (1333:2). For the Wesleyan Women, the local pastor’s wife is also a voting member of the district business meeting.

4. Other Officers and Committees. Each local auxiliary organization may have other officers and committees as may seem necessary, subject to the approval of the local church board (342:1).

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

6. Election of Officers. The executive officers and delegates shall be elected at a business meeting of the local auxiliary organization. Elections shall be made in a way agreed upon by the members of the auxiliary. The local board of administration shall approve the nominations for president of the auxiliaries (342:12).

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

8. Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committees of the local auxiliary organization shall be amenable to the local church and may be removed for cause whenever the best interests of the church or the local auxiliary so require by a majority vote of the local church business meeting (288:3). Vacancies shall be filled by an election held by the local auxiliary and approved by the local church board (1326:6).

1327. Article 8. Duties of Local Auxiliary Officers.

1. Local Auxiliary President. The president shall cooperate with the district director, have the leadership of the local auxiliary under the supervision of the pastor (310:14), be the chairman of all meetings of the auxiliary and of the executive committee (1327:5),
give reports to the local church as required (288:2), and shall serve as a member of the
district auxiliary business meeting (1333:2).

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

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

(4) **Local Auxiliary Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse
all funds of the local auxiliary in keeping with financial plans of the district organization
and the local auxiliary. An annual financial report shall be given to the local church
(288:2).

(5) **Local Executive Committee.** (1326:2) The local president shall be chairman of
the local executive committee (1327:1). The local executive committee shall direct the
affairs of the local auxiliary between business meetings, and make recommendations con­
cerning activities and projects. All plans and actions of the local auxiliary executive com­
mittee may be reviewed by the local church board, which may veto any of the commit­
tee’s plans or actions (342:1).

(6) **Local Adult Youth Sponsor.** (1326:2) The adult youth sponsor shall supervise the
work of the local Wesleyan Youth in cooperation with the pastor. He shall attend all meet­
ings of the local Wesleyan Youth executive committee. He shall seek to encourage,
advise, and guide the youth in their service and activities. He shall be elected by the local
church board (342:10).

1328. **Article 9. Standing Rules.** The local auxiliary organization may have such stand­
ing rules as may seem necessary, provided they are not against this constitution, The
Discipline, or the district organization, and provided they are approved by the local church
board (342:1).
CONSTITUTION FOR DISTRICT AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

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

1330. Article 1 Name. All the local auxiliary organizations of one kind (Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth) shall make up the district auxiliary organization and shall be known as the district ______________. (Write either Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, or Wesleyan Youth in the blank.)

1331. Article 2. The district auxiliary organization shall seek to carry out the purposes of the auxiliary (1146) by encouraging the organization of local auxiliaries in Wesleyan churches of the district, and by promoting district wide activities and projects.

1332. Article 3. Relationship. The district auxiliary organization shall act as a part of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (524:6) and amenable to the district board of administration (495:10). It shall cooperate with the National Director of Christian education in those matters related to Christian education within the auxiliary organization (563:5; 564:4,5,6; 566:1).


(1) Purpose and Organization. There shall be an annual district business meeting of the district auxiliary at such a time and place as is arranged. The purpose of the district business meeting shall be to receive reports, to elect district auxiliary officers (1335:5), to make recommendations to the district board of administration, to carry on other business related to the auxiliary, and to provide the members of the meeting with a time of inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. The district director of the auxiliary shall be the chairman of the business meeting (1167:1). The district superintendent or his representative may be present at the district business meeting of the auxiliary (524:7).

(2) Membership of the District Business Meeting. The members of the district business meeting of the auxiliary shall be the district auxiliary officers, the presidents of the local organizations (1326:3), and delegates from the local organizations (1326:3). For the Wesleyan Women, it is recommended that the pastor's wives be honorary delegates with voting power to the District Business meeting. Delegates shall be members of the organized church or associate members of the unorganized church.

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

(4) Approval. All plans and actions of the district business meeting shall be subject to the approval of the district board of administration (495:10).
Article 5. District Auxiliary Officers.

(1) Executive Officers. The executive officers shall be the director, assistant director, secretary, and treasurer. They shall make up the district executive committee of the auxiliary. The district superintendent may be a member of the district executive.

(2) Other Officers and Committees. There may be other officers and standing committees as may seem right and necessary for the work of the auxiliary.

(3) Delegates to Annual District Conference. The district auxiliary shall be entitled to two delegates to the annual district conference. The delegates must be laymen who are full members of an organized church. A district auxiliary officer may be elected as a delegate if he (or she) is a layman. Election of delegates is made at the annual district business meeting (454:2). For the Wesleyan Women, the District Director should be one delegate and the second delegate should be elected at the annual district business meeting.

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

(5) Election. The executive officers of the district auxiliary organization, as well as all other officers and committee members, shall be elected by the district auxiliary business meeting (504:4). The district executive committee may function as the nominating committee which shall meet before the district business meeting to select two or more persons for each position. In case of insufficient qualified persons to serve as nominees, and for positions which have an assistant, it is permissible to nominate only two names. The one receiving the highest number of votes to be the officer and the second highest number shall be the assistant. Members of the district business meeting shall have the right to make further nominations. Election of all officers and committee members is made by the district business meeting and subject to the approval of the district board of administration (495:10).

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

(7) Amenability and Vacancies. All officers and committee members shall be amenable to the district board of administration (495:10), and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the auxiliary or district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration (495:16). The district board of administration may fill all vacancies (495:17).

Article 6. Duties of District Auxiliary Officers.

(1) District Auxiliary Director. The director shall exercise general leadership of the auxiliary throughout the district under the general oversight of the district superintendent.
The director shall be chairman of the meetings of the district executive committee (1337:5) and the district business meeting (1333:1); seek to organize local auxiliaries; visit local organizations whenever possible; and report annually to the district conference (480:6). The director shall be a nonvoting member of the district board of administration (486:2) and a member of the district board of Christian education (565).

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

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

(4) **District Auxiliary Treasurer.** The district auxiliary treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all funds which are given to or raised by the district auxiliary, and shall disburse funds in keeping with the financial plans of the district organizations or as directed by the district executive committee. The district auxiliary treasurer shall report annually to the district business meeting of the auxiliary (1333:1), and to the district board of administration as required. The treasurer’s books shall be submitted to the district auditing committee annually (575:1).

(5) **District Auxiliary Executive Committee.** (1335:1) The district director of the auxiliary shall be the chairman of the executive committee (1337:1). The district auxiliary executive shall direct the affairs of the auxiliary between annual business meetings, subject to the review and coordination of the district board of administration (495:10).

1338. **Article 7. District Standing Rules.** The district auxiliary may make such standing rules as it may seem right and necessary, provided they are in agreement with this constitution, *The Discipline*, and subject to the approval of the district board of administration (495:10).
Chapter Four

NATIONAL AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

1345. **Purpose.** At the national level the auxiliaries shall have advisory and resource functions rather than be representative organizations. The main area of auxiliary activity is on the local and district level.

A. National Director

1347. **National Auxiliary Director.** The National Auxiliary Director may be either full time or part time. The director shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration and amenable to that Board (682:22). He/she shall abide by the regulations for all national officers (704-710), including the requirement to be a full member of a Wesleyan church. The director shall be a voting member of the National Conference (606:1).

1348. **Duties of the National Director.** The National Auxiliary Director shall provide motivation, training, and resources for the district and local auxiliary movement. He/she shall assist the district directors and coordinate plans and activities. He/she shall direct any National Auxiliary convention, and National Auxiliary projects or programmes approved by the National Board of Administration. He/she shall chair the National Advisory Council.

B. National Advisory Council

1350. **Membership.** The National Auxiliary Council shall be composed of the National Director as chairman, the district auxiliary directors, and one other representative from each district appointed by the National Board of Administration (682:20). For Wesleyan Women, it is recommended that the representative be the District Superintendent's wife. Other co-opted members may be selected by the council or by the National Director.

1351. **Duties.** The council shall serve as an advisory body to the National Director and the general auxiliary movement on all levels, providing counsel, assistance, and direction. It shall coordinate joint district programmes and all national level activities, including a National Convention (1355). All plans and proposals of the advisory council are subject to approval by the National Board of Administration (682:20).
C. National Convention

1355. The National Auxiliary Council may plan for a National Convention for the auxiliary if it so desires. Such a convention would likely take place only once every two or four years and should not take the place of district youth camps or district women’s institutes.
Chapter Five

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1360. **Purpose.** The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone may allow various associations to organize themselves as long as they serve the purpose of encouraging Christian growth and loyalty to Christ and the needs of the Church and its institutions. The association shall enlist resources and ideas for the growth of the Church and its various agencies and organizations.

1361. **Regulations.**

1) A national association shall submit a statement of purpose and a constitution to the National Board of Administration for approval before it can be recognized (682:20).

2) The association must not contradict any portion of the beliefs or regulations of the Constitution or Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

3) The authority of the association does not supersede the authority of district or National Church bodies. It is not a legislative church body (450; 522).

4) The association may organize itself with officers and committees. Officers shall be full members of a local Wesleyan church. The association may be subdivided in regional or local chapters, with local officers also being members of a local church.
PART IX. THE RITUAL

1400. These forms of service have been prepared for the use of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. It must not be thought that there is here any attempt to discourage the practice of free form in any of the services. It is to be hoped rather that the use of these services will greatly help and give guidance to the pastor as he leads his people in both the form and spirit of each service. The danger of formality is present in every kind of worship. Let us bring, by the grace of God, to these services and to every act of worship, a sense of living faith that lays hold of God and ever seeks to worship Him, in spirit and in truth.

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

Chapter One

CHURCH SERVICE

1405. To establish a guideline for our churches, in public worship on the Lord’s Day, the following order could be observed:

1. Prayer (call to worship).
2. Singing
3. Reading the Scripture
4. Prayer
5. Announcements
6. Offering
7. Singing
8. Preaching
9. Singing
10. Prayer

1406. The songs should be of the language of the people. The tunes should be those with which the people are familiar.

1407. The Scriptures should be read in every worship service and in the language of the people.

1408. Some scriptures that may be used for Call to Worship are: Ps. 24:3-4; 33:12; 46:1-3; 84:1-2,4; 92:1-2; 95:1-3, 6-7; 95:6-7; 96:2-4; 121:1-2; Isa. 40:31; 55:6-7; Micah 6:6-8; John 4:23-24.
Some scriptures that may be used for the benediction are: Num. 6:24-26; Ps. 67:1-2; Luke 2:29-32; Rom. 15:5-6; II Cor. 13:14; Gal. 6:18; Eph. 3:20-21; II Thess. 3:16; Heb. 13:20-21; Jude 24-25; Rev. 1:5b-6; 5:13; 15:13.
Chapter Two

DEDICATION OF INFANTS

1420. (When the parents or guardians have presented themselves with the child before the pastor at this call, the pastor shall say.)

Dear brother and sister in Christ, you have brought this child whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By doing this you therefore show that you believe in the Christian religion. You show your desire that he shall receive the blessings of dedication to God and the blessings of the prayers of the church. By dedicating him to God you show that you want him to learn to know and follow the will of God while he is young, so that he may live his whole life as a Christian and so that at the end of this earthly life he may have everlasting life in heaven.

But before this can happen, it is your responsibility as parents to teach this child to obey the Lord while he is young. You must watch over his education, that he may not be led into wrong ways by false teachings. You must direct his mind to the Holy Scriptures as showing the will and authority of God for everyone. It is your responsibility to bring him to church and to keep him from bad companions and habits. You must trust God for this child completely. You must not tie a charm on this child or go to the looking ground man or the sorcerer for him. As best you can, you must train him to follow the Lord. Will you try to do these things, by the help of the Lord?

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

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

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter.’ And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them” Mark 10:13-16

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

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

(The pastor shall then pray for the child and his parents.)
Chapter Three

BAPTISM OF BELIEVERS

1430. The baptismal service may be a part of a regular service or a separate service at the waterside as fits the occasion. Singing before the ceremony is good. The baptisms should be recorded in the church record book (254).

(when the candidates for baptism have presented themselves before the pastor, the pastor shall say: )

Dear friends, in keeping with the example of Jesus, you have presented yourselves this day that you might be baptized in water. Baptism cannot wash away your sins, nor can it save you. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away your sins. Baptism is an outward sign of the new birth, which God has brought in your heart. It proclaims to all the world that you have taken Christ Jesus as the Lord of your lives, 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 importance of the step you are taking, we want to ask you these questions:

Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus Christ suffered in your place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all people at the last day? And do you believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired word of God? That by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus are justified by faith?

(Answer of Candidates: ) All this I steadfastly believe.

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

(Answer of Candidates: ) I do.

(Then the pastor shall ask each candidate to state his/her name, and shall immerse the candidate in water, or if desired, sprinkle or pour water, saying: )

____________________________ I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the pastor shall pray, and a closing song may be sung.)

1434. When it is appropriate, short testimonies of the candidates may be given before they are baptized.
Chapter Four

THE LORD’S SUPPER

A. General Directions

1440. The Lord’s Supper should be observed in each local Wesleyan church at least once each three months.

1441. It is expected that Wesleyan pastors shall carefully warn the people that only those who are in right relations with God and with their fellowmen should come to the Lord’s table, and that others should come only if in so doing they are repenting and seeking forgiveness.

1442. Only unfermented drink shall be used in observing the Lord’s Supper.

1443. The Lord’s Supper may come at the end of a service, or it may be the complete service itself as fits the occasion. When it is the complete service, a sermon or meditation can be included before the hymn and invitation.

B. Order of Service for the Lord’s Supper

1446. (The elements of the Lord’s Supper shall be placed upon a table covered with a white cloth. The minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; Heb. 9:11-17; Heb. 9:22-28.)

(Then shall the congregation sing a hymn such as “Rock of Ages,” “There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood,” “Just As I Am,” or a vernacular song that is good for the occasion.)

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

(When the people have knelt at the altar, the pastor shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the pastor shall pray the prayer of consecration:) O God of grace and mercy, we thank You that You always loved us and made a way for us to be saved. We thank You for Your Son Who died to save us, and for the Spirit Who invites us to draw near to You. Guide us now as we remember the death of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to feel close to You and to each other. And so consecrate the bread and wine which is here prepared that as we eat and
drink we may receive the spiritual blessings of Christ’s broken body and shed blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

(Then the pastor shall first serve himself the bread, and then give it to the people. Then he shall say:) The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, keep your whole being unto everlasting life. When you eat this bread, remember that Christ died for you, trust Him to give you eternal life, and thank Him.

(Then the pastor shall first serve himself the wine, and then give it to the people. Then he shall say:) The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, keep your whole being unto everlasting life. When you drink this remember that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

(After all have partaken the pastor shall say the closing prayer:) May the God Who gives us peace which passes our ability to understand keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. May you always enjoy the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Chapter Five

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1450. When candidates for full membership (240-242), associate membership (246), or junior membership (250) have been approved by the local board of administration for acceptance as given in The Discipline (342:7), the pastor shall set a time during a regular worship service for their public reception. The pastor, or his representative, shall preside over this service.

1451. The service of reception may begin with a hymn and Scripture reading such as: Rom. 12:1-8; Eph. 4:11-16,17; 5:25b-27; i Cor. 12:4-27.

1452. Introductory Remarks.

Pastor: Dear Christian brothers and sisters, we who fellowship together in the church of Jesus Christ have very holy and precious privileges. Christ loved the church so much that He gave himself for it. He showed us the close relationship between himself and the church by saying that He is the head and the church is His body. He said that He is the husband and the church is His wife. Christ gave himself unselfishly for His church. So He wants His church to share unselfishly with all men. He sent His church into the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to baptize believers, and to keep the Lord’s Supper. His church is to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to strengthen the believer until Christ comes again. We all need Christ’s church and those means of receiving God’s grace which the church alone makes available.

Today we meet together to do what Christ told His church to do. There are some people with us who testify that they have already been received into the spiritual fellowship of Christ’s church. Now they come to be received into the official and visible fellowship of this local church which is a part of the body of Christ.

1453. Reception of Full Members.

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

Pastor: These are the ones who come to enter into a covenant as full members of The Wesleyan Church, with all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of full membership. They testify that they have been born again. They have been baptized. They have been instructed in and have accepted the teachings and rules of The Wesleyan Church. The church board has voted to approve them as showing in spirit and practice that God has changed their hearts. We now desire, in the fear of God, to question them about their Christian experience, their faith, and their purpose to serve God. Then you will know that they are proper persons to be admitted into this church.
(The pastor then speaks to the candidates:) We are asking you now to publicly promise your loyalty, confess your faith in Christ, and declare your purpose to serve God. You will make these commitments by answering the following questions:

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

**Candidate:** I do.

**Pastor:** Have you the assurance that your heart has been cleansed of birth sin, and are you filled with the Holy Spirit? If not, will you seek this cleansing and filling with all of your heart?

**Candidate:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you purpose to live your life according to the Word of God in all of your relationships to God and to other people?

**Candidate:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you accept the authority of the Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone in matters of church government?

**Candidate:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you recognize that you are responsible to God for the things of this world that He has given you? Will you, as the Lord has blessed you, give for the support of the church?

**Candidate:** I do and I will.

**Pastor:** Do you confess the Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to be your God? Do you promise to give yourself in every way to His service and glory? Will you obey His Word? Will you seek the honor of His kingdom? Will you turn completely away from all the things that displease God and from all sinful desires? Will you live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? Will you join yourself to this church and submit to its rules of government? Will you walk with all its members in love, faithfulness, and peace?

**Candidate:** I will do all these things.

**Response of the Church.**

**Pastor:** The members of the church will please stand and join me in welcoming these new people to our fellowship. We assure them of our love, our prayers, and our care for them in the days to come.
Congregation: (Let the pastor read phrase by phrase as the congregation repeats the response.) We, the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ. We promise to walk with you in love and watch over you. We will patiently, gently, and lovingly instruct, counsel, warn, and help you.

Right Hand of Fellowship.

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

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

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

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

Benediction: To Him who by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

1454. Reception of Members by Transfer From Another Wesleyan Church.

(To be used only for transfer of membership from another Wesleyan church, not from another denomination (234-236). The pastor shall call before him those who are to be received by transfer into full membership.)

Pastor: Friends, when you transfer your membership to this church, you again renew your promises of church fellowship. Do you promise, by the help of God, to walk in all His commandments and to seek to serve Him as your highest joy? Do you accept the Articles of Religion as written in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone? Do you promise to submit to the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone? Will you work for the peace, purity, and progress of the church? Will you walk with all its members in love and Christian faith?

Transferee: I do and I will.

Response of the Church.

Pastor: The members of the church will please stand and join me in welcoming these new people to our fellowship. We assure them of our love, our prayers, and our care for them in the days to come.
Congregation: (Let the pastor read phrase by phrase as the congregation repeats the response.) We, the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ. We promise to walk with you in love and watch over you. We will patiently, gently, and lovingly instruct, counsel, warn, and help you.

Right Hand of Fellowship.

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

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

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

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

Benediction: To Him who by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen

1455. Reception of Associate Members.

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

Pastor: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate: Yes, He does.

Pastor: Do you want to be a part of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone? Do you accept the teachings of The Wesleyan Church as expressed in our Articles of Religion? And will you try by God’s power to love others so that you help to strengthen the spiritual life and fellowship of the church?

Candidate: Yes, this is what I want and what I purpose.

Response of the Church.

Pastor: The members of the church will please stand and join me in welcoming these new people to our fellowship. We assure them of our love, our prayers, and our care for them in the days to come.
Congregation: (Let the pastor read phrase by phrase as the congregation repeats the response.) We, the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ. We promise to walk with you in love and watch over you. We will patiently, gently, and lovingly instruct, counsel, warn, and help you.

Right Hand of Fellowship.

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

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

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

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

Benediction: To Him who by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

1456. Reception of Junior Members.

Pastor: These children have been converted to Christ quite early in their lives. They want to know about Jesus and what He wants them to do so that when they are older they too may take a place of responsibility and leadership in the church. They have come to be received as junior members. We are going to ask them these questions:

Pastor: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate: Yes, He does.

Pastor: Will you purpose to grow spiritually as well as physically? Will you, by God's help, try to study His Word and pray daily, and will you regularly attend church so that you will be prepared to better serve God?

Candidate: Yes, I will.

Response of the Church.

Pastor: The members of the church will please stand and join me in welcoming these new people to our fellowship. We assure them of our love, our prayers, and our care for them in the days to come.
Congregation: (Let the pastor read phrase by phrase as the congregation repeats the response.) We, the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ. We promise to walk with you in love and watch over you. We will patiently, gently, and lovingly instruct, counsel, warn, and help you.

Right Hand of Fellowship.

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

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

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

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

Benediction: To Him who by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

1458. Membership information shall be recorded in the church record book (254).
Chapter Six
MARRIAGE

A. General Directions

1470. Since God at the beginning made the first man and first woman to live together in close fellowship as husband and wife and the comfort and love of the home, it is right that Christians should bless their marriage contracts with prayer to Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ.

1471. The marriage ceremony in paragraph 1480 below may be held at the close of a regular Sunday morning or evening time of worship, at a special marriage service, or privately in the home. The sermon in such a service could be used by the pastor to emphasize the Christian home and the sacredness of Christian marriage.

1472. Often families may request the pastor to be present when they are making marriage arrangements. It is possible to combine a Christian marriage service with these arrangements, if the families and those being married wish to do so. A special ceremony for this purpose is provided in paragraph 1490. In paragraph 1495 provision is made for those who want a regular marriage service but want the pastor to give advice and a blessing at the family arrangements.

1473. The marriage ceremony should be marked by quietness and simplicity.

1474. The persons to be joined in Christian marriage should be examined and counseled by the pastor sometime before the ceremony.

1475. Some scriptures that can be used in the service are as follows: Gen. 2:18-24; Mark 10:2-12; Eph. 5:22-23.

1476. In cases where there are also civil matters to be cared for, such as the signing of registration certificates, the pastor should see that this is taken care of.

1477. The pastor shall record the names and dates of those married in the church in the church record book (254).

B. The Marriage Ceremony

1480. Pastor: Will the two persons who wish to be joined in Christian marriage come forward and stand before this congregation, facing the pastor, with the woman at the left side of the man.

Friends, it is your joy to witness today the joining together in Christian marriage this man and this woman. The Bible teaches that marriage is holy. It was created by God for
the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden, it was blessed by Jesus when He went to the wedding at Cana of Galilee, and it is to be honored by all. St. Paul says, “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. . . Every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband” (Eph. 5:25, 33b).

I now speak to you who have come to be married. The promises you are going to make today are holy. You are to keep these promises because you fear God. The Bible says they are to be broken only when one of you dies. If you are truthful persons and make these promises with honest hearts, you will have happiness for many years to come. Your hearts will know joy and your home will have peace. We do believe you have thought of these things in the fear of God.

Will you now join your right hands and hear the promises you are to make. I will now speak to the man. Will you, (name) have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together as God’s Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her when she is sick and when she is well? Will you forsake all other lovers and keep yourself only for her as long as you both shall live?

Man: I will.

Pastor: I will now speak to the woman. Will you, (name) have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together as God’s Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him when he is sick and when he is well? Will you forsake all other lovers and keep yourself only for him as long as you both shall live?

Woman: I will.

(If an exchange of rings is desired, the minister shall ask for the rings, deliver the ring to the man and say:)

Pastor: (man’s name) place this ring on the finger of your bride and repeat after me: This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

(The minister shall then deliver the ring to the woman and say:)

Pastor: (woman’s name) place this ring on the finger of your groom and repeat after me: This ring I give you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

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

Pastor’s Prayer: Let us pray. O God our Father in heaven, we thank You that these two people love each other and have come together in holy Christian marriage. Teach
them the true meaning of this new way they will now be living together. Give them patience with each other. Bless them with Your love, Your joy, and Your peace. May happiness be in their home now and always. Bless them with long life, healthy children, and the things they need to live. Make their home a place where children are raised to follow Christ, where strangers are entertained, where the lonely and sorrowful are comforted, and where God's name is given respect. May they so love and trust in You, their Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ, their Lord and Saviour, that they will someday have a home in heaven.

C. The Marriage Ceremony as Part of the Family Marriage Agreements

1.490. Prayer by Pastor. (The pastor may pray an opening prayer asking for God's blessing on all of the arrangements.

(After the introduction of the man's family, the giving and receiving of bride price, etc., those present will each have opportunity to speak in turn, giving advice to the man and the woman. The pastor should be allowed to speak last. He then calls the man and woman to stand before him, gives them the following advice, asks them their promises, and blesses their marriage.)

Pastor's Advice: Will (man's name) and (woman's name) please come and stand facing me.

The Bible teaches that God created marriage and that Jesus blessed it. St. Paul gave the following instructions: “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave His life for it... every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband” (Eph. 5:25, 33b).

I now speak to you the man. The Christian husband should love his wife as Christ loved His church, that is, His people. Christ loved His people so much that He died for them. The Christian husband must give himself for his wife, he must care for her and provide for her. He must treat her gently and take care of her when she is sick and when she is well. Even if times are hard, the Christian husband must do the best he can for his wife. The Christian husband will give all of his love to one wife. He will not take a second wife.

I now speak to you the woman. The Christian wife should respect her husband. Just as Christ's people obey Him, so must she obey her husband. She must love and care for him and try to make him happy. Even if times are hard and there is nothing in the home, the Christian wife will not leave her husband. She will give all of her love to her husband.

Even if God does not give them children, the Christian husband and wife must live together as long as they both are alive. Neither husband nor wife should have any other lovers.

Pastor: Will you now join your right hands and hear the promises you are to make. I will now speak to the man. Will you, (name) have this woman to be your wife, to
live together as God's Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her when she is sick and when she is well? Will you forsake all other women and keep yourself only for her as long as you both shall live?

**Man:** I will.

**Pastor:** I will now speak to the woman. Will you, _ (name)_, have this man to be your husband, to live together as God's Word teaches in Christian marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him when he is sick and when he is well? Will you forsake all other lovers and keep yourself only for him as long as you both shall live?

**Woman:** I will.

(If an exchange of rings is desired, the minister shall ask for the rings, deliver the ring to the man and say:)

**Pastor:** _ (man's name)_ place this ring on the finger of your bride and repeat after me: This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

(The minister shall then deliver the ring to the woman and say:)

**Pastor:** _ (woman's name)_ place this ring on the finger of your groom and repeat after me: This ring I give you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

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

**Pastor's Prayer:** Let us pray. O God our Father in heaven, we thank You that these two people love each other and have come together in holy Christian marriage. Teach them the true meaning of this new way they will now be living together. Give them patience with each other. Bless them with Your love, Your joy, and Your peace. May happiness be in their home now and always. Bless them with long life, healthy children, and the things they need to live. Make their home a place where children are raised to follow Christ, where strangers are entertained, where the lonely and sorrowful are comforted, and where God's name is given respect. May they so love and trust in You, their Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour, that they will someday have a home in heaven. Amen.

(The new couple should be presented in church at the next opportunity.)
D. Advice to Those About to Be Married

1495. Sometimes families may request the pastor to be present when they are making marriage arrangements. The pastor may be asked to begin the arrangements with a word of prayer. After the introduction of the man's family, the giving and receiving of bride price etc., those present will each have opportunity to speak in turn. When the pastor is asked to speak, he may give the words of advice and blessing to those about to be married as they are written below. This advice and blessing is not a marriage service, for which a marriage certificate is given. The Christian couple should still have a simple marriage service, either at church or performed by the pastor in the home.

1496. Advice. The Bible teaches that God created marriage and Jesus blessed it. St. Paul gave the following instructions: “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it .... every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband” (Eph. 5:25, 33b).

(The pastor should speak the following words to the man.) The Christian husband should love his wife as Christ loved His church, that is, His people. Christ loved His people so much that He died for them. The Christian husband must give himself for his wife, he must care for her and provide for her. He must treat her gently and take care of her when she is sick and when she is well. Even if times are hard, the Christian husband must do the best he can for his wife. The Christian husband will give all of his love to one wife. He will not take a second wife.

(The pastor should speak the following words to the wife.) The Christian wife should respect her husband. Just as Christ’s people obey Him, so she must obey her husband. She must love and care for him and try to make him happy. Even if times are hard and there is nothing in the home, the Christian wife will not leave her husband. She will give all of her love to her husband.

Even if God does not give them children, the Christian husband and wife must live together as long as they both are alive. Neither husband nor wife should have any other lovers.

Blessing: Now may God himself be with you. May He make your love for each other strong. May He bless you with long life and with healthy children. May He always give you the good things of life to enjoy. By His grace your home shall be a place of peace, a place where children are raised to follow Christ, where strangers are entertained, where the lonely and sorrowful are comforted, and where God's name is given respect. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

E. Marriage Blessing

1500. These may be those Christians who are married but have not had a Christian ceremony. These people should have their marriage blessed by God in either a public or private service. The following blessing can be used after a morning or evening worship service or in the home before witnesses.
Pastor: We come before God and before these witnesses today to ask God's special blessing upon this man and this woman as they live together as husband and wife and serve the Lord. This is not the same as taking each other for the first time in marriage, but, before God, it is an agreement to continue to live together and serve as one in this life. Listen to the instruction of the Bible: “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church, and gave His life for it . . . every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband” (Eph. 5:25, 33b).

Pastor: (addressing the man) (name) do you agree to live with your wife according to the teaching of the Bible? Will you agree to love, honor, and comfort her when she is sick and when she is well, when times are good and when times are hard? Will you agree to leave all other women and remain faithful to this one woman so long as she shall live?

Man: I will.

Pastor: (addressing the woman) (name) do you agree to live with your husband according to the teaching of the Bible? Will you agree to love, honor, and comfort him when he is sick and when he is well, when times are good and when times are hard? Will you agree to leave all other men and remain faithful to this one man so long as he shall live?

Woman: I will.

Pastor: You, (man's name), and you, (woman's name), have agreed together before God and these witnesses to be true to each other. May God bless your marriage and your home. May He help you to keep these promises and live in love and peace together according to God's laws. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The pastor may say a closing prayer.)
Chapter Seven

BURIAL

A. General Directions

1520. Whenever a member dies, the pastor should go right away to comfort those who are left and to make plans for the burial service. It is his work to plan for a proper funeral, and this work should be done carefully with the agreement of the family.

1521. The purpose of a burial service is to show respect for the dead, to comfort those who mourn the loss of a loved one, and to warn those still living. The service is to the living, not for the dead.

1522. The pastor should take care not to allow anything to be included in the burial which would be against Christian principles or practices.

1523. There may be opportunity to help those who are mourning in other ways besides the actual burial service, such as a Christian wake the night before the service. This could take place in the home of those sorrowing. Hymns, songs, and testimonies could make up the service.

B. Burial Service at the Church

1526. The pastor shall open the service with a scripture sentence, such as one of the following: Deut. 33:27; Job 19:25-27a; Ps. 46:1-3; Matt. 5:4; John 5:25; 11:25-26a; 14:19; Rom. 14:8; II Cor. 1:3-4; 4:17-18; II Tim. 4:6-8.

Hymn: One or two hymns may be sung.

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

Prayer for the family: (The pastor shall pray as fitting or use the following prayer.) O God, You are the One who gives life. Whatever happens to us, we always come to You. So now we come to You in the hour of death. We know that You love us. You can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us to wait before You with reverence and to submit our hearts to You. Open our eyes and understanding. Speak to us words of warning and of comfort. Bless those who feel this sorrow most deeply. Draw us together in Christian love so that we may comfort them with spiritual strength. Help us to share with them that faith in God which is sure through the love of Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.
(If it is necessary for someone to speak about the deceased, they should speak here; otherwise, leave out this part.)

Hymn:

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

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

C. At the Grave

1528. The pastor shall read a short scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Ps. 121; John 14:1-6,23,27.

Committal: (The pastor shall read the committal after the body has been lowered into the grave.) Since Almighty God in His wisdom has taken our brother/sister/friend out of this world, we now commit his/her body to the earth. Dust to dust. We commit his/her spirit into your keeping, O God, our Father. We look forward to the resurrection of the body, and to eternal life in the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(The service should then be closed with prayer.)

Benediction: God has raised from death our Lord Jesus, who is the Great Shepherd of the sheep. By His sacrificial death the eternal covenant is sealed. May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do His will. May He, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases Him. And to Christ be the glory for ever and ever! Amen. (Heb. 13:20-21)
Chapter Eight

ORDINATION OF PASTORS

1530. The service of ordination shall be presided over by the General Church Official, if present, in cooperation with the National Superintendent or his representative. The district superintendent shall normally be given part in this service. Other ordained pastors may also be included.

1531. Call to Worship. (The ordained pastor presiding over the ordination service shall begin the service with a call to worship such as: (I Sam. 52:7; I Cor. 1:21-24; II Cor. 4:5-6).

Hymn:

Prayer:

Message:

Presentation of candidates: (The district superintendent, or his representative, shall present those who are to be ordained, saying:) I present (read names aloud) to be ordained as elders in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(The National Superintendent, or a General Church Official, if he is present, shall say unto the people:) Brothers and sisters in Christ, these are the people whom we purpose, God willing, to now ordain. We have examined them, and we find that they are qualified and lawfully called to this duty and ministry. If any of you know any reason for which any one of them should not be ordained, come forward in the name of God and tell us what that reason is.

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

The Epistle: Eph. 3:7-9; 4:11-13

The Gospel: John 10:7a, 9-16

The Charge: (The National Superintendent, or his representative, shall address the candidates, giving the charge:) You have heard, brothers and sisters, both in your private examination and in the Scripture lessons just read how important this office is, unto which you are called. You are messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord. You have been called to teach and warn, to feed and provide for the Lord's family. You must seek for Christ's sheep that are scattered abroad and for His children who are in this evil world that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Remember, you have been put in charge of a great treasure. This treasure is your people. They are the sheep of Christ. He bought them with His death. He shed His blood for them. The church and congregation which you serve is the body of Christ and the wife
of Christ. And if you neglect your work and any member of your church is hurt or hindered from following Christ, you have done a great wrong and will receive serious punishment. Think about the purpose of your ministry toward the children of God, toward the wife, and the body of Christ. Never stop working carefully and diligently until you have done all that you can to bring those committed to your care unto maturity in Christ. You must not teach what is false or allow sin in your life.

We hope that you have thought about these things long before this time, and that you have clearly determined by God’s grace to give yourselves wholly to this work. God has called you to do it. To the best of your ability, you must give yourselves wholly to this one work. All of your cares and all of your studies should help you to reach this goal. You must continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the Holy Spirit to empower you. Read and study the Scriptures daily so that you may grow stronger in your ministry. Work hard to make your own life and the lives of those in your house holy according to the principles and teachings of Christ. Then you will be healthy examples of what God wants and patterns for the people to follow.

Examination of Candidates: (The presiding officer shall administer the examination to the candidate.)

Now, we want this present congregation of Christ gathered together here to know what you think and what you purpose concerning these things. We want your promise to be public, so that you will work all the harder to carry out your duties. Therefore we are going to question you now in the name of God and His church. Answer plainly, and from your heart.

Are you truly convinced that you have been called by God to the office and work of an ordained pastor in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone?

Answer: I am truly convinced of this.

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, that they contain sufficiently all doctrine required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined to teach and instruct your people from these Holy Scriptures? Furthermore, are you determined to teach nothing as required for eternal salvation except what, to the best of your understanding, can be proved by the Scriptures?

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

Do you with all your heart 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 always faithfully and diligently teach the doctrine of Christ, teach and practice the disciplines of Christ, baptize believers, and serve the Lord’s Supper, as the Lord has commanded?
Answer: I will do so by the help of the Lord.

Are you ready to faithfully and diligently drive away all false teachings, teachings contrary to the Word of God? As often as you have opportunity and when your people need it, will you exhort them both in public and in private; both when they are sick and when they are well?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you diligently pray and read the Holy Scriptures? And will you diligently study those subjects which help you to understand the Scriptures better?

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

Will you work hard to make your own life and the lives of those in your house follow the principles and teaching of Christ? Will you do your best to be and to teach your family to be a healthy example and pattern to the people 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, especially among those given to your care?

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

Those who rule over you care for your souls. They are responsible to God for their work. Will you obey and submit yourselves to them so that they may give account to God with joy, and not with sorrow?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Covenant with the candidates' wives: (If it is so desired, the presiding officer 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:) The Scripture tells us that the wife should be the helper and companion of her husband. Your husband has committed himself to fulfill the ministry of God. You must be his helper in this task. You must share with him the responsibility of serving in love and patience. You must pray with him and be concerned with him for the work of the church. Together, you and your husband must make your home an example of the body of Christ.

You have just heard your husband affirm that he has been called to the holy ministry as an ordained pastor in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. As his companion, will you to the best of your ability be his helper wherever the Lord may send you and to whatever type of ministry He might call you?

Answer: Yes, by the grace of God.
Prayer of Thanksgiving: (Then shall the National Superintendent, or other appointed pastor, pray the prayer of thanksgiving.) Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we praise Your holy name and we thank You for the gift of Your dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We thank You for all of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors, whom He has sent into the world. We thank You for those standing here before us whom You have called to do this same holy work. And now, O Lord, we humbly ask that Your name might be glorified through these Your servants and through those over whom they are appointed. May Your kingdom be enlarged through their labour. All of this we ask through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Act of Ordination: (The candidates for ordination shall kneel, and if so desired, their wives may kneel at their sides. The ordained pastors shall lay their hands upon the head of each one and the presiding officer shall say:) The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an ordained pastor in The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. Faithfully proclaim the Word of God. Faithfully administer His holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer for Enduement: (Then the National Superintendent, or other appointed ordained pastor, shall pray the prayer of enduement.) Most merciful father, we ask You to send upon these Your servants Your heavenly blessings: may they be clothed with righteousness. May Your Word that they speak have success. May they never speak Your Word in any vain or useless way. Give us also grace to hear and receive what they shall preach from Your Word or in agreement with Your Word. May their preaching be a means to our own salvation. In all our words and deeds help us to seek Your glory and the progress of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Show us Your gracious favour and give us Your continual help in everything we do. Help us so that in all our works, which begin, continue, and end in You, we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Right Hand of Fellowship: (The newly ordained pastors shall then arise. The presiding officer, National Superintendent, the district superintendent, and the members of the district board of administration shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the work and labours of the ministry. Then the congregation may be directed to file by and greet the newly ordained pastors.)

Benediction: The peace of God which passes what we are able to understand, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be yours now and always. Amen.
A. General Regulations

1535. The installation ceremonies provided here shall normally be a part of some general service or worship, and in most cases the order of the service, such as hymns, scripture reading, and prayers, will be supplied, being chosen in such a manner as to give the entire service unity and dignity.

B. Installation of a Pastor

1537. (The district superintendent, or his representative, shall preside over the installation of a pastor.)

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as John 15:1-8)

Message:

Installation: (The district superintendent, or his representative, shall address the congregation saying:) Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God to install Pastor/Rev. __________ (name) __________, who has been appointed to become the pastor of this church, and whose installation has been authorized by the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

(The pastor shall come and stand before the presiding officer, who shall address him, saying:) Dear brother, the Word of God clearly tells you your duties as a servant of God and shepherd of His flock. You are ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ. First of all, you must preach both the Law and the good news of Jesus Christ, as they are understood in the Holy Scriptures and interpreted in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. This you are to do without adding your own private opinion. The Apostle warns us: “Whoever preaches, must preach God’s Word” (I Pet. 4:11a).

You must reject whatever is against the true teaching of Scripture. But you must reject it with kind words, for the Scripture warns, “The Lord’s servant must not quarrel. He must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, who is gentle as he corrects his opponents” (II Tim. 2:24-25a).

Warn those who are put into your pastoral care to walk in the commandments of the Lord without blame. The Word of the Lord commands you to warn those who do wrong. Speak the truth to them. The Prophet Ezekiel has instructed us, “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel” (Ezek. 3:17).
Because of the Saviour’s kind word, “Let the children come unto me” (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special way have your pastoral instruction and care.

The Scriptures tell you how faithful you should be to seek those who are lost. The Apostle Paul said, “I did not stop warning every one of you night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men of God will cause you to pray often for your people and to be an example to them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfill faithfully these duties? If you do, then you will be able in this life to answer before the church of Jesus Christ, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ.

**Answer:** (by the pastor) Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding officer shall read the following charge:) “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and because He is coming to rule as King, I command you to preach the message, to insist upon telling it, whether the time is right or not; to convince, reproach, and encourage, teaching with all patience...But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances; endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News, and perform your whole duty as a servant of God” (11 Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

(The congregation shall rise and the presiding officer shall address them saying:) And now, dear brothers and sisters, I instruct you to receive as your pastor, _______ (pastor’s name), whom God has given you. When he preaches the Word of God, accept it, whether he comforts you, warns you, or teaches you, Christ has said, “Be careful then, how you listen” (Luke 8:18).

Be sure that your children are trained in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God’s house. Remember, the Apostle Paul tells Christian parents to raise their children “with Christian discipline and instruction” (Eph. 6:4b).

Pray for your pastor that through his work many people may be saved from sin. Pray that he will work faithfully, so that you will be saved, and so that he will be able to give a good accounting to God.

Honor and respect the one who watches over your spiritual life. As the Apostle Paul writes, “We beg you, our brothers, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as is right for a Christian church, accept these duties to your pastor?

**Answer:** (by the congregation) Yes, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the pastor saying:) Because of these promises made by you and the church, I now install you, _______ (pastor’s name) as pastor of the _______ (church’s name) Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Then the presiding officer shall lead in prayer, concluding by leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. Then he shall address the congregation and the pastor, saying:) The Lord bless you that you may bring forth much fruit and that your fruit may remain.

(The congregation shall join in singing an appropriate hymn, then the congregation may come forward to greet the pastor and his family at the altar. The pastor shall pray the closing benediction.)

C. Installation of Local Church Officers

1540. This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just before the time the newly elected officers shall take up their duties. The pastor shall preside over the installation.

Hymn:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as: Acts 2:41-44; 6:1-8; 1 Tim. 3:8-13.)

Reading of Duties: (Each of the officer's duties may be read from The Discipline.)

(The pastor shall then call the newly elected officers in front of the congregation, and shall address them, saying:) Dear brothers and sisters, the Acts of the Apostles tells us about the church just after Jesus returned to heaven. In those days the church grew very fast. As more people became believers, the responsibilities of the church grew. So the members chose people to help run the affairs of the church. The people they chose were wise, well thought of by others, and full of the Holy Spirit. Those chosen in this way were brought before the apostles. The apostles laid their hands on them and prayed. In this way those chosen were set apart by the church to carry out the duties of their honourable position.

In the same way this church asked the Holy Spirit for guidance and has chosen you to important positions. You are to work together with the church members and with the pastor before whom you have now come to be publicly dedicated to God.

Therefore, we, the pastor and the people of this church, call upon you to make this promise of faithfulness to Christ and His church.

The Officers' Promise: (to be read by the pastor)

By the power that Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church, gives me, I humbly promise Him and His church that I will faithfully carry out all duties and responsibilities assigned to me as an officer of this church. I will try to attend regularly, to serve gladly, and to give generously. I will listen to the council and advice of other church members. With God's help I will always purpose to be Christlike in my faithfulness to His service. I will seek by the example of what I do and by my words to spread the message that men can be fully saved from sin. I will try to promote Christian fellowship among all the members. Do you gladly and yet very seriously accept the duties of this promise?

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Answer: (by the officers) I do.

(Then the pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:) We, the pastor and officers of this church, call upon the members and friends of this church to hear and join in this promise of faithfulness to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.

**The Church’s Promise:** (To be read by the pastor.) These officers have been chosen to guide us in the administration of the church. We, the members and friends of this church, do promise to faithfully work in this church. We will cooperate with these our officers as brothers and sisters in Christ. We acknowledge our duty and promise to pray for all our leaders. We will share with them in the wonderful responsibility of spreading the Good News. Do you gladly and yet very seriously accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the congregation) We do.

(The officers shall then kneel at the altar while pastor and people offer prayer for them.)

**D. Installation of Sunday School Teachers and Officers**

1542. (This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just before the time when the newly appointed teachers shall assume their duties. The pastor shall preside over the installation.)

_Hymn:

Scripture Lesson: (Such as: Matt. 18:2-6,14; 28:19-20; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 4:8.)

(The pastor shall then call the newly appointed teachers before the congregation, and shall address them saying:) Dear brothers and sisters, we have come together in the presence of God to acknowledge that He has called you and the church has chosen you to teach and to be officers in our Sunday school. You have come to offer yourselves to God for this work. We, the pastor and people of this church must support you with prayers. We will ask God to bless your lives and your teaching so that you may serve faithfully to the glory of God. Therefore, we call upon you to hear and join in this promise of faithfulness to Christ and His church.

_The Teachers’ and Officers’ Promise: (To be read by the pastor.)_ Because Christ has called me, and by the strength that He gives me, I offer myself to Him as a Sunday school teacher or officer in this church. I will always try to lead Sunday school students to know the love of God in Jesus Christ. I will encourage them to become part of Christ’s church. Because I want to be loyal to my Master, Jesus Christ, I will always try to faithfully prepare for my work and to come regularly and on time. With God’s help, I will live a good Christian life, so that my students will have an example to follow.
(Then the pastor shall ask:) Do you gladly and yet very seriously accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the Sunday school teachers and officers) I do.

The Church's Promise: (The pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, this church welcomes you as teachers and officers in the Sunday school. We pray that God will bless your work. We promise you our support. We will attend your classes. We will study the Sunday school lesson. We will bring our families with us so that they, too, may study God's Word.

(Then the pastor shall ask:) Do you gladly and yet very seriously accept the duties of this promise?

Answer: (by the congregation) We do.

(The teachers and Sunday school officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer for them.)

E. Installation of District Officers

1544. (The National Superintendent or in his absence, the Mission Director or one of the ordained pastors shall preside at this service. The installation of district officers shall be before the adjournment of the district conference in which they are elected. Other ordained pastors may share in other parts of the service as desired. A hymn and appropriate Scripture lessons should be included. The newly elected district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, secretary, treasurer, and members-at-large of the district board of administration shall be called before the presiding officer, who shall first address the district superintendent, saying:)

District Superintendent (name), today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of the _______________ District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. You have been prayerfully selected by this district conference to serve as spiritual and administrative leader of the _______________ District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. The pastors and members of the churches of this district have put their confidence in you. Your position is indeed a position of significant honor and responsibility. It is only as God is with you that you will be able to fill it.

You will face many problems. You will carry many responsibilities. And yet, with Paul, it will be your privilege to know that you may be "troubled . . . yet not distressed; . . . confused, but not in despair." There will also be many joys, as you see the steady progress of the church under the smile of God. There will be glorious victories because God has led the way through.

When you counsel others, may God give you the grace you need; when you make decisions, may He give you His wisdom. May He be your constant help in every administrative duty. May the secret of your success be His strength which is able to overcome any
problem. The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days ahead. Together may you build a district that knows its best days spiritually, numerically and materially.

And now, we wish to hear publicly your intention to accept this responsibility with proper regard for all that it includes. We ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of District Superintendent of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone? Do you solemnly covenant to carry out your duties to God, to the Wesleyan Church as a whole and to all the members of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, according to the Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the other district officers, saying:) Do you, as officers of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, promise to support the district superintendent, and to carry out your duties to God, to the District of the Wesleyan Church as a whole and to all the members of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, according to the Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: We do, God being our helper.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the superintendent, saying:) In behalf of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as superintendent of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, entitled to all the rights and privileges of that office.

Conference Promise: (to be read by presiding officer). These officers have been chosen to guide us in the administration of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. We do faithfully promise by the grace of God to support them in the positions to which we have elected them. Do you gladly yet seriously make this promise?

Answer: We do, by the grace of God.

(Then the presiding officer shall lead in prayer.)

F. Installation of National Officers

1546. (A General Official of The Wesleyan Church, or in his absence the National Superintendent shall preside at this service. The installation of national officers shall be before the adjournment of the National Conference in which they are elected. Other ordained pastors may share in other parts of the service as desired. A hymn and appropriate Scripture lesson should be included. The newly elected National Superintendent, Assistant National Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, and Members-at-Large of the
National Board of Administration shall be called before the presiding officer, who shall first address the National Superintendent saying: National Superintendent (name), today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. You have been prayerfully selected by the National Conference to serve as spiritual and administrative leader of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. The members of this National Conference and those they represent have put their confidence in you. Your position is indeed a position of significant honour and responsibility. It is only as God is with you that you will be able to fill it.

You will face many problems. You will carry many responsibilities. You will meet with many difficulties. And yet, with Paul, it will be your privilege to know that you may be “troubled... yet not distressed;... confused; but not in despair.” There will also be many joys as you see the steady progress of the church under the smile of God. There will be glorious victories because God has led the way through.

When you counsel others, may God give you the grace you need; when you make decisions, may He give you His wisdom. May He be your constant help in every administrative duty. May the secret of your success be in His strength which is able to overcome any problem. The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days ahead. Together may you build a church that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially.

And now we wish to hear publicly your intention to accept this responsibility with proper regard for all that it includes. We ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone? Do you solemnly covenant to carry out your duties to God, to the Wesleyan Church as a whole, and to all the members of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, according to The Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the other national officers, saying:) Do you, as officers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, promise to support the National Superintendent, and to carry out your duties to God, to the Wesleyan Church as a whole, and to all the members of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, according to The Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: We do, God being our helper.

(Then the presiding officer shall address the National Superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, entitled to all the rights and privileges of that office.

(Then the presiding officer shall lead, in prayer.)
Chapter Ten

DEDICATION SERVICES

A. General Suggestions

1550. The dedication of a church building is a time of joy and thanksgiving and also a time of rededication to God, realizing that only by His blessing has the church been built and only by His blessing will it succeed in the future.

1551. Arrangements for the entertainment of invited visitors should be carefully planned beforehand.

1552. All persons involved on the programme should be notified well in advance of the day of dedication.

1553. The builder and crew should be invited to the service.

B. Dedication of a Church Building

1560. Outside the Church. The congregation should gather outside the church at the main doors which should be closed with a ribbon tied across them. The meeting shall be opened with prayer. The pastor, or one appointed, shall then hand the district superintendent, or an appointed person, a pair of scissors and request him to open the church which he shall do by cutting the ribbon and declaring the building open to the glory of God. The congregation shall then enter the church preceded by the pastor, officers of the church, and invited guests.

1561. In the Church. Order of Dedication of Church Building.

Call to Worship: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall give the call to worship.)
Ps. 100:2-4.

Opening Prayer: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall lead in prayer.)

Songs: (The congregation shall join in singing several appropriate hymns or vernacular choruses.)

Scripture Reading: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Ps. 24; 48:9-14; 100:1-5; 122:1-9; 84; II Cor. 6:1-2, 18-21, 40-42; 7:1-4; Heb. 10:19-25.

Remarks: (A brief history of the church may be given, as well as words of appreciation for those who helped in the building of the church.)
Offering: (It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but when this is not done, appeals may be made and an offering taken for the building fund.)

Sermon: (The National Superintendent, or other invited speaker, may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task of the church.)

Presentation of Building for Dedication: (The National Superintendent, or his representative, shall take his place at the pulpit and the pastor and the local church officers shall stand before him. The pastor, or one of the officers, shall address the National Superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the members of this church, and this congregation, I present you this building to be dedicated to God as a place of worship and of service in His kingdom.

Acceptance of Building for Dedication: (Then the National Superintendent, or his representative, shall answer, saying:) Dear brothers and sisters, for countless years people have erected buildings for the public worship of God. They have not used these buildings for any purpose other than the service of God. This has been done in order to help people have more reverence for God and for those places in which they pray to God. We are very happy that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this house in this place to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, to be known as the _______ (name) Wesleyan Church. I dedicate it and set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we have come together, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and holy uses.

Litany of Dedication: (Then the National Superintendent, or his representative shall ask the congregation to stand and to join him in the responsive litany of dedication:)

Leader: To the glory of God the Father, Who has called us by His grace; to the honor of His Son, who loved us and gave himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in the truth and makes us holy;

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 Lord’s Supper and for the baptizing of believers;

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: As a place to make family life holy; to teach and guide the young; and to bring believers to full maturity;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: Unified by our faith in Jesus, bound together in Christian brotherhood, with love and good will for all people;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: With thanks for the work of all who love and serve this church; in loving memory of those who have gone to be with God; and in hope of our own everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

All in Unison: We now, the members and friends of this church, remember the great Christians who have gone before us. We are grateful for what they have taught us and thankful for the many things they gave up in order to do God's work. In order to complete the work that they began, we dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication: (Then the National Superintendent, or his representative, shall give his own prayer of dedication or he may use the following:) Almighty God, we are not good enough to offer You anything belonging to us. We humbly acknowledge that "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it work for nothing." Yet we beg You, because of Your great goodness, accept the dedication of this church building to Your service. Make Your work in this place prosper. Answer the prayers of Your servants who shall pray to You in this house. Help them to prepare their hearts to serve You with reverence and godly fear. Show them Your own greatness. Help them to see that they are unworthy of You. May they always come into this Your house with lowliness and devotion. May they always come before You with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies cleansed of sin and minds made holy. May their worship always be accepted by You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: (The congregation shall join in singing an appropriate hymn.)

Benediction: (The pastor, or other appointed pastor, shall pronounce the benediction:) O Lord our God, from now on make this house a place where people meet You. May the pastors who serve here save themselves and lead others to salvation. May the believers who worship here rejoice in goodness all their lives. Let the blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be on each person who worships in this church building. Amen.

C. Dedication of a Parsonage

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1570. Order of Dedication of a Parsonage.

(At the time appointed for the dedication service, an appropriate hymn may be sung, followed by prayer and a Scripture lesson such as: I Cor. 9:7-10, 13, 14. Then the district superintendent, or his representative, shall address the congregation saying:) The Bible clearly teaches that, just as Aaron was appointed by God to the priesthood, even so today men are called to be pastors for the purpose of preaching the Word of God and giving aid and comfort to the spiritually needy. From the beginning God has planned that “those who preach the gospel should earn their living from the gospel” (I Cor. 9:14). When we provide a house for a pastor, we recognize his high position and great value to the church. This house about to be dedicated as a pastor’s home has been made possible by the generous gifts of those who are interested in the Christian ministry and the church.

(Then the officers of the church shall come and stand before the district superintendent, and one of the officers appointed shall address the district superintendent, saying:) On behalf of the members of this church and this congregation, I present this house to be dedicated to God as a home for the man whom He has appointed to pastor these people.

(Then the district superintendent may give an appropriate response, gratefully commending the people for providing this house, and charging the pastor to live in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then he shall offer a prayer of dedication, or the following prayer:) O loving Lord, we acknowledge that we are not good enough to give You anything belonging to us. Yet we beg You to accept the dedication of this house to Your service. Bless it, and those who live in it.

Protect them from every type of harm and danger. Make this house safe by night and day. Send Your guardian angel to protect the children in this house. Watch over the stranger who may lodge here. Let no one enter here with evil purpose or intent. May Christ himself be the protector of those who live here.

May those who shall live in this house be so yielded and dedicated to Your work, so useful to their Master and ready to do every good work that their ministry shall bring a blessing from God on everyone they meet.

Lord, help everyone who enters this house to sense Your presence. May everyone who leaves this house be strengthened to walk in Your holy commandments. Richly reward all those who give to support Your servants who live in this house.

O Lord, show all of those who come to this house for spiritual counsel and comfort what they should do. Give them the power to do it.

O Lord, when the people living in this home come together for family worship, answer their prayers and give them what they need. When Your servants who live here study Your Word, help them to understand it. Show them how it applies to their lives. In Your great wisdom, teach them what Your Word says they must do. Give them the strength and courage to obey.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(The district superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:) I now declare this house duly set apart as the home of the pastor of the (name) Wesleyan Church.
(Then the district superintendent, or other appointed pastor, shall pronounce the benediction:) The Lord bless you and take care of you; the Lord be kind and gracious to you; the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. Amen.

D. Groundbreaking for a House

1575. Introduction. (This service shall take place at the site where the new house is to be built. It need not be a long service. Its purpose is to thank God for His goodness and to ask for His blessing on those who build the house, those who will live in it, and those who will visit it.)

Opening Remarks: (When the time for the groundbreaking has come, the pastor shall step forward and address the people who have come together with these words:) Dear brothers and sisters, the Bible tells us, "If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless." And we know that if the Lord does not bless a home, those who live in it will not be good or happy. You are all aware that it is proper for us to remember God and ask His blessing whenever we begin anything new. Our dear brother/sister, ___ (name of person building house) ____ and his/her family are today beginning to build a new house. They have asked us to join them in thanking God for His help in beginning this work. They want us to pray with them that God will bless and protect the workmen, that He will watch over those who live in this house, and that this home will be a blessing to every visitor who comes through the door.

Hymn: (At this time an appropriate hymn may be sung if desired.) Scripture: Matt. 7:24-27.

Prayer: (The pastor should now offer an appropriate prayer asking God's blessing on the house. The following prayer is suggested for use:) Our Father, You have taught us to remember You in everything we do. We want to remember You today as our brother/sister, ___ (name of person building house) ____, and all of his/her family begin to build this house. Thank you for prospering them. Thank You for bringing them to this place where they are ready to build. We know that You want us to have the things we need to live. Help them to complete this work which they are beginning. Bless their workmen who do the building. Keep them safe. Give them the ability and patience to do their work well. And bless them for a job well done.

Now bless Brother/Sister (name of person building house) and all of his/her family members who will live in this house. Keep them safe from every harm and danger. Let no one enter here with bad intentions or purposes. May no accident befall them. Particularly watch over the children who will live here. May Christ himself be the Protector of this home.

Help all of those who live in this house to faithfully serve You. Help them to be patient, kind, and loving with each other. May Your Word be the rule for this home and Your love its guiding principle. Enable the head of this household to teach Your ways by what he says and by his loving example. Help the parents to bring up their children to truly love and serve You. May they pray daily with all of the household and faithfully take them to Your house for worship. Help all of the children and young people in this home.
to be respectful and obedient so that they may receive Your blessing. Make this home the kind of place in which You yourself would not be ashamed to live.

Make this household an example of Christian living to those who believe in Christ and to those who do not yet believe. Let this home be a place of shelter for guests. Make it a place known for its hospitality. May those who come feel welcome. And when they leave, may they be better, happier, and holier than when they came. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Groundbreaking: (After the prayer, the person or persons appointed by the house builder should turn over the first shovel or shovels full of dirt, each one saying the following words:) I break ground for this house in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction: (The pastor or other appointed person should pray the benediction.)

E. Groundbreaking for a Church Building

1580. (This service shall take place at the site where the new church is to be built. It need not be a long service. Its purpose is to thank God for His goodness and to ask for His blessing on those who build the church, those who will worship in it, and those who will be blessed by its ministry. The district superintendent, or his representative, shall preside.)

Introduction: (When the time for the groundbreaking has come, the district superintendent, or his representative, shall step forward and address the people who have come together with these words:) Dear brothers and sisters, the Bible tells us that we who believe are the church and that our foundation is Christ Jesus. We are here today to break ground for a new house of worship—a church building. You are all aware that it is right for us to remember God and ask His blessing whenever we begin anything new. It is certainly right for us to remember God when we begin to build a place of worship. You, the members and friends of this church, are beginning to build a place of worship today. We have come to thank God for bringing us to this day, to ask Him to bless the workmen, and to ask Him to bless those who will worship in this church. May many come to know and serve Christ through the work of this church.

Hymn: (At this time an appropriate hymn may be sung, if desired.)

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22 or other appropriate scripture.

Sermon: (If desired, the district superintendent, or one appointed by him, may preach a sermon on the nature of the church. This is optional.)

Prayer: (The district superintendent, or one he appoints, should now ask God's blessing on the church. The following prayer is suggested for use.) Our Father, You have taught us to remember You in everything we do. We want to remember You today as the
members and friends of the (name of the church) Wesleyan Church begin to build a place of prayer. Thank You for prospering them. Thank You for bringing them to this place where they are ready to build. Help them to complete this work which they are beginning. Bless their workmen who do the building. Keep them safe. Give them the ability and patience to do their work well. And bless them for a job well done.

Now bless the (name of church) Wesleyan Church and all who worship in it. Draw near to them when they come to this church building. Help them to be humble. Clean their hearts of sin. Help them to be patient, kind, and loving with each other. Send them out into the world to work and witness for You.

Bless the pastors who will serve here. Help them to faithfully teach, guide, and warn Your people. Help them to always preach Jesus Christ. May their people always be willing to listen to Your Word and to obey it. Let this building truly be a house of prayer for all people. May anyone who enters feel that he has been welcomed by the love of Christ. All this we ask in the name of Your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Groundbreaking: (After the prayer, the person or persons appointed should turn over the first shovel or shovels full of dirt, each one saying the following words:) I break ground for the (name of church) Wesleyan Church in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction: (The pastor, or other appointed person, should pray the benediction.)
PART X. FORMS

Chapter One

CHURCH LETTERS AND FORMS

for the

Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone

1600. Certificate of Church Membership.

This is to certify that (name) is a(n) Junior/Associate/Full Member in the (Church name) Wesleyan Church and is entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof.

Date

Pastor

Secretary

1602. Letter of Transfer.

(Letter sent by church granting transfer to another Wesleyan church.)

To the Pastor of (Church) Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that (member's name) is a(n) Junior/Associate/Full Member in good standing in the (Church name) Wesleyan Church, and wishing to transfer to your church, is hereby transferred and given to your care and fellowship.

By the authority and in behalf of the (Church name) Wesleyan Church, this _______ day of _________, 19__.

Pastor

Secretary
Chapter Two

SERVICE CREDENTIALS

1610. **Local Preacher’s License.** (1200; 1201)

This certifies that (name), having been recommended by the local pastor and the local board of administration, has been granted a Local Preacher’s License for the period of one year, and is hereby authorized by (Church) Wesleyan Church to assist the pastor in services and outreach under the direction of the pastor and local board of administration.

By the authority and in behalf of (Church name) Wesleyan Church, this ______ day of ________ , 19__.

__________________________________________
Pastor

__________________________________________
Church Secretary

1612. **Certificate of Authorization as a Supply Pastor.**

This certifies that (name) has been appointed on a temporary basis as a supply pastor of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and perform such other duties as shall be authorized by the district superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the __________ District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this _______ day of ________, 19__.

Valid for one year from date of issue.

__________________________________________
District Superintendent

__________________________________________
District Secretary
**Pastoral License.** (See 1210-1212; 1215:2)

This certifies that (name), having been duly examined concerning his gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a Licensed Pastor according to the usages of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, for one year, provided that his spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

By order and in behalf of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this ______ day of ______, 19__.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the District Superintendent and the District Secretary.)

**Certificate of Ordination.** (See 1220-1221; 1226:2)

This certifies that (name), having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the District Conference of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an Ordained Pastor in the church of God so long as his spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, and is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By order and in behalf of the District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this ______ day of ______, 19__.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(Note: This certificate of ordination does not need to be renewed annually.)
1618. **Pocket Certificate of Standing.** (See 1215:2; 1226:2)

This certifies that [name] was, on this [day] day of [month], 19[...], a(n) Licensed/Ordained Pastor in good standing of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

Expiration date:

__________________________________________
District Secretary

1620. **Certificate for Pastor in Process of Transfer.** (1170; 1215:4; 1222:3)

This certifies that [name], having come to the Wesleyan Church from another denomination, and having been examined concerning his gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed as a(n) [Ordained Pastor, Licensed Minister] In Process of Transfer, and is entitled to the rights granted to him by The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone.

By order and in behalf of the [District] District of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this [day] day of [month], 19[...].

__________________________________________
District Superintendent

__________________________________________
District Secretary

1622. **Course of Study Certificate.** (1264; 1266)

This certifies that [name], has satisfactorily completed the [Local Preacher, Independent Pastoral, or Ministerial Transfer] Study Course.

By order and in behalf of the National Board of Training of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, this [day] day of [month], 19[...].

__________________________________________
Chairman, National Board of Training

__________________________________________
Assistant National Superintendent
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